

MINUTES
BAY-LAKE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
SHEBOYGAN METROPOLITAN AREA
TECHNICAL AND POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEES

June 23, 2011

Sheboygan County Administration Building (Room 302), Sheboygan

MEMBERS PRESENT: Wayne Warnecke, Policy Advisory Committee Chairperson,
Presiding

Policy Advisory Committee: Steven Bauer (Town of Sheboygan Falls)
Bill Blashka for Daniel Hein (Town of Sheboygan)
Matt Halada for Will Dorsey (WisDOT Northeast Region, Green Bay)(The WisDOT Northeast Region is also represented on the MPO Technical Advisory Committee)
Ron McDonald for Lee Montemayor (Sheboygan Parking and Transit Utility Commission)(The Sheboygan Parking and Transit Utility is also represented on the MPO Technical Advisory Committee)
Allen Price for Charles Born (Town of Lima)

Technical Advisory Committee: David Biebel (City of Sheboygan Dept. of Public Works)
Aaron Brault (Sheboygan County Planning and Conservation Dept.)
David Jolicoeur (Federal Highway Administration – Wisconsin Division – Ex-Officio)

MEMBERS EXCUSED: David Gartman (Town of Wilson)
LaVerne Hoerig (Sheboygan County Traffic Safety Commission Representative to the MPO Technical Advisory Committee)
Bruce Neerhof (Village of Kohler)
John Nordbo (WisDOT Bureau of Planning and Economic Development – Madison)
Greg Schnell (Sheboygan County Highway Dept.)
Steve Sokolowski (City of Sheboygan Dept. of Planning and Development)
Mike Vandersteen (Sheboygan County)

STAFF PRESENT: Jeffrey Agee-Aguayo (Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission)

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m. by Policy Advisory Committee Chairperson Wayne Warnecke.

Members of both committees and staff in attendance introduced themselves for the benefit of everyone in attendance.

Members of both committees and staff present noted committee members who had asked to be excused from the meeting.

2. **Moved** by Bill Blashka and seconded by Ron McDonald that both committees approve the agenda for the June 23, 2011, joint Technical Advisory Committee/Policy Advisory Committee meeting. Motion carried, with all voting aye on a voice vote.

3. **Moved** by Steven Bauer and seconded by Aaron Brault that both committees approve the minutes of the May 26, 2011, joint Technical Advisory Committee/Policy Advisory Committee meeting. Motion carried, with all voting aye on a voice vote.

4. Policy Advisory Committee Chairperson Wayne Warnecke asked if there was any public input; none was received.

5. Jeffrey Agee-Aguayo provided an update on recent administrative modifications and minor amendments to the *Sheboygan Metropolitan Planning Area Transportation Improvement Program (TIP): Calendar Years 2011 – 2014*.

Jeffrey Agee-Aguayo stated that the Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission approved the various administrative modifications and minor amendments to the *2011 – 2014 TIP* (which were recommended by the MPO Technical and Policy Advisory Committees at their joint meeting in late May) at a meeting of the full Commission on June 10, 2011. Jeffrey Agee-Aguayo added that these administrative modifications and minor amendments were submitted to WisDOT (with copies to FHWA, FTA, WDNR and USEPA) in the latter part of the week of June 13 – 17, 2011.

Jeffrey Agee-Aguayo distributed and reviewed changes made to Table 5 of the *2011 – 2014 TIP* (Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Projects) with members of both committees in attendance; changes in Table 5 involved a combination of minor amendments and administrative modifications, and also involved the inclusion of two new “illustrative” (not programmed) projects.

Jeffrey Agee-Aguayo also distributed and reviewed changes made to Table 6 of the *2011 – 2014 TIP* (Street and Highway Improvement Projects) with members of both committees in attendance; all seven changes in Table 6 involved administrative modifications.

Matt Halada stated that the WisDOT would be revisiting and updating/revising its program of projects in the Northeast Region in the near future, adding that this could have impacts on Table 6 of the *2011 – 2014 TIP*. Matt Halada also noted that the WisDOT Northeast Region staff would provide lists of specific projects that would be covered under “grouped” projects to the MPO staff for future TIPs. Matt Halada indicated that these lists do not need to be published in the TIP, but should be available to provide to the public as requested. Aaron Brault had a question regarding “grouped” project procedures which David Jolicoeur and Matt Halada answered.

Finally, Jeffrey Agee-Aguayo distributed and reviewed a proposed administrative modification to the *2011 – 2014 TIP* involving intercity bus transportation. This “illustrative” project (when funded) would provide federal and state resources to cover operating deficits for the Jefferson Lines route from Milwaukee to Green Bay to Minneapolis-St. Paul in 2011, 2012 and 2013. Since this project passes through the Sheboygan area, it needs to be included in the TIP. Indian Trails bus service between Milwaukee and Green Bay (including Sheboygan) already appears in Michigan’s Statewide TIP. No local share will be required for this project. Jeffrey Agee-Aguayo asked the MPO Technical and Policy Advisory Committees for their recommendation of approval, and added that the Commission would act on this administrative modification at a meeting of its Executive Committee on July 29, 2011.

Matt Halada asked for assurance that these subsidized intercity bus services serve Shoreline Metro’s downtown transfer point as well as transfer points for other urban transit operations in the region; Ron McDonald noted that both Jefferson Lines and Indian Trails serve the Shoreline Metro downtown transfer point, but Jeffrey Agee-Aguayo noted that these intercity bus lines may not serve Maritime Metro Transit’s downtown transfer point in Manitowoc.

Moved by Ron McDonald and seconded by Matt Halada that both committees recommend the proposed administrative modification to the *2011 – 2014 TIP* involving intercity bus transportation to the Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission. Motion carried, with all voting aye on a voice vote.

6. Jeffrey Agee-Aguayo provided a brief update on the delineation of traffic analysis zones (TAZs) and traffic analysis districts (TADs) for the 2010 Census to members of both committees in attendance.

Jeffrey Agee-Aguayo reviewed small changes to the TAZs and TADs since the May meeting, and stated that he participated in a TAZ/TAD status meeting with WisDOT and MPO staff from across the state on June 9, 2011.

Jeffrey Agee-Aguayo noted that TAZs and TADs were delineated in order to be able to use Census data to develop socioeconomic data at the TAZ level in order to feed the travel demand forecast model. The minimum threshold for a TAZ is 600 residents or workers (but not a combination of 600 residents and workers); a threshold of 1,200 residents or workers is preferred (but not required) for a TAZ. In addition, the minimum threshold for a TAD is 20,000 residents or workers (but not a combination of 20,000 residents and workers).

Jeffrey Agee-Aguayo showed a display map of the final TAZs and TADs to members of both committees in attendance, and stated that there were 469 TAZs in Sheboygan County that were submitted for the 2000 Census, while there were 146 TAZs (as well as six TADs) for the 2010 Census. The one difference between what was reviewed at the May meeting and what was reviewed at this meeting was that Lake Michigan needed coverage; therefore, one TAZ and one TAD now involve Lake Michigan.

Jeffrey Agee-Aguayo commented that the Commission staff submitted the final TAZs and TADs to WisDOT by June 17, 2011. WisDOT then submitted a statewide file of TAZs and TADs to the Bureau of the Census early the week of June 20 – 24, 2011.

Jeffrey Agee-Aguayo concluded by noting that the Commission also worked on TAZs and TADs for Manitowoc County.

7. Jeffrey Agee-Aguayo provided a brief update on the *Sheboygan Transit Development Program (TDP)* to members of both committees in attendance.

Jeffrey Agee-Aguayo stated that he would be meeting with the TDP Review Committee at 3:30 p.m. today (June 23, 2011). The main agenda item will involve the review of scenarios to meet potential reductions in federal, state and local governmental funding contributions to Shoreline Metro. The MPO and Shoreline Metro staffs are examining several alternatives to meet budget targets; some of these alternatives involve a somewhat modified route structure.

Ron McDonald then discussed the potential reductions in federal, state and local governmental funding contributions to Shoreline Metro. Ron McDonald stated that at this point, he was anticipating a 10 percent reduction in state and federal funding, and up to a 20 percent reduction in local governmental funding for Shoreline Metro. Ron McDonald commented that at this point, weekday evening service would be eliminated under all scenarios, and added that other variations of service cuts were also being examined. Matt Halada had questions regarding Shoreline Metro's ridership that Ron McDonald answered. Ron McDonald indicated that he would like to avoid fare increases as a way to deal with these reductions in funding, since Shoreline Metro already has some of the highest fares among similar sized operations in Wisconsin.

Ron McDonald also shared a bit of good news from the recently approved state biennial budget for 2011 – 2013 with everyone in attendance. Ron McDonald reported that transit employees are now exempt from the removal of collective bargaining for public employees in Wisconsin. Ron McDonald explained Section 13(c) to everyone in attendance, and discussed the fear that most transit operators in the state had that not allowing transit employees to collectively bargain could have led to a loss of federal funding for most transit operations in Wisconsin.

8. Matt Halada gave a report on WisDOT Northeast Region planning studies and construction projects in Sheboygan County to everyone in attendance.

Matt Halada stated that a stakeholders' meeting for the State Highway 23 Corridor Preservation and Freeway Designation Study would now take place in the early fall. Wayne Warnecke asked when the construction work recommended from this study might take place; Matt Halada was uncertain as to when such work might occur, as this is a study only at this point. Wayne Warnecke commented that his question related more to the proposed "J-turns" in the Plymouth area. Steven Bauer commented that if the "J-turns" work, then it is possible that work on the freeway conversion could be delayed.

Matt Halada noted that the State Highway 23 “major” project (from Plymouth to Fond du Lac) was still on track for initial construction in 2013. Matt Halada also briefly discussed the “1,000 Friends of Wisconsin” litigation that was filed in an attempt to stop this project. Steven Bauer asked if construction would start in the spring of 2013; Matt Halada responded that he was uncertain as to exactly when construction would start in 2013. Aaron Brault had a question regarding the end date for construction in regard to this project; Matt Halada responded that this project should be completed in 2015. There were several questions regarding the staging of various phases of this project which Matt Halada attempted to answer.

Matt Halada stated that work on Interstate Highway 43 was slightly delayed due to poor weather conditions, but should get back on track soon.

Matt Halada commented that the “event only” half interchange on Interstate Highway 43 at Rowe Road was scheduled to be built in 2012, but added that this time frame was still tentative.

Wayne Warnecke had a question regarding the status of the Mueller Road Non-Motorized Transportation Pilot Program (NMTTP) project in the Town of Sheboygan that Aaron Brault answered.

Jeffrey Agee-Aguayo then gave an update on other MPO planning activities to members of both committees in attendance.

Jeffrey Agee-Aguayo stated that he would be participating in a quarterly meeting of the Northeastern Wisconsin Regional Access to Transportation Committee (NEWRATC) on July 13, 2011, at the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (ECWRPC) office in Menasha.

Jeffrey Agee-Aguayo also noted that he would be participating in a meeting of the WisDOT Northeast Region travel demand forecast model users’ group in late July; Matt Halada indicated that this meeting would take place the morning of July 19, 2011.

Jeffrey Agee-Aguayo indicated that the Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission will be taking action on the proposed administrative modification to the *2011 – 2014 TIP* involving intercity bus transportation at a meeting of its Executive Committee on July 29, 2011, in Oconto County.

Jeffrey Agee-Aguayo commented that he planned to participate in the annual WisDOT/ MPO/RPC transportation planning conference August 23 – 25 in LaCrosse.

Finally, Jeffrey Agee-Aguayo noted that he would assist Ron McDonald with a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) triennial review August 25 and 26 at the Shoreline Metro office.

9. The next meeting of the Sheboygan MPO Technical and Policy Advisory Committees was scheduled for August 18, 2011, at 1:30 p.m.

10. **Moved** by Steven Bauer and seconded by David Biebel that the joint meeting of the Sheboygan MPO Technical and Policy Advisory Committees be adjourned. Motion carried, with all voting aye on a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 2:24 p.m.

Recording secretary,

Jeffrey C. Agee-Aguayo