



**MARATHON COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**Meeting Attendance:** Randy Fifrick – Chair, Gaylene Rhoden – Vice Chair, Aaron Anklam, Laurie Miskimins, MaKayla Galecki, Darryl Landeau, Dave Meurett, Ryan VanDeWalle, Ron Schenke, Brad Lenz, Jeff Gates, Michael Wodalski, Jason Nordberg, Allen Wesolowski, Mark Thuot

1. Call Meeting to Order

In the presence of a quorum, with the agenda being properly signed and posted, the meeting was called to order by Chairperson Fifrick at 2:00 p.m. in the Wisconsin Room, 1000 Lake View Drive, Wausau, WI 54403 and virtually via WebEx.

2. Introductions

3. Public Comment

Discussion: No Public Comment Given or Received.

4. Approval of Minutes: June 10, 2025, MPO Commission Meeting

**Action: Motion/Second by VanDeWalle/Thuot to approve June 10, 2025, MPOC Minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote, no dissent.**

5. Policy Issues, Discussion, and Possible Commission Action

A. 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment

Discussion: Anklam reviewed the TIP amendment and reasoning as included in the MPO packet.

**Action: Motion/Second by Thuot/Rhoden to approve the 2025-2028 TIP Amendment as presented. Motion carried by voice vote, no dissent.**

B. Wausau MPO Functional Classification System Map

Discussion: Anklam and Meurett provided overview of changes to how functional classification is done, including the new criteria that considers AADT, land use, and spacing between roadways to determine functional classification. Twenty roads within the MPO boundary are proposed for reclassification, with most going to a lower classification, however all but three would still remain eligible for STP-Urban funding. The adoption of the updated Functional Classification System was recommended to the MPO Planning Commission by the MPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), however Meurett noted that one correction was needed. Item number 11 needs to be corrected to say STH 52. It was listed as Scott Street incorrectly.

**Action: Motion/Second by Lenz/Thuot to approve the Wausau MPO Functional Classification System update as proposed with the correction to number 11, changing it from STH 52 to Scott Street. Motion carried by voice vote, no dissent.**

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- C. Letter of Support – Greater Wausau Prosperity Partnership and Visit Wausau application for a Destination Marketing Grant for the Wisconsin Gravel Roads Project

Discussion: Miskimins and Fifrick provide background on the request for the letter of support, noting the funding would be for signage and marketing of the gravel road bicycling routes, the connection of the routes to the MPO and its communities, and the potential for positive impact this new experience/system can have to tourism and local economy. It was also noted that the Partnership is coordinating with the partners listed in the brief in the packet and is also pursuing a letter of support from the Marathon County Board of Supervisors.

**Action: Motion/Second by Thuot/Lenz to provide the Greater Wausau Prosperity Partnership and Visit Wausau a MPO Letter of Support for there Destination Marketing Grant Application. Motion carried by voice vote, no dissent.**

### 6. Educational Presentations and Commission Discussion

#### A. Wausau MPO Bike/Ped Sub-Committee Update

Discussion: Anklam shared that the Wausau MPO Bike/Ped started meeting again in July, agreeing to meet about every three months, and has discussed some initial work to include updating the Wausau MPO Bicycle Map, looking into getting the Fix-it-Stations updated, and locations and need for bicycle counts. At the next meeting, in October, TAP projects will be discussed and a early draft of a new Wausau MPO Bicycle Map.

Still missing representatives from a few committees, including the City of Mosinee. Please contact MPO staff if you have any questions or staff/representatives that you would like to include in the group.

Commission asked for more information on the Fix-it-stations, and it was explained that the MPO staff is going to conduct an inventory on the condition of the stations, try to identify who is responsible for maintaining, and identify opportunities to upgrade/repair existing and maybe add new stations.

There was also discussion on a UW group that may have a bicycle counting or engineering project they would like to work with the MPO on. They may want assistance getting some bicycle count data. Meurett noted that communities should coordinate with the MPO to get bicycle count data, as it can assist in TAP applications.

#### B. 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Discussion

Discussion: Anklam shared that the Wisconsin DOT is going to continue amending their current 2025-2028 TIP through 2026 based on updated guidance received from FHWA. They have strongly recommended that the MPOs do the same. This will be done to allow Wisconsin DOT and MPOs to have more time to evaluate changes that may be coming from the Federal level.

It is not a requirement to do a TIP update every year. It only must be updated every 4 years. Wausau MPO staff is going to follow Wisconsin DOT and not update the TIP this year.

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### C. 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Administrative Change

Discussion: Anklam shared an Administration change requiring no MPO action. The BUS-51 Bicycle/Trail/Bridge project is being pushed back due to conflicts with the railroad. The let date is being pushed back to August of 2026 and the construction is moving to 2027. The construction dollars are just moving from 2025 to 2027.

### D. USDOT SAFE ROADS Initiative

Discussion: Anklam shared that on July 1<sup>st</sup>, the USDOT Secretary sent a Safe Arterials for Everyone directive/initiative to states asking that within 60 days State DOTs, in coordination with the MPOs use available safety data, analysis, and assessments to develop a list of arterial segments, including intersections, with the highest safety, operational, or compliance concerns that will be addressed by the end of Fiscal Year 2026. Wisconsin DOT has identified one project in the Wausau MPO that meets the criteria of the directive.

There were links in the MPO packet to provide more background on the initiative but at this time MPO staff is unsure where this initiative is headed.

### E. 2026-2031 Local Bridge Program Cycle

Discussion: Anklam shared that the Local Bridge Improvement Assistance Program is accepting applications through October 31, 2025. The criteria for applying/receiving funding was also shared.

### F. Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) Funding 2027-2029 Cycle

Discussion: Miskimins shared with the recent designation of the Wisconsin River as a National Recreational Trail, this will likely open up the opportunity for the MPO communities to apply for Federal Lands Access Program dollars. In speaking with FHWA staff, the recommendation was that projects directly on and accessing the rivers, like docks, launches, and adjacent parking and signage would be the most relevant and competitive. There is a call for projects open now, but it closes at the end of August and requires an 18.89% match, with cash match preferred. This just may be a future funding opportunity for the MPO to keep on the radar.

## 7. Next Meeting Date & Time, Announcements, and Agenda Items for Next Meeting Date

A. Next Meeting Date and Time – Tuesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 2:00 PM

B. Future Agenda Items – Members are asked to bring items for future discussion.

## 8. Adjournment

**Action: There being no further business before the members, Motion/Second by Lenz/Rhoden to adjourn the meeting of the Marathon County Metropolitan Planning Commission at 2:29pm Motion carried by voice vote, no dissent.**

Submitted by:  
Aaron Anklam, Transportation Planner  
Wausau MPO