



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
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Meeting Minutes - Approved LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 19, 2012

5:00 PM

215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Room 260 (Madison Municipal Building)

1 CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

LRTPC Chair Robbie Webber called the 4-19-12 meeting of the Long Range Transportation Planning Committee to order.

Present: 7 -

Susan M. Schmitz; Robbie Webber; Bridget R. Maniaci; Marsha A. Rummel; Lucas K. Dailey; Chris Schmidt and Mark N. Shahan

Absent: 1 -

Margaret Bergamini

Excused: 2 -

Eric W. Sundquist and Steve King

2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the 2-16-12 LRTPC meeting were unanimously approved, on a motion submitted by Ald. Chris Schmidt/Mark Shahan.

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3 PUBLIC COMMENT

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

4 DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

Susan Schmitz noted that she is President of Downtown Madison Inc., which has taken a position on agenda item 5 (re: Johnson Street and Gorham Street).

There were no other disclosures or recusals reported by Committee members.

NEW BUSINESS

- 5 [25669](#) Accepting the report by Strand Associates - East Johnson Traffic Study and maintain the one way pair street system of East Johnson Street and East Gorham Street and authorizing City Engineering and City Traffic Engineering

to proceed with a design for reconstruction of East Johnson Street with one-way traffic. (2nd AD)

Ald. Bridget Maniaci/Ald. Chris Schmidt moved to recommend adoption of the substitute resolution.

Lucas Dailey/Ald. Marsha Rummel moved to take out the language in the first paragraph. That motion failed, on a vote of 3-2.

On the main motion to recommend adoption of the Substitute Resolution ID 25669 (with the additional language), the motion passed 3-2 (Lucas Dailey and Mark Shahan voted "no").

Absent: 1 -
Margaret Bergamini

Ayes: 3 -
Bridget R. Maniaci; Marsha A. Rummel and Chris Schmidt

Noes: 2 -
Lucas K. Dailey and Mark N. Shahan

Abstentions: 1 -
Robbie Webber

Recused: 1 -
Susan M. Schmitz

Excused: 2 -
Eric W. Sundquist and Steve King

Jeff Held (Strand Associates) presented some slides detailing the planning process that evaluated one-way vs. two-way operational alternatives for the Johnson-Gorham corridor. Chris Petykowski (City Engineering) noted that Johnson Street is planned would be reconstructed in 2014, and he asked for LRTPC comments at this time.

Mark Shahan said that the transitions areas for bicyclists (i.e., moving from one side of the street to the other, on a one-way) is very important. He said that the use of striping is a challenge under some of the scenarios, especially where there are parking restrictions during certain times of the day.

Robbie Webber said that Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) may require that 12 foot lanes be used, but felt that this is too wide (and could encourage speeding). Chris Petykowski said that federal funds are being used for this project and FHWA will have some concerns, but that waiver is possible. Jeff Held (Strand) noted that a waiver may be difficult in this situation (particularly for the two-way options).

Ald. Bridget Maniaci said that backups at this time are severe along Johnson Street, and that this needs to be addressed. Jeff held pointed out that the analysis undertaken by the project was very conservative, in essence using only 2005 traffic counts (not accommodating future traffic growth).

Mark Shahan asked if the two-way options would be better for encouraging

mode diversion. Jeff held said that the one-way option facilitated better transit and bicycle operations. Held also said that the one-way configuration would not preclude the conversion to two-way in the future.

Ald. Bridget Maniaci noted that she introduced a substitute resolution to modify the language, as follows (underlined text added, strikeout removed):

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the report by Strand Associates - East Johnson Traffic Study are hereby accepted and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report, it findings and appendices be referred to the planned City of Madison Transportation Master Plan for further study of one-way and two-way operation of streets in the Central Area of the City, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that City Engineering and City Traffic Engineering are hereby authorized to proceed with a design for reconstruction in 2014 of East Johnson Street between North Butler and North Baldwin Streets as a one-way street with the provision that the design not prevent a conversion to two-way operation in the future.

~~**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City shall maintain the one way pair street system of East Johnson Street and East Gorham Street and,**~~

~~**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that City Engineering and City Traffic Engineering are hereby authorized to proceed with a design for reconstruction of East Johnson Street with one way traffic.**~~

Ald. Bridget Maniaci/Ald. Chris Schmidt moved to recommend adoption of the substitute resolution.

Lucas Dailey/Ald. Marsha Rummel moved to take out the language in the first paragraph above. That motion failed, on a vote of 3-2.

On the main motion to recommend adoption of the Substitute Resolution ID 25669 (with the additional language), the motion passed 3-2 (Lucas Dailey and Mark Shahan voted “no”).

6 [17817](#)

**REVIEW OF VARIOUS TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS IN CURRENT
(AND POTENTIAL FUTURE) TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT
PROGRAM (TIP) FOR THE DANE COUNTY AREA**

Chris Petykowski (City Engineering) provided an overview of various street and bicycle projects proposed to be included in the TIP. He summarized projects geographically for Committee members and asked them to provide comments as he went through them. Some highlights of Committee members

comments are below.

Ald. Marsha Rummel said that the reconstruction plans for the outer loop of the Capitol Square should incorporate the recommendations of the Downtown Plan as much as possible, noting that this is the time to make these recommended improvements. Chris Petykowski agreed and said that City plans are reviewed at the time of street reconstruction and design. He also said that if there are specific recommendations in various plans that are important to an alder they should feel free to point these out.

Ald. Bridget Maniaci noted that the Blair/Johnson Street intersection design needs to incorporate improved visibility for pedestrians (those crossing Blair, along Johnson). She felt that there are some serious safety concerns there. She also stressed the importance of bicycle circulation in that area.

Mark Shahan said that the West Washington Avenue/Proudfit intersection needs better lane markings, noting that the pedestrian crossings could be confusing for some.

Rob Phillips (City Engineer) said that there is an opportunity for a great bicycle project on the west side, in the West Towne area. He said that the Beltline interchange and Gammon Road are going to be reconstructed in some places and there is an opportunity to create a grade-separated crossing of Gammon in that area. Phillips said that there is a need for some partners on this project (namely WisDOT and West Towne Mall). He said that this project would create a very good connection to off-street bike paths in this area, and ultimately to the planned UW Research Park 2.

Mark Shahan agreed that this should be pursued, and also stressed the importance of improving bicycle and pedestrian crossings of the Beltline in that region, such as the Watts Road extension (that was looked at during early phases of the Verona Road/West Beltline project planning) and a connection to Whitney Way. Shahan asked that the Watts Road extension under the Beltline, in particular, be given serious consideration in future City TIP programming.

Ald. Bridget Maniaci pointed out that the budget for such project is tight (indeed, some projects have slipped in recent years). She asked how this new idea would affect other projects in the queue. Rob Phillips said that these are early discussions, but that it is a unique opportunity given upcoming Gammon and High Point Road work. He said a bicycle/pedestrian underpass could be part of the design. Robbie Webber said that this would be an important connection of the Beltline path to the Ice Age Path.

Ald. Bridget Maniaci/Mark Shahan submitted a motion to demonstrate support for this Beltline bicycle path improvement idea, and communicate it to City Engineering staff and Common Council members. That motion passed unanimously.

Lucas Dailey reiterated his concerns about CTH M redesign, and asked that the bicycle path be located closer to the sidewalk (i.e., within the terrace and not directly adjacent to the travel lanes). He said that this would be a much more comfortable environment for bicycles, given the high speeds of traffic along CTH M.

Chair Robbie Webber asked that, given the fact that LRTPC will soon lose quorum, Chris Petykowski please come back to the May 17 LRTPC meeting to finish the review of TIP projects. Chris Petykowski said that he would plan to do this. The Committee thanked Mr. Petykowski for his presentation.

7 [08484](#) **INFORMATION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS BY CHAIR AND COMMISSION MEMBERS**

- Note: **No Discussion of Specific Items**

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

8 **SCHEDULE OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

David Trowbridge noted that the May 17th meeting (5:00 p.m., Room LL-110) will include continued discussion of City street and bicycle project to be included in the TIP, as well as a review of transit projects.

9 **ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned its meeting at 7:05 p.m.