

Greater Madison Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
August 7, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Virtual Meeting hosted via [Zoom](#)

Opitz called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

1. Roll Call and Introductions

Members present: Mark Opitz, Kristi Williams, Liz Callin, Tom Lynch, Paul Esser, Doug Wood, Phil Caravello, Richelle Andrae, Barbara Harrington-McKinney, Clement Abongwa, Derek Field, Charles Myadze, Steve Flottmeyer, and John Duncan

Members excused: None

MPO staff present: Alex Andros, Colleen Hoesly, David Kanning

Others present in an official capacity: Jason Valerius (CARPC)

2. Approval of June 5, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Esser moved, Myadze seconded, to approve the June 5, 2024, meeting minutes. Duncan and Field abstained. Motion carried.

3. Communications

- a. WisDOT approval of 2024 Res 8 Amendment of the 2024-2028 TIP. (see 6/17/24 email)
- b. WisDOT & FHWA Approval of the 2024 UPWP Amendment (see 6/21/2024 email)

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

Myadze requested that a future agenda include discussion of establishing a Regional Transportation Authority (RTA).

5. Introduction to Capital Area Regional Planning Commission (CARPC) Executive Director Jason Valerius and CARPC work highlights

Valerius introduced himself and provided his professional background and a brief description of CARPC's work. He then provided updates on current projects, including: an amendment to the Dane County Water Quality Plan for the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) to stop sending wastewater to the Badger Mill Creek facility to manage phosphorus; a water quality study in Black Earth Creek; a chloride study in Starkweather Creek; promoting the protection and planting of trees, including the digital tool Growing Shade; community planning projects in various towns and villages throughout the county; and wrapping up an internal strategic planning process.

Harrington-McKinney expressed her appreciation for Valerius' willingness to work collaboratively and go the extra mile to support the CARPC board and its members.

6. Approval of change of scope and funding for Sun Prairie's Bird Street (STH 19 to USH 151) STBG-U Project

Andros noted that one comment was received in opposition to this change, but that individual is not in attendance and their comment was provided to the board. Andros explained that the scope of the project is changing from a full reconstruction to a repaving, and the shared use path and cycletrack will still be completed. The cost of the project is therefore being reduced, and staff recommends that the project go

from being funded at 60% federal to 80% federal, consistent with the MPO's STBG-U guidelines. The MPO Technical Coordinating Committee was presented with this proposed change and recommends approval.

Wood asked for clarification about the comment received from a member of the public. Kanning explained that the primary concerns expressed were that bicycle facilities would not be included in the project, although these projects will remain part of the project.

Abongwa suggested following up with the commenter; Andros explained that both MPO and City of Sun Prairie staff had followed up with him.

Andrae moved, Wood seconded, to approve the change of scope and funding for Sun Prairie's Bird Street (STH 19 to USH 151) STBG-U Project. Motion carried.

7. Approval of Revised Draft 2025-2029 Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Urban Program Priority Projects for FY 2025-2029

Kanning presented on current STBG-U project, including those that have been recently completed, those currently under construction, and those that are programmed for future construction. He reviewed the timing and funding for projects and noted that the Technical Coordinating Committee had recommended approval of the draft Priority Projects for FY 2025-2029.

Lynch noted that he only saw an upside to these changes, and asked if there was a downside he was missing. Kanning agreed that increased federal funding levels and a lot of work by staff across all affected agencies over the last year had paid off and resulted in record investment in area projects in the coming years.

Myadze moved, Field seconded, to include the Revised Draft 2025-2029 Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Urban Program Priority Projects for FY 2025-2029 in the Draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for 2025-2029. Motion carried.

8. MPO 2024 Resolution No. 10 Approving Amendment No. 5 to the 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program for the Madison Metropolitan Area & Dane County

- a. I-39/90/94 (CTH I Bridge) Thin Polymer Overlay (Design in '24, NEW)
- b. USH 18/151 (Main Street to CTH VV) Resurfacing (Design in '24, NEW)
- c. USH 12/14/18/151 (USH 14 to I-39/90/94), I-94 (I-39/90/94 to CTH N), and USH 151 (East Spring Drive to CTH VV) Southwest Region Pavement Marking (Const. in '24, NEW)
- d. Reconnecting Communities (USDOT) grant for the City of Madison (Design in '24, NEW)
- e. Bird Street (STH 19 to USH 151) Pavement Rehabilitation (Const. in '25, STBG-U Project, Scope and Funding Change)
- f. Thompson Road (West Main Street to St. Albert the Great Drive) and St. Albert the Great Drive (CTH C to N. Thompson Road) Pavement Replacement and Partial Reconstruction (Const. in '25, STBG-U Project; Funding Change)
- g. Windsor Road (Charlie Grimm Road to CTH CV), Pavement Replacement (Const. in '25, STBG-U Project; Funding Change)

Kanning described the projects and noted that these projects need to have funding obligated in FY 2024 and that they therefore need to be amended into the 2024-2028 TIP instead of waiting and being included in the 2025-2029 TIP.

Myadze moved, Williams seconded, to approve MPO 2024 Resolution No. 10 Approving Amendment No. 5 to the 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program for the Madison

Metropolitan Area & Dane County. Motion carried.

9. Approval to Release Draft 2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Madison Metropolitan Area & Dane County for Public Review and Comment

Kanning described the materials in the meeting packet and reviewed the project maps. He noted that although the complete draft TIP is still being worked on, the project listings are complete and that the Technical Coordinating Committee recommended approval to release the Draft 2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Madison Metropolitan Area & Dane County for Public Review and Comment.

Opitz expressed appreciation for all of the new facilities that have been constructed in recent years and how they have improved the bicycle network.

Moved by Esser, Abongwa seconded, to approve the release of the Draft 2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Madison Metropolitan Area & Dane County for Public Review and Comment. Motion carried.

10. Approval to release MPO Public Participation Plan amendment

Hoesly explained that the Public Participation Plan (PPP) establishes the formal requirements for timelines and processes for amending plans and the TIP. Recently, there have been many required TIP amendments resulting from new funding programs and increased funding availability. The PPP currently requires that the Policy Board approve the beginning of a 30-day public comment period for major TIP amendments, and this has added months to some project's timelines. She noted that other MPOs in Wisconsin, as well as the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT), have 15-day public comment periods for major TIP/STIP amendments. No other MPOs seek Policy Board approval prior to initiating their public comment periods. This amendment would allow staff to release major TIP amendments for public comment without Policy Board approval and would reduce the comment period to a minimum of 15 days. The Technical Coordinating Committee requested that a longer public comment period be possible if local community staff need to have comments approved by their own boards or commissions.

Another change to the PPP would allow the Policy Board to continue to meet virtually, even without the justification of a public health order.

Opitz noted that it appears that a page is missing from the document in the packet; Hoesly explained that only pages with changes are included in the packet, and the "missing page" has no changes and was therefore not included in the packet.

Myadze asked about community engagement with the public. Hoesly explained that for the TIP, projects other than STBG-funded projects are reported by local communities, Dane County, and WisDOT, and that the MPO does not choose which projects those communities propose. The MPO notice of availability of the draft TIP does encourage people to go to their communities with suggestions for missing projects or concerns about proposed projects. Myadze would like to work with the MPO to ensure that Alders can do outreach via their blogs and other platforms about projects and draft documents. Hoesly mentioned the interactive TIP map that the MPO publishes with the Final TIP and that can help people understand details about projects. Harrington-McKinney reiterated that Alders can include information in their blogs, and that she would like to expand upon that and to educate the public about the role of the MPO and CARPC on a regional scale. Hoesly mentioned the Performance Measures appendix to the TIP and how that could be a good place to find information that is relevant and important to the public.

Williams moved, Harrington-McKinney seconded, to approve the release of the MPO Public Participation Plan amendment for public comment. Motion carried.

11. MPO 2024 Resolution No. 11 Amendment to the 2024 Unified Planning Work Program

Andros explained that for some federal discretionary grants, the specific grant program must be mentioned in the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) even if it is not a project that the MPO will be working on. This amendment would add the Reconnecting Communities discretionary grant program to the UPWP due to the City of Madison having been selected for funding through this program.

Wood moved, Lynch seconded, to approve MPO 2024 Resolution No. 11 Amendment to the 2024 Unified Planning Work Program. Motion carried.

12. Review and Approval of Greater Madison MPO 2024 Resolution No. 12 Authorizing the Greater Madison MPO to Submit A Grant Application To The United States Department Of Transportation For Up To \$1,250,000 For The Greater Madison MPO Regional Safe Streets- Community Safety Enhancement Partnership Project

Hoesly provided background on the Regional Safety Action Plan and how that effort fed into this application and the five communities' proposed projects:

- City of Verona – District-wide Safe Routes to School Plan
- Village of Cottage Grove – Active Transportation Plan
- City of Fitchburg – Comprehensive Safety Action Plan
- Village of Shorewood Hills - Comprehensive Safety Action Plan
- Dane County - Comprehensive Safety Action Plan, which will extend beyond the MPO Planning Area and cover the entire county

This resolution allows the MPO to move forward with submitting the application. The City of Madison Common Council will also need to approve a similar resolution. The local communities will be responsible for the 20% local match requirement for their projects.

Abongwa asked if all area communities had been offered an opportunity to participate in this funding opportunity. Hoesly explained that during the development of the Regional Safety Action Plan focus groups were held with all area communities, during which this funding opportunity was discussed. Communities that expressed interest at that time were followed-up with for this funding cycle, and other communities were notified through their TCC representatives. Given that this is a new funding opportunity that the MPO is not familiar with, the MPO focused on the communities that had expressed interest and did not try to include additional communities in this first round application.

Myadze expressed support for this regional effort and recognized that the City of Madison has been recognized for its work in safety.

Myadze moved, Esser seconded to approve Greater Madison MPO 2024 Resolution No. 12 Authorizing the Greater Madison MPO to Submit a Grant Application to The United States Department Of Transportation For Up To \$1,250,000 For The Greater Madison MPO Regional Safe Streets- Community Safety Enhancement Partnership Project.

Harrington-McKinney, Lynch, and Hoesly reiterated that the community applicants will be required to provide the 20% local match for their plans and that the City of Madison only serves as the fiscal agent and is not fiscally responsible for these projects.

Motion carried.

13. Approval of MPO 2024 Resolution No. 13 I-39/90/94 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) Comments Regarding North-South Bus Rapid Transit (N-S BRT)

Andros explained that WisDOT is seeking comments on the I-39/90/94 DEIS, and that the resolution supports including North-South BRT as mitigation for greenhouse gas emissions related to I-39/90/94 expansion. Lynch stated that the freeway expansion project is enormous – over \$2.5 billion in cost, and up to 17 lanes wide. The DEIS does mention BRT as a potential mitigating project, but WisDOT has been reluctant to participate in the BRT-related reconstruction of South Park St financially. This resolution cements the relationship between the two projects.

Williams moved, Field seconded to approve MPO 2024 Resolution No. 13 I-39/90/94 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) Comments Regarding North-South Bus Rapid Transit (N-S BRT).

Myadze asked for clarification of what exactly is being suggested. Lynch described the equity focus of the North-South BRT project and explained that BRT required dedicated bus-only lanes for roughly 50% of the corridor in order to be rapid and qualify for the desired federal funding. WisDOT has not given approval for the dedication of bus lanes on Packers Ave. or Park St., and by tying the relationship between the freeway project and North-South BRT together, this resolution encourages WisDOT to support North-South BRT and approve the dedication of bus lanes on these state highways.

Field expressed appreciation for Lynch’s team at the City of Madison and how they have kept Alders informed about the freeway expansion project. Myadze agreed.

Motion carried. Flottmeyer abstained.

14. Discussion of Potential Future MPO Work Program Planning Activities

Andros provided information about the development of the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for 2025, and how the MPO is seeking input from area communities on potential projects that they would like MPO assistance with. She requested that Policy Board members think about potential projects and talk to others in their communities to gather projects as needed.

15. Announcements and Staff Reports:

- a. Community invoices sent

Andros explained that the MPO relies on communities to pay their fare share of the 20% local match required to access the MPO’s full apportionment of federal funding, and that invoices have been sent to area communities. Opitz asked how many communities contribute, and Andros responded that she didn’t have the number on hand but that last year saw an increase in over previous years. Esser asked to see a listing of what each community was invoiced for, as well as how much each community contributed last year. He noted that this year’s invoice was less than expected, and that Sun Prairie has budgeted an increase in this item each year but that it will be difficult to maintain that budgeted increase if they are invoiced for a lesser amount. Abongwa asked that he be provided with a copy of the invoice that was sent to Dane County.

- b. Staff changes

Andros informed the Policy Board that Colleen Hoesly is leaving her position with the MPO and is moving to a position at WisDOT as a statewide Planning and Policy Chief and expressed her thanks for Colleen’s efforts and work with the MPO, including being the Interim Director and providing support during the transition between Directors. Harrington-McKinney expressed her thanks and appreciation as well.

Abongwa expressed his thanks for Colleen's assistance as he took on his new position. Hoesly expressed that one of the things she is excited about in her new position is that she will continue to work with MPO staff across the state. Opitz thanked Colleen for her work over the years and wished her well in her new job.

16. Adjournment

The next meeting will be held virtually on Wednesday, September 4th, 2024.

Williams moved, Lynch seconded, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.