



MARATHON COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
Minutes
November 14, 2023

Meeting Attendance: John Robinson – Chair, Dave Meurett (for Bronson), Darryl Landeau, Dave Mack, Lance Mueller, Michael Wodalski (for Maloney), Ryan Van De Walle, Jared Grande (for Opall), Brad Lenz (for Rosenberg), Andy Lynch, Dave Eckmann, Jeff Gates, Jordan Kelbley, Gaylene Rhoden, Milt Olson, George Peterson

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 Chairperson Robinson at 2:01 p.m. in the Large Conference Room, 210 River Drive, Wausau and virtually via WebEx.

2. Public Comment – No public comment was made.

Follow Through: None.

3. Approve Minutes September 12, 2023, Commission Meeting

Action: MOTION / SECOND BY / PETERSON/OLSON TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 24, 2023, MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE, NO DISSENT.

Follow Through: None.

4. Surface Transportation Program (STP-Urban) FF24-29 Project Rankings

Discussion: Mack mentioned it is for FF25-29. Mack explained that there are current projects taking place which reduces the MPO's overall allocation. Our current allocation is approximately \$4.2 million. Mack went over the various funding scenarios developed by staff and the recommendations that came from the Technical Advisory Committee. They were funding the Ross Ave./Kramer Ave. Roundabout project #1 at 70% and the Ross Ave./CTH X Roundabout #2 with the remaining funds.

Action: MOTION / SECOND BY / GATES/RHODEN TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE 2025-2029 SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM-URBAN PROJECT RANKINGS AND FUNDING AMOUNTS. MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE, NO DISSENT.

Follow Through: Staff will inform WisDOT of the rankings from the TAC.

5. Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) FF24-28 Project Rankings

Discussion: Mack went over the projects that were submitted and how they were ranked. There was only one Planning project submitted, it is ranked number one in that category. Both construction projects were submitted by the City of Wausau. The 72nd Ave. Project was # 1 and the East/West Connector was ranked #2.

Action: MOTION / SECOND BY / OLSON/PETERSON TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE 2024-2028 TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM PROJECT RANKINGS. MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE, NO DISSENT.

Follow Through: Staff will inform WisDOT of the rankings from the TAC.

6. Bicycle Pedestrian Committee Restructuring

Discussion: This item was moved to just after approval of the meeting minutes during the meeting (Item 3). Mack explained the MPO Bike and Pedestrian Committee had been in existence for over 10 years. Attendance at recent meeting has been dwindling. Mack proposed moving the bike and pedestrian functions to the TAC. Whenever a bike issue is brought up on the agenda, the old bike and pedestrian committee members will be invited to provide input to the TAC, but they will not retain a voting interest. Rhoden asked if there might just be a standing bike/ped line-item for each meeting.

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Mack agreed that including a bike/ped line item at each TAC meeting would be fine in order to allow anyone to bring up bike/ped issues.

Action: MOTION / SECOND BY / RHODEN/PETERSON TO MOVE THE BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN COMMITTEE TO THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) AND TO INCLUDE A STANDING LINE-ITEM ON THE TAC AGENDA FOR BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN ISSUES. MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE, NO DISSENT.

Follow Through: Staff will notify old bike committee members of the change and invite them to the next TAC meeting and include a line-item for Bike and Pedestrian issues.

7. Transit Planning and Expansion Discussion

Discussion: This item was moved ahead of item 4 in the meeting. Mr. Eckmann discussed how businesses and the community are facing two important issues, 1 being available childcare and 2 getting potential employees to place of businesses. There is a demand for public transit that is coming from employers. Rhoden mentioned that the main issue is funding for additional routes. Lenz remarked that STP funds are eligible to be used for transit and that we should not let funding squash the discussion about additional service.

Action: NONE.

Follow Through: Per Chairman's request, put together a scope or charter for a smaller work group to work on potential expanded service needs and issues and bring the charter to the next meeting to be approved by the commission.

8. Agenda Items for the Next Meeting Date

Discussion: Robinson noted the group will continue the discussion on transit planning and expansion. Mack mentioned we will discuss the MPO boundary as well.

Action: NONE.

Follow Through: None.

9. Adjournment

Action: There being no further business to come before the members, **MOTION / SECOND BY RHODEN /LENZ TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE MARATHON COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION AT 2:31PM. MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE, NO DISSENT.**

Follow Through: None.

Submitted by:

Dave Mack, MPO Director

Marathon County Conservation, Planning and Zoning

DM: LM