



City of Madison Meeting Minutes - Final LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING COMMISSION

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
www.cityofmadison.com

Thursday, May 17, 2007

5:00 PM

215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Room LL-110 (Madison Municipal Building)

Note: A quorum of the Transit and Parking Commission, Pedestrian-Bicycle-Motor Vehicle Commission, Plan Commission, Madison Area MPO, or Board of Public Works

If you need an interpreter, translator, materials in alternate formats or other accommodations to access this service, activity or program, please call the phone number below at least three business days prior to the meeting.

Si necesita un intérprete, un traductor, materiales en formatos alternativos u otros arreglos para acceder a este servicio, actividad o programa, comuníquese al número de teléfono que figura a continuación tres días hábiles como mínimo antes de la reunión.

Yog hais tias koj xav tau ib tug neeg txhais lus, ib tug neeg txhais ntawv, cov ntawv ua lwm hom ntawv los sis lwm cov kev pab kom siv tau cov kev pab, cov kev ua ub no (activity) los sis qhov kev pab cuam, thov hu rau tus xov tooj hauv qab yam tsawg peb hnuv ua hauj lwm ua ntej yuav tuaj sib tham.

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CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mark Shahan called the 5-17-07 meeting of the Long Range Transportation Planning Commission to order.

1 ROLL CALL

Present: Mark N. Shahan, Mary P. Conroy, Judy Bowser, Michael W. Rewey, Robbie Webber and Dave deFelice

2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MARCH 15, 2007 MEETING

Bob Schaefer suggested modifying the sentence (third paragraph of page 2) to read: "Bob Schaefer felt that a bus-based option would be much more cost effective, would provide direct services with less transfers, and would make use of the existing railroad corridors."

The Minutes of the 3-15-07 LRTPC meeting were then unanimously approved, on a motion submitted by Mary Conroy/Bob Schaefer.

A motion was made by Conroy to Approve the Minutes. The motion passed by acclamation.

3 PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public wishing to speak in regard to future LRTPC agendas.

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

- 4 [05547](#) SUBSTITUTE - Requiring a Binding Referendum, in a Form to Be Approved by the City Attorney, Prior to Expenditure of City Property Tax Funds to Construct a Streetcar or Commuter Rail System in the City of Madison.

Sponsors: David J. Cieslewicz, Zachariah Brandon, Austin W. King, Paul J. Van Rooy, Larry Palm, Noel T. Radomski, Lauren Cnare and Tim Gruber

David Trowbridge reported that the City-County Liaison Committee was the only referral not yet completed and that LRTPC, as lead committee, might not want to act until that referral is back.

Mike Rewey/Mary Conroy then submitted a motion "to refer Resolution ID 05547 to the June 21 LRTPC meeting and vote on the Resolution at that meeting, regardless of the activity of the City-County Liaison Committee".

That motion carried unanimously.

Reconsider and refer to a future meeting

- 5 MIDWEST REGIONAL RAIL INITIATIVE (HIGH SPEED PASSENGER RAIL):
INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION BY RANDY WADE (PASSENGER RAIL MANAGER,
WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION)

Randy Wade (Wisconsin Department of Transportation) presented numerous slides summarizing the high speed rail initiative.

(Note: A copy of Mr. Wade's slides can be obtained by request)

Ald. Robbie Webber asked what the chances were for additional federal funds for this project, both here and nationally. Randy Wade replied that there political changes in Washington (as part of the 2008 elections) that could help high speed passenger rail, such as a new presidential administration.

Mike Rewey said that bicycle parking at stations should be covered or indoors if possible. He also stressed the importance of allowing bicycle on trains, without the need to disassemble them. Rewey also said that bicycle crossings along the railroad corridor can be safely designed to be at-grade, and need not be grade-separated (the same as with street crossings).

Mark Shahan said that air quality benefits of passenger rail should be noted, given the need for a better energy policy and global warming challenges.

Bob Schaefer expressed concerns about safety, particularly at street crossing sand with people walking along the rail corridor. Schaefer also asked if current Hiawatha service (Milwaukee to Chicago) covers its costs. Wade said that current service is subsidizes about \$8 million per year, but that newer vehicles and better service are projected to

allow high speed rail to cover its operating costs in the future.

Tim Wong said that he supports rail vehicles that would allow roll-on and roll-off bicycle access. He agreed that bicycle storage should be free and secure. Wong also said that a policy choice can be made to lower fares so that operating costs need not be completely covered, allowing lower-income people to use the service.

Sup. Dave de Felice asked if any current Amtrak services cover operating costs. Randy Wade said that the Northeast corridor (Washington D.C. to Boston) is the only service currently covering its operating costs.

Bob Schaefer felt that a new station near Hopker Road would be better than staying completely on the existing rail right-of-way, mainly because it would be more direct and would disrupt less residences and street crossings along the corridor.

The Commission thanked Mr. Wade for his presentation and asked to be kept up-to-date on the project's progress over the next several months.

6 MADISON STREETCAR PRELIMINARY FEASIBILITY STUDY AND TRANSPORT 2020
PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING/DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (DEIS)
PROJECT: OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE ON STUDIES TO-DATE

David Trowbridge presented numerous slides that summarized information for both the Madison Streetcar project and the Transport 2020 project.

(Note: A copy of Mr. Trowbridge's slides can be obtained by request)

Trowbridge said that the goal for the Transport 2020 project is to submit an application to the federal New Starts program by the end of the summer. He added that the preliminary engineering phase would begin after that. He then asked for questions from Commission members.

Bob Schaefer felt that streetcar tracks could create a hazard for bicyclists and pedestrians. He also said that events on the Capitol Square would present a challenge for streetcar service, and that buses could be moved much more easily.

Ald. Robbie Webber said that all transportation modes have their advantages and disadvantages and that there are ways to implement many different modes (safely) within the same right-of-way.

Trowbridge said that he would be providing periodic updates of Transport 2020 and Streetcar activities to the Commission over the next several months, as these projects wind up their current phases of evaluation.

7 **INFORMATION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS BY CHAIR AND
COMMISSION MEMBERS**

- Note: No Discussion of Specific Items

Chair Mark Shahan noted that there are two LRTPC vacancies from the Plan Commission. He also said that LRTPC needs three alders on LRTPC and only one serves at this time.

There were no other announcements or information submitted by the Chair or Commission members.

8 SCHEDULE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

- Next Meeting: Thursday, June 21st, 5:00 p.m., Room LL-110 MMB

David Trowbridge noted that June 21st meeting agenda would include Resolution ID 05547 (regarding a requirement to hold a binding City referendum for streetcar or commuter rail funding), possibly the Tenney-Lapham Neighborhood Plan, and a report on progress to create a process to prioritize City projects for inclusion into the TIP.

9 ADJOURNMENT

The Commission adjourned its meeting at 7:20 p.m.