

**Greater Madison Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)  
June 7, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

[Virtual Meeting hosted via Zoom](#)

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Opitz called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM.

**1. Roll Call and Introductions**

**Members present:** Richelle Andrae, Phil Caravello, John Duncan, Pam Dunphy, Paul Esser (joined during item #4), Derek Field, Steve Flottmeyer, Barbara Harrington-McKinney (joined during item #8), Tom Lynch, Charles Myadze, Mark Opitz, Kristi Williams, Doug Wood

**Members absent:** None.

**MPO staff present:** Alex Andros, Colleen Hoesly, Ben Lyman, David Kanning

**Others present in an official capacity:** Mike Cechvala (City of Madison)

**2. Approval of May 3, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

Williams moved, Caravello seconded, to approve the May 3, 2023 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

**3. Communications**

- MPO Comments on Final WI State Rail Plan Draft were included in the Board packet.

**4. Public Comment (for items *not* on MPO Agenda)**

None.

**5. Public Hearing on Proposed Major Amendment to 2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program to increase federal funding for East-West Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project**

Opitz opened the Public Hearing at 6:34. One comment received by email from Mr. Josh Olson was read in for the record: "I am in support of increasing funding for BRT. I'm not much of a finance guy but I know that BRT is good for our community and it should receive as much funding as possible to bring about prosperity to our city." Opitz closed the Public Hearing at 6:35.

**6. MPO 2023 Resolution No. 7 Approving Amendment No. 3 to the 2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program for the Madison Metropolitan Area & Dane County (15 Min)**

Kanning reviewed the TIP amendment additions and revisions, including adding \$7.6 million in federal Section 5309 Small Starts program funding to the City of Madison's East-West BRT Line project, additional funding for articulated buses, local funding for the City of Madison's Restoring Community Connectivity grant application, removing the federal Section 5310 Dane County Accessible Taxi Service Driver Incentive program from the TIP, adding the federal Section 5311 WETAP project for SWCAP Vehicle Loans and Mobility Management, adding the approved Carbon Reduction Program projects, and HSIP funding for the Vinburn and N. Town Road Intersection project in Deforest. The amendment also includes added the previously adopted federal performance measures for PM 1, 2 and 3 into the TIP.

Due to the dollar amount increase to the BRT project, it was subject to the requirements of a major TIP amendment. Following approval at the May meeting, the notice of the hearing and opportunity to comment on the TIP amendment for the East-West BRT project was sent out to the MPO contact list, and the memo sent to chief elected officials posted on the MPO website, satisfying the 30-day public comment period.

Esser moved, Wood seconded, to approve MPO 2023 Resolution No. 7 Approving Amendment No. 3 to the 2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program for the Madison Metropolitan Area & Dane County as amended. Motion carried.

#### **7. Amendment to the Section 5310 Program of Projects to Transfer Vehicle Ownership (5 Min)**

Lyman explained that several years ago the MPO Policy Board awarded funding to Capitol Express for the purchase of an accessible vehicle to use for non-emergency medical transportation and shared ride services. The business was sold to another non-emergency medical transportation provider, VanGo Taxi. Because it was a private transaction, the MPO did not have oversight and was not alerted of the transfer until after it had occurred. Soon after, VanGo Taxi and its parent company, Mobile 22, went out of business and the MPO-funded vehicle was no longer in use. Metro was able to work with VanGo Taxi's former staff to take possession of the van, so that it would not be sold to cover debts, and it has been sitting in a Madison Metro Transit parking lot since then. The former staff of Metro 22 have now formed a new non-emergency medical transportation business (Fico Skye Transportation) and would like to use the vehicle again. FTA regulations require that the transfer be approved by the MPO by amending the MPO's program of projects (POP) from a previous funding cycle. Metro will remain a lienholder on the vehicle.

Williams moved, Field seconded, to approve the Amendment to the Section 5310 Program of Projects to Transfer Vehicle Ownership. Motion carried.

#### **8. Discussion on Scope and Process Review for the Transit Development Plan (TDP) Update (15 Min)**

Lyman provided background on the Transit Development Plan, and explained that it had been postponed several times due to conflicting or redundant efforts, such as Metro Forward, the City of Madison's Vehicle Registration Fee, and most recently the Transit Network Redesign. Lyman explained that staff is looking for approval of the proposed scope, process, and oversight of the TDP development.

The TDP is primarily a technical document, and that there is limited potential for public input to have a meaningful impact on the plan's contents. Staff are concerned that a large public engagement process would create unrealistic expectations about the outcome of the plan, and wants to ensure that the public has reasonable expectations about the impacts of the plan. Staff do, however, want to ensure that there is meaningful public engagement with transit-dependent minority and low-income populations. City of Madison Department of Civil Rights staff, as well as other staff engaged in the Racial Equity and Social Justice Initiative, have met with MPO staff and concur that the best way to ensure meaningful public engagement is to hold focus groups with individuals who are difficult to reach through traditional outreach methods. In addition to holding focus groups, other public engagement efforts will be largely limited to publishing information on the MPO web site and Facebook page, consistent with the MPO's Public Participation Plan.

Lynch asked about the relationship between the TDP and the planned 2024 On-Board Survey (OBS).

Lyman explained that the OBS will take place in the winter of 2024, but that due to the amount of time that had passed since the last TDP was adopted, it is important to begin the TDP update process now. Harrington-McKinney asked about how public comments had been collected on past planning efforts, and Lyman explained that other recently-adopted plans all include chapters explaining their public engagement processes and collected feedback, which would be reviewed and help inform the TDP. Field asked about the upcoming OBS, and Lyman provided an overview of how the survey would be conducted, but acknowledged that the survey instrument and process had not yet been finalized. Andre and Field volunteered to participate in the TDP review group.

#### **9. Discussion on State Restriction on MPO Suballocated Funding (10 Min)**

Andros discussed the state restrictions on MPO suballocated funding. She noted that other MPOs throughout the state have many of the same concerns. She said that FHWA has determined that the state has the right impose restrictions on the funding but that FHWA is continuing to keep track of the state's restrictions.

Opitz asked what other MPOs staff had been in contact with. Andros replied that SEWRPC and a number of others had voiced the same concerns.

Hoesly noted that this issue affects primarily the TMAs, the large MPOs, and that the smaller MPOs in the state do not receive as much funding that is subject to these restrictions. The issue is of great concern to East Central RPC, SEWRPC. Staff talked about options to address issue with the City attorney's office, who said at this time it's probably best to continue coordinating with the other TMAs and AMPO, and wait and see what happens after the state budget is passed. Wood noted that FHWA's response limits what makes sense to push for through a legal route, and it perhaps makes the most sense to not draw more attention to the issue as it works through the legislative process.

#### **10. Status Report on Capital Area RPC Activities**

Andros noted that CARPC's update is included in the Board Packet, and there were no questions.

#### **11. Announcements and Schedule of Future Meetings**

Andros stated that Phil Caravello and Mark Opitz were both renominated by the Dane County suburban cities and villages, and both reappointed to the Policy Board.

The MPO Board Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, July 5, 2023 has been cancelled.

Next MPO Board Meeting will be in person at the City of Madison Water Utility (119 E Olin Ave, Madison, WI) Wednesday, August 2, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

#### **12. Adjournment**

Caravello moved, Williams seconded, to adjourn. The motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.