



MARATHON COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION
Minutes
April 13, 2021

Commissioners: John Robinson – Chair, Jared Wehner (for Opall), Katie Rosenberg, Randy Fifrick (for Voll), Jeff Gates (for Jacobson), Dave Meurett (for Wickham), Keith Rusch (for Hoenisch), Tim Buttke, Milton Olson, Mark Thuot (for Hoehn)

TAC Members: Dave Mack, Andrew Lynch, James Kuehn, Darryl Landeau, Brad Lenz, Greg Seubert, Eric Lindman, David Eckmann, Brian Grefe,

Others Present: Brenda Iczkowski, John Happli, 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. at 210 River Drive, Wausau and virtually via WebEx.

2. Welcome and Introductions

All were welcomed and introductions were made.

3. Public Comment – NONE.

4. Approve Minutes March 9, 2021 meeting

Action: MOTION / SECOND BY FIFRICK / BUTTKE TO APPROVE THE MARCH 9, 2021 MINUTES AS AMENDED WITH THE CHANGE OF RUSCH BEING AT THE MEETING AS A COMMISSIONER AND NOT A TAC MEMBER. MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE, NO DISSENT.

5. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment

Discussion: Mack shared the TIP amendment that is included in the packet to approve the purchase of two vehicles that Metro Ride transit is purchasing using federal transit funds 5307. The 5307 funds are for operating and capital funding for transit. Seubert added the purchase is being done with 2020 unspent operating assistance money.

Action: MOTION / SECOND BY BUTTKE / RUSCH TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #3-21 ADOPTING THE AMENDMENT TO THE 2021-2024 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM. MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE, NO DISSENT.

Follow Through: Staff will send the resolution to WisDOT and FHWA.

6. Potential Changes to Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) Delineation

Discussion: Mack conveyed the Federal Office of Management and Budget is considering changing the population numbers for delineating the Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Area from 50,000 to 100,000 people. After research was conducted by Mack, it has been determined the MPO's won't be affected by the change in delineation. The Wausau/Weston is identified as an area possibly changed by the metropolitan area criteria to the 100,000 population threshold which could impact some other federal funding being used in the area. Included in the packet is the approved resolution from the Marathon County Board opposing the recommendation of changes relative to the Federal Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Area Standards.

Action: NONE AT THIS TIME.

Follow Through: FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY.

MARATHON COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION

April 13, 2021

7. Urban Area Determination – US Census Bureau

Discussion: Lynch shared that in the packet is a link to the Federal register where the Census Bureau is looking to find ways to clean up the urban areas for the 2020 census. The changes that are being considered are certain thresholds to define what is or isn't urban. Lynch briefly explained the following proposed changes:

- Adoption of a Housing Unity Density Threshold for Qualification of Census Blocks
- Qualify Urban Areas based on a Minimum Threshold of 4,000 housing Units or 10,000 persons instead of a minimum threshold of 2,500 persons
- Cease Distinguishing Different Types of Urban Areas
- Maximum Distance of Jumps

Action: NONE AT THIS TIME.

Follow Through: Staff will continue to inform the commission of updates.

8. Overview of Federal Infrastructure Bill and American Rescue Plan Act

Discussion: Lynch shared in the packet a memorandum that describes the major provisions of the American Jobs Plan, which is the plan proposed by the White House for Infrastructure spending and the potential amount of funding that Wisconsin is eligible to receive. The plan puts more emphasis on fixing versus new, and expanding rebates for electric vehicles along with charging systems. Further funding of the infrastructure with Amtrak and intercity trains. Robinson added, in Appendix A, is an outline of what each of the communities will receive as part of the American Recovery Act aka the most recent stimulus spending. Marathon County will receive \$26,316,628 with the whole county receiving \$51,670,998 of the one-time dollars. The funds will have to be spent by December 31, 2024.

Action: NONE AT THIS TIME.

Follow Through: Staff will continue to inform the commission of updates.

9. Draft request for Proposals (RFP) for the 2022 Transit Development Program (TDP)

Discussion: Mack shared a request for proposals for the 2022 Transit Development Plan. The last plan was created in 2018. The plan is updated every 5 years and since some federal funds are available, based on conversations and the funding availability, this year is a good time to update the plan. After discussions with the Wausau Transit Commission, who are in agreement with the plan, the planning process will need to begin soon to have a final product in 2022.

Also included in the packet is the Cooperative Agreement, which is between WisDOT, the MPO and Metro Ride, that lays out what the roles and duties are of the three entities. Robinson supports doing a study but doesn't think the scope will get transit where it needs to be as a community and proposed the members look at the scope that serves the business needs associated with transportation and transit.

Action: NONE AT THIS TIME.

Follow Through: The Commission should review the scope and make suggestions for the next meeting.

10. Follow up Discussion regarding Chamber of Commerce and MCDEVCO conversation about Transportation needs in the area

Discussion: Robinson shared of conversations with Eckmann from the Chamber of Commerce to facilitate a transportation discussion with business leaders to try to get a better understanding of the business' needs in the area. MCDEVCO was also conducting a survey of businesses to obtain they're perspective about transit services for the elderly.

Action: NONE AT THIS TIME.

Follow Through: Continued discussion on the transportation needs in the area.

MARATHON COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION

April 13, 2021

11. Next Meeting – May 11, 2021 at 2 PM, in the Large Conference Room at 210 River Drive, Wausau, WI and Webex.

12. Adjourn

Action: There being no further business to come before the members, **MOTION/SECOND BY BUTTKE / FIFRICK TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE MARATHON COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION AT 2:50 PM.**

Submitted by:

Dave Mack, MPO Director

Marathon County Conservation, Planning and Zoning

DM: BI

May 7, 2021