

**MARATHON COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**Minutes**  
**November 10, 2020**

**Commissioners:** John Robinson – Chair, George Peterson – Vice Chair, Jared Wehner (for Opall), Katie Rosenberg, Randy Fifrick (for Voll), Tim Buttke, Dave Muerett (for Wickham), Mark Maloney, Jeff Gates (for Jacobson), and Mark Thuot (for Hoehn)

**TAC Members:** Dave Mack, Andrew Lynch, Darryl Landeau, Brad Lenz, Michael Wodalski, Dave Eckmann

**Others Present:** Brenda Iczkowski, James Kuehn, Mitch Batuzich

1. Call to Order

In the presence of a quorum, with the agenda being properly signed and posted, the meeting was called to order by Chair Robinson at 2:00 p.m. via WEBEX.

2. Welcome and Introductions

All were welcomed and introductions were made.

3. Public Comment – None

4. Approve Minutes October 13, 2020 meeting

**Action:** MOTION / SECOND BY WEHNER / BUTTKE TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 13, 2020 MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE, NO DISSENT.

5. 2020 Title VI/Americans with Disabilities Act Plan

**Discussion:** Mack gave an overview of the draft 2020 Title VI/ Americans with Disabilities Act Plan that was presented to the committee at the September meeting. The public review process was completed October 23, 2020 with no comments submitted from the public. Mack indicated that through creating the document staff determined the need to provide some of the key document the MPO creates must now be written in both Spanish and Hmong as well as English.

**Action:** MOTION / SECOND BY ROSENBERG / MALONEY TO APPROVE THE 2020 TITLE VI / AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT PLAN. MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE, NO DISSENT.

**Follow Through:** Staff will send the document to WisDOT-Madison for their acceptance and will begin working on converting some of the key MPO documents into other languages.

6. 2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

**Discussion:** Mack shared in the packet a link for the draft 2021 Unified Planning Work Program. This document was presented at the October meeting for review. On page 2 of the document, is a summary of the identified projects. Mack highlighted a few projects staff will be working on in 2021 with the main project being the development of the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) for the area. Appendix A has a draft resolution, for the committee to consider for approving the Wausau Metropolitan Planning Organization 2021 UPWP.

**Action:** MOTION / SECOND BY BUTTKE / ROSENBERG TO APPROVE THE 2021 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM. MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE, NO DISSENT.

**Follow Through:** Staff will make any appropriate changes to the UPWP and send it to WisDOT, FHWA, and FTA for their acceptance.

7. 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP)

**Discussion:** Mack briefly reviewed the 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Plan that was presented at the October meeting. A few changes to the projects #7-10 funding amounts in Table 1 were identified by WisDOT. The City of Schofield added a project (#68) to table 1 to be included in the 2021 TIP. This will be a concrete pavement repair on Grand Ave from the Eau Claire River Bridge to Lakeview Drive. Staff held a public meeting to review the document on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, with no one attending. Appendix A has the resolution for considering approval of the document.

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**Action: Motion / second by Rosenberg / Peterson to approve the 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Plan. Motion carried by voice vote, no dissent.**

**Follow Through: Staff will make the appropriate changes to the TIP and send to WisDOT, FHWA and FTA.**

## 8. Transit Surveys Follow-up

**Discussion:** Lynch recalled that at the last meeting, the results of the business survey were reviewed. The number of responses were a little low to be able to review the differences for comparison. Included in the packet is an example question that was included in both the 2017 Resident and 2020 Business surveys asking the communities if they support budgeting funds for the transit service.

**Action: NONE AT THIS TIME.**

**Follow Through: TRANSIT AND THE CITIZENS TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO BE PLACED ON THE NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA.**

## 9. Univercity Year Program

**Discussion:** Included in the packet, is a Request for Proposals for the UniverCity Year Program through the University of Wisconsin that the County submitted and was approved. The county will set up projects to have students and facility work on. There are 5 main proposal areas; Environment, Evidence based Decision Making, Emergency Medical Services, Planning and Economic Development, and Diversity. Marathon County has budgeted \$100,000 for the projects to be done in the next 3 years or approximately \$20,000 for each theme area. In the packet are a couple pages of the application of the projects that have been looking at working on through the UniverCity program. Specific Environmental projects envisioned includes updating: 2001 Groundwater Protection Plan, Wellhead Protection Plan, exploring alternative methods of snow and ice removal, create partnerships with agencies and organizations to protect surface water and groundwater, focusing efforts to reduce phosphorus limits, develop and support a coalition of stakeholders to develop and implement action plans to reduce phosphorus from agricultural lands. Specific Planning and Economic development projects envisioned: Infill Development analysis for Metro area, develop analysis for County Highway system, ADA plan for Metro area, County-wide Bike Plan, Land acquisition and consolidation of County facilities, and develop strategies to address homelessness and housing instability.

**Action: NONE AT THIS TIME**

**Follow Through: WITH THE PROJECTS CURRENTLY BEING DEVELOPED, AREA COMMUNITIES MAY BE ASKED OR MAY WISH TO BE INVOLVED WITH THE WORK OF THE STUDENTS.**

## County Broadband Update

**Discussion:** Robinson shared the Marathon County board created a broadband task force earlier in the year. With COVID being present, the need for Broadband for internet services is in higher demand. Trying to address the areas that are in higher need Wittenberg and the more rural areas in the county. Landline phones are becoming unreliable in the Northern part of the county. December 1<sup>st</sup> is the grant deadline. Included in the packet is the passed resolution to enter into agreements and support of the program.

**Action: MOTION / SECOND BY WEHNER / BUTTKE TO SUPPORT THE RESOLUTION AND EFFORTS OF INCREASING BROADBAND IN MARATHON COUNTY. MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE, NO DISSENT.**

**Follow Through: STAFF WILL DRAFT A LETTER OF SUPPORT AND FORWARD ONTO MELINDA OSTERBERG, UW-EXTENSION.**

## 10. Next Meeting – December 8, 2020

**Action: THIS MEETING WILL BE SCHEDULED.**

**Follow Through: STAFF WILL SCHEDULE THIS MEETING**

## 11. Adjourn

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Action: There being no further business to come before the members, **MOTION / SECOND BY BUTTKE / ROSENBERG TO ADJOURNED THE MEETING OF THE MARATHON COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION AT 2:53 PM. MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE, NO DISSENT.**

Submitted by:

Dave Mack, MPO Director

Marathon County Conservation, Planning and Zoning

DM: BI

January 29, 2021