



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
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Meeting Minutes - Approved TRANSPORTATION ORDINANCE REVIEW AD HOC COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 30, 2016

5:00 PM

210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Room 103A, City-County Building
Clerk's Conf. Room

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Present: 4 - Denise DeMarb; Ledell Zellers; Rebecca Kemble and Mark Clear

Excused: 2 - Steve King and Paul E. Skidmore

2. PUBLIC COMMENT - None.

3. DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

Kemble disclosed that she was a worker/owner at Union Cab.

4. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR.

Demarb discussed the meeting schedule, and said that no end date had been set for the Committee's work, given the amount of review needed.

5. 42680

Presentation about the role of Engineering and Traffic Engineering in City Transportation, City Engineer Rob Phillips and City Traffic Engineer David Dryer - TORC 03.30.16

Dryer and Phillips provided highlights of their respective agencies. (Please see the CE/TE presentation among the attachments at Leg. File 42286.) They answered questions as follows.

- What role does TE play in special events? TE is a member of the Street Use team and spends a good deal of time preparing for and operating during special events. As TE modernizes the signal system making signal settings for special events will be done more responsively.
- What role does CE play with contaminated soils? CE staff are involved in any contaminated soils related issues in the right-of-way or City property.
- What role does CE play in development review and storm water management? CE staff review development proposals to ensure that storm water issues are addressed.
- What role does CE play in construction inspection of City projects? CE has multiple and varied involvement in construction inspection activities. For example, the Water Utility will inspect and develop plans and specs for its own projects, but CE will assist in the development of plans and specs for other municipal projects such as the Central Library, or the rehab of the TE Warehouse.
- What agencies are involved in snow removal on City Bike paths and bus

Stops? Snow removal on bike paths and certain bus stops is spread across multiple agencies, including CE, Parks Dept, and Streets Division.

- How often are street lights re-lamped? Street lights are inspected by City Electricians, through night-time inspections and also by energizing arterial circuits and noting which lights are out. Many lights are identified for re-lamping by citizen contact noting a light is out.
- What other federal/state funding opportunities are there/used for transportation projects? The City uses STP-Urban funds, TAP funds and safety funds/grants.
- When CE/TE hold their coordinating meetings, why are ped/bike meetings separate from street projects? CE/TE meet biweekly to discuss progress and status of street projects, with an equal number of separate meetings to discuss ped/bike projects. A combined meeting is not feasible simply because of the length and breadth of the material and the time required to cover it.
- What challenges does staff see as the City grows and density increases? As density increases, while trips per capita may decrease, the increased numbers of people result in an overall increase in the number of trips on the street system. This can result in more pressure and congestion on the street, with peak-hour congestion extending to more hours of the day. One part of the solution is to encourage multiple modes of transportation. Ultimately a high-capacity transit system will be required to continue developing downtown.
- Discuss the structure of CE without a Public Works Director. Staff said their understanding from the Dept/Division heads at that time was that the position was seen as not adding much value. City managers were felt to be functioning at such a high level without a Director that it did not make fiscal sense to fund the position. The last Director of Public Works retired in the early 1990's.
- How was transportation planning handled when the Dept. of Transportation had a Director of Transportation? Transportation planning was overseen by the Director of Transportation and generally performed via cross-agency teams including DOT, MPO, Planning and Engineering staff.

The last Director of Transportation retired in the mid-1990's, and the decision was made to not fill the position. At the same time, a decision was made to hire a City Traffic Engineer, who would be responsible for the TE Division. DOT at that time was comprised of three Divisions: TE, Parking, and Metro. Each unit had its own manager: TE-City Traffic Engineer, Parking-Parking Utility Manager, and Metro-Metro General Manager. Decisions that impacted across the three Divisions were made by the management team comprised of these three individuals.

In the early 2000's, the Parking Utility Manager vacated her position and oversight of both TE and Parking was given to the City Traffic Engineer, which is the structure that we today.

- Are there any structural issues/problems that CE and TE see now with the organizational structure? Staff did not identify any structural defects in the current organizational structure, and felt the relationship between CE and TE was at its highest level in 20 years.

6. 42683

Presentation about the role of Metro Transit in City Transportation, Metro Transit Manager Chuck Kamp - TORC 03.30.16

Prior to Manager Kamp's presentation Chair Demarb introduced members of

the RESJI staff team.

Kamp discussed Metro's relationship with CE and TE and how the three agencies worked together. Kamp then highlighted Metro's organization and operation. (Please see Metro's PowerPoint presentation among the attachments at Leg. File 42286.) He answered questions as follows.

- Have buses increased in passenger capacity? Seating capacity on buses has actually dropped as Metro added space for wheel chair accommodations, low floor buses and increased space for standing passengers.
- When bus travel time decreases and system capacity increases what happens to ridership? Eugene's experience with BRT was that ridership grew.
- Do BRT systems like Eugene have a Park & Ride system? BRT systems typically do provide some Park & Ride satellite parking lots. The City would look at doing this at East Towne Mall, for example.
- What would travel times be from East Towne to downtown using E. Washington Ave? Several trips were listed in the BRT study that could reduce travel times from the periphery by 15-20 minutes. Today some of these trips take an hour or more.
- What is AVL? AVL is an acronym for Automated Vehicle Locating system. Metro was the first in the state to implement this.
- Milwaukee has a countywide transit system. Could Dane County do something similar without having an RTA? A transit model similar to Milwaukee County's would be an option, but much more discussion was needed.
- Describe the Lansing, MI system. Lansing is building a BRT system, which they have been planning for some time. They have articulated buses to relieve overcrowding. They have a transit authority, consisting of 4-5 municipalities and one county, with countywide involvement that provides funding to the transit authority. Milwaukee County is a contiguous urban area with embedded communities/municipalities, making it different from Dane County.
- With what communities does Metro currently contract service? Metro contracts with Middleton, Fitchburg, Verona (Epic), Town of Madison, Shorewood Hills. Metro also partners with UW Madison, MMSD, MATC.

7. PROPOSED MEETING SCHEDULE AND ANY OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS.

DeMarb proposed meeting monthly on the fourth Wednesday, with the meeting room to be determined. Meetings would begin at 5 PM and run as long as needed; but aiming to end by 7 PM. Occasionally more than one meeting per month might be needed. Members said they preferred to receive electronic mailings and materials, using original documents rather than scanned documents as much as possible. All the City transportation committees were represented by the member Alders on TORC.

8. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS BY CHAIR.

Common Council Legislative Analyst Heather Allen would be researching the organizational structure of peer cities from a list of cities provided by DeMarb. Allen would provide this list to members via Anne Benishek-Clark.

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.

- John Strange – Existing ordinance and the process for reviewing it going forward.
- Heather Allen – Structure of transportation in other cities.

DeMarb added that former Alder Ken Golden and Deputy Mayor Anne Monks had agreed to speak at a future meeting about the history of City transportation and the MDOT organization.

Clear suggested that Committee members attend the other City transportation committee meetings including: TPC, PBMVC, LRTPC, and MPO Planning Board. This would give some insight into the discussions.

10. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Clear, seconded by Kemble, to Adjourn at 7:12 PM. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

42695

Additional informational attachment(s) - TORC 03.30.16