



La Crosse Area Planning Committee

Metropolitan Planning Organization

Serving the La Crosse/La Crescent Urbanized Area

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Minutes of Committee on Transit and Active Transportation, September 7, 2022 Meeting

Minutes of the meeting of the CTAT held in-person and as a virtual meeting on Teams on Wednesday, September 7, 2022 at 3:00 pm.

Members Present: Paula Sihla, Cathy Van Maren, Rick Diermeier, Jim Longhurst, Krista Heinz, Bob Fisher. **Members Excused:** Sandy Sechrest, Jim Krueger, Francis Schelfhout. **Staff and Others Present:** Bridget Brown, Nicolette Kvam, Chris Stindt, Ciara Schlichting, Sally Sharrow, Cole Norgaarden, Peter Fletcher, Jackie Eastwood.

Peter Fletcher called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

1) Approval of minutes of the May 12, 2022 CTAT Meeting:

Rick Diermeier motioned to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2022 meeting; Krista Heinz seconded. All were in favor.

2) TAP awards:

Peter Fletcher stated that with the additional funds provided through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) all the projects (5) submitted in our area for TAP funding were awarded. Another solicitation is anticipated in mid-fall, with a similar funding level anticipated. The local units of government are encouraged to submit any bicycle/pedestrian projects they would like funded (80% federal/20% local).

3) Recommendation for MRT alignment between Riverside Park and the Great River State Trail:

Jackie Eastwood stated that Francis Schelfhout, WisDOT, requested that the CTAT recommend a preferred alignment for the Mississippi River Trail (MRT) between Riverside Park in La Crosse and Great River Landing/Great River State Trail in Onalaska. He will present the recommendation to the Mississippi River Parkway Commission (MRPC), which is reevaluating the MRT alignment in Wisconsin and working to have it designated as a U.S. bicycle route.

Jackie proceeded to show and describe a GIS map of a proposed alignment.

After some discussion, Jim Longhurst motioned to recommend the proposed MRT as presented between Riverside Park and Great River Landing to proceed from south to north the Riverside North trail between Riverside Park and Copeland Ave, the La Crosse River trail between Copeland Ave and Monitor St, Monitor St between the La Crosse River trail and Avon St, Avon St between Monitor St and Livingston St, Livingston St between Avon St and the Rose St trail, the entire length of the Rose St trail, the entire length of the 2nd Ave S trail, Ash St between the 2nd Ave S trail and 2nd Ave SW, 2nd Ave SW between Ash St and Beech St, Beech St between 2nd Ave SW and Huron St, Huron St between Beech St and Elm St, Court St between Elm St and Irvin St, and Irvin St between Court St and the trail entering Great River Landing to the Great River State Trail. Rick Diermeier seconded. All were in favor.

4) Recommendation for MRT connecting Wisconsin and Minnesota within the 14/61 corridor:

Jackie Eastwood continued discussing the GIS map for a potential trail connection between the MRTs on the Wisconsin and Minnesota sides. She also suggested some modifications to the routing through La Crescent that would use the Wagon Wheel Trail and the new bike/ped bridge over TH 14.

Ciara Schlichting of Toole Design stated that it was good to know about the new accommodations in La Crescent as they work to designate the Minnesota MRT as U.S. Bike Route 45. Discussion involved less-than-ideal travel eastbound to La Crosse and bringing La Crescent into the discussion. Jackie stated that it was an oversight on her part that Bill Waller was not invited, but it was her intention.

Peter Fletcher offered to have the LAPC organize a meeting with La Crescent to discuss the MRT through La Crescent and the connection between the MRTs through La Crescent and La Crosse.

5) La Crosse Comprehensive Plan Bike/Ped and Transit Elements:

Tim Acklin from City Planning was not in attendance to discuss the City's comp plan.

6) Other updates and information items:

Cathy Van Maren announced that the rollout of the Genfare system for MTU is pushed back to early October. She also announced that LATA will be tabling at UWL on September 22 for World Car-Free Day and that an event will be held at Copeland Park on September 25 for National Drive Electric Week.

Peter Fletcher announced a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 5:00 pm on September 19 in La Crescent to officially open the new bicycle/pedestrian bridge over TH 14.

Nicolette Kvam introduced herself stating she is working to reboot SRTS with the schools, which includes many Walk to School Day events.

7) Future agenda items:

TBD

8) Adjourn; Next meeting TBA:

Paula Silha motioned to adjourn at 3:58 pm; Jim Longhurst seconded. All were in favor.