



**MARATHON COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION'S
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
November 11th, 2025**

Meeting Attendance: Randy Fifrick, Aaron Anklam, Laurie Miskimins, MaKayla Galecki, Darryl Landeau, Dave Meuret, Ryan VanDeWalle, Brad Lenz, Allen Wesolowski, Mark Thuot, Sydney Turner, Michael Wodalski, David Phelps, Gaylene Rhoden, Brian Grefe, Evan Maves, Kevin Lang

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 Anklam at 1:02 p.m. in the Wisconsin Room, 1000 Lake View Drive, Wausau, WI 54403 and virtually via WebEx.

2. Approval of Minutes: October 14, 2025, MPO TAC Meeting

Action: Motion/Second by Thuot/VanDeWalle to approve October 14, 2025, MPO TAC Minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote, no dissent.

3. Policy Issues, Discussion, and Possible Committee Action

A. Surface Transportation Program (STP-Urban) 2026-2031 Program Cycle Project Rankings

Discussion:

Anklam reviewed the three projects received from the City of Wausau, the Village of Weston, and the City of Schofield noting Wausau ranked first, Weston second, and Schofield third. He also noted the City of Wausau revised the scope of their project from October to make the project smaller so that it could qualify to receive the minimum 50% funding if selected.

Anklam explained the limited funding available, reminding the TAC that the lowest level any project can be funded at is 50%. He went through allocation scenarios, noting that all scenarios but two would leave Wausau MPO funds unspent. The unspent funds would be returned to the state for use on other projects. Anklam also noted that the City of Wausau has historically preferred to receive at least 70% funding to receive federal funds, but he had heard from Wausau that they were willing to receive 64%, as presented in scenario 6. Both scenario 2 and 6 use all the funding, with Scenario 2 allocating an even percentage split to both the Wausau and Schofield projects, and Scenario 6 allocating a higher share to the Wausau project, ranked first.

Discussion from the TAC asked clarifying questions related to other funding sources that could be brought by the applicants to fund the projects, historical funding practices by the MPO, what municipalities received funding in previous cycles and at what percentage level, and whether an applicant intended to reapply next time if they did not receive funding in this round. Additional discussion focused on whether the top ranked project should receive a higher percentage share based on it scoring highest, and that setting the ranking aside makes it more of just an allocation exercise.

MARATHON COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION

Action: Motion/Second by Rhoden/Wodalski to recommend approval of the Surface Transportation Program (STP-Urban) 2026-2031 Program Cycle Project Rankings as presented and recommend allocating funding to Scenario 2 to the MPO Planning Commission. Motion carried by voice vote, with two dissents.

Discussion: City of Wausau confirmed they did not have clarity on whether they would accept the funding at the 60% level. They requested time to verify if the DOT confirmed it could wait for a final decision. The DOT stated they needed to know by mid-December.

Rhoden and Wodalski agreed to amend the motion to include the motion being contingent on the two municipalities verifying they would accept the allocation levels for the recommended Scenario 2.

Action: Motion/Second by Rhoden/VanDeWalle to recommend approval of the Surface Transportation Program (STP-Urban) 2026-2031 Program Cycle Project Rankings to the MPO Planning Commission, contingent on the two municipalities confirming they will accept the funding at the levels proposed in Scenario 2.

Request was made for roll call vote.

Motion carried with 8 yes, 1 no, and two abstentions.

Follow-Up: Confirm the municipalities would accept the funding at the level proposed.

B. Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) 2026-2030 Program Cycle Project Rankings

Discussion:

Anklam reviewed the three applications from the City of Wausau, the Village of Weston/Marathon County, and the Village of Rothschild; this was also the ranking order of the projects. Anklam reminded the group that the MPO gives their recommended rankings to the state, but the state ultimately determines which projects get funded.

The group discussed that the City of Wausau and Village of Weston/Marathon County projects rankings were only separated by one point and that the Village/County project should also be considered very important due to the Safe Routes to School study on this project. Some in the TAC felt this should make the City of Wausau and the Village of Weston/Marathon County projects be ranked evenly.

It was also discussed that scoring criteria in the future may want to consider RPC recommendations on Safe Routes to School segments. It was discussed that the scoring criteria should be completely reviewed and possibly revised prior to another call for projects for TAP.

Action: Motion/Second by Thuot/Rhoden to adjust ranking of TAP projects, making Weston #1, Wausau #2, Rothschild #3.

Clarification was sought as to whether the score for the City of Wausau and the Village of Weston was now being reviewed as even, or if the scores were being set aside. Anklam clarified as the safety points are now in the scoring criteria, the Safe Routes to School Plan associated with the Village of Weston project would not change the scoring, however the group can still choose to put

MARATHON COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION

the rankings forth to the state as they see fit, regardless of score. Some felt the Village of Weston deserved another point under the 'other' category for the Safe Routes to School Plan. Generally, the group felt that submitting the Wausau and Weston projects as a tie for number one was fair.

Motion/Second by Thuot/Rhoden to recommend approval of the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) 2026-2030 Program Cycle Project Rankings with both the City of Wausau and Village of Weston/Marathon County projects ranked first, followed by Rothschild. Motion failed by voice vote, no votes in favor.

Motion/Second by Lang/Thuot to recommend both the City of Wausau and the Village of Weston as the Wausau MPO top ranked projects to the state. Motion carried by voice vote, no dissent.

4. Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion
5. Next Meeting Date & Time, Announcements, and Agenda Items for Next Meeting Date
 - A. Next Meeting Date and Time – Might meet December 9th at 1PM
 - B. Future Agenda Items – TBD
6. Adjournment

Action: There being no further business before the members, Motion/Second by Rhoden/Thuot to adjourn the meeting of the Marathon County Metropolitan Planning Commission Technical Advisory Committee at 1:56pm Motion carried by voice vote, no dissent.

Submitted by:
Aaron Anklam, Transportation Planner
Wausau MPO