



**MARATHON COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION'S
BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
July 23rd, 2025**

Meeting Attendance: Aaron Anklam, Laurie Miskimins, MaKayla Galecki, Stu Carr, Mark Thuot (City of Schofield), Carrie Edmonson (City of Wausau), John Beatty (Village of Rib Mountain), Jami Gebert (Village of Weston), Hooshang Zeyghami (Village of Weston) Darryl Landeau (NCWRPC), Eric Donaldson (Village of Kronenwetter), Dave Muerett (WisDOT), Ryan VanDeWalle (Rothschild)

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 Aaron Anklam at 10:00 a.m. in the Wisconsin Room, 1000 Lake View Drive, Wausau, WI 54403 and virtually via WebEx.

2. Welcome & Introductions

Discussion: See attendees list. A brief introduction was provided by each member. Anklam explained some of the reasons for the committee being pulled back together, referring to items on the agenda for today's meeting.

3. Policy Issues and Committee Discussion

A. Bike/Ped Subcommittee Meeting Schedule

Discussion: The committee discussed meeting time and frequency, settling on the first Thursday of the month in the afternoon (1PM), and meeting quarterly, unless an extra meeting is needed for additional input or deadlines. The next meeting will be Thursday, October 2nd, 2025, at 1PM.

4. Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion

A. MPO Bike Routes & Bike Map

Discussion: Anklam discussed the MPO desire to update both the printed and online maps, hoping to expand on the information shared with the community and people new to or visiting Wausau. The goal being to create a more interactive experience and create a tool that people can use to route plan based on the nature of their trip. For today's meeting, the MPO staff is seeking initial input into developing the updates.

Committee members provided suggestions, including: denoting road versus off-road or separated trail options, add in amenities like coffee shops, bike fix-it stations, water, level of difficulty in riding the routes, and conveying segment distances. It was also discussed to include information on laws and e-bikes, have options for aerial and map views, and look at things like mellow routes for further ideas.

MPO staff is going to research and workshop some of these ideas, with the goal to bring a demo to the next meeting and discuss further ideas and input.

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B. Bike Counters

Discussion: Anklam shared with the committee that the counters are available for their use, noting that they can only be used in locations where the bike or pedestrian would pass within 10 feet of the counter, and that roadways with vehicles would not be great, because the counter cannot separate a vehicle from a bicycle. The data will be useful for updating MPO planning documents, providing better data to WI DOT, and preparing future grant applications.

Community members who want to use them can have assistance from the MPO in collecting and analyzing the data, however, the community needs to secure the permissions to install. Committee members brought forth a few locations the MPO should look to collect data on now, as data has not been gathered in a few years.

C. Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Projects

Discussion: Anklam provided an overview of the current call for TAP projects. Committee members shared some projects they may submit applications to complete. The City of Wausau will likely pursue another section of the Business Campus Trail expansion. The Village of Weston mentioned the TAP funds they received in the previous cycle and their current hold up on their Bike/Ped Master Plan due to contract delays. WI DOT provided an update on the Village of Weston TAP funds.

It was suggested that Marathon County may want to consider an update to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan or something that can examine bicycle connectivity throughout the region.

WI DOT reminded folks that historically projects associated with schools have competed well. Also, for infrastructure projects, make sure cost estimates are very accurate. TAP never has excess dollars for infrastructure projects. The community is responsible for charges above and beyond what they were awarded. Also, WI DOT does not know if the Federal government will continue TAP beyond 2026.

D. Area Projects & Efforts

Committee Members shared ongoing projects -

Village of Weston:

- Weston Avenue construction underway should be completed this year.
- Schofield Avenue: Westbound completed, eastbound is underway and targeting November for completion.
- Eau Claire River Bridge project is completed
- Asked MPO staff to install a Bike Counter over the Birch St pedestrian bridge.

City of Schofield:

- Completed study for Eau Claire River Trail. Need discussion to keep happening to move the project forward.

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- Section from Rothschild into the north end of Schofield is paused. On-going hold-ups with the railroad.
- Ongoing striping and maintenance

City of Wausau:

- Improvements on River Edge Parkway on both east and west sides remain ongoing. A ribbon cutting will happen August 4th (for Peckham Way section)
- Public engagement for final section to finish segment to DC Everest Park will also be underway soon.

Village of Rib Mountain:

- Rebuilding a section on Lilac between Kwik Trip to Culvers.
- Sidewalks on Tulip Ln to get people safely up to Rib Mountain Drive from the Briqs.
- State Park Speedway: ~200 acres being re-developed for walking, mountain biking. This work connects to potential future trail expansion in Rib Mountain State Park (but that is not moving forward right now). This private park would connect folks to western side of Rib Mountain State Park.

Village of Kronenwetter:

- 3-4 years ago, Kronenwetter added trail on Old-51. It is paved and includes wooden bridge.

Village of Rothschild:

- Lily Lane Pathway
- Kelly Ave paving,
- Military Road sidewalk upgrades and new path to Alderson in next few years

WIDOT:

- Number of projects in design or scoping; nothing in construction for bicycle and pedestrian projects right now.
- Business 51 in Rothschild and Schofield is in design; filling in missing sidewalk gaps and replacing all curb ramps to make ADA compliant
- Business 51 in City of Schofield and City of Wausau, the Eau Claire River Bridge to Kent Street segments; updating all curb ramps to make ADA compliant and potentially adding bike lanes in that section (adjust curb and gutter to include bike lanes)
- City of Wausau curb ramp replacement project for Business 51 and Highway 52 throughout Wausau.

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- Business 51 scoping for Kent Street to Thomas Street; curb ramps to make ADA compliant unsure about ability to add bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Small roadway and buildings are right up to curbs in certain areas.
- How can bike and pedestrian community weigh in on this? Give input to City and the City bike/ped committee and they can pass to WI DOT.

NCWRPC:

- Safe Routes to School for City of Wausau recently completed by RPC
- RPC also working on one for DC Everest Area
- RPC applying for more Safe Routes to School Planning funds through TAP
- Countywide Bike and Ped Planning for Vilas County & have done one for Wood and Langlade

Portage County is also updating their plan right now.

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

A. Next Meeting Date and Time – TBD; October 2nd, 2025, at 1pm in the Wisconsin Room of the Lake View Conference Center.

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

Discussion:

- Fix-it Stations: MPO will inventory and check status to determine next steps.
- Further discussion on map updates
- Discussion/status check on goals of MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan and future discussions on building consensus around regional priorities related to connectivity.

6. Adjournment

Action: There being no further business before the members, Motion/Second by Thuot/Edmonson to adjourn the meeting of the Marathon County Metropolitan Planning Commission Bicycle and Pedestrian Sub-Committee at 11:16am. Motion carried by voice vote, no dissent.

Submitted by:
Aaron Anklam, Transportation Planner
Wausau MPO
Marathon County Conservation, Planning and Zoning