



**Preliminary Engineering/NEPA Analysis
for the
Dane County/Greater Madison Metropolitan Area**

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Minutes

TRANSPORT 2020: IMPLEMENTATION TASK FORCE FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE SUBCOMMITTEE

Wednesday, December 17, 2008

5:30 p.m.

**Madison Municipal Building, Room 300
215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard
Madison, WI**

-- **ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Sandy Beaupre; Michael Blaska; Rod Clark; Karna Hanna; Chuck Kamp; Dan Larson; Sup. Al Matano; Dan Viste; Dick Wagner.

Members Absent: Lori Kay; Chris Klein; Sup. Scott McDonell; Jeff Miller; Paul Munz; Jim Pulvermacher.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair Dick Wagner called the December 17, 2008 Transport 2020 Finance and Governance Subcommittee meeting to order. There were no modifications to the meeting agenda.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 29, 2008 SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

The Minutes of the 10-29-08 Transport 2020 Finance and Governance Subcommittee meeting were unanimously approved, as submitted on a motion by Michael Blaska/Sup. Al Matano.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Fred Bartol said that he represents the group Dane Alliance for Rational Transportation (DART). He said that a regional transit authority (RTA) is needed and that bus transit is very important to its success. He said that a multi-modal approach is needed that has the ability to serve the entire region. Bartol added that long term investment in transit infrastructure will help shape development and improve the economy. He pointed out that there is great value in transportation choices available to people wanting to make connections and that this needs to be factored into decision making processes. He felt that an RTA that administers high-quality transit options will help the region be more competitive in the long term.

Bruce Wilson said that he was at a meeting in Middleton this morning and someone mentioned that commuter rail is dead, based on a newspaper headline. He said that it is critical to keep getting the word out that this is not the case.

4. DISCUSSION OF GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES AFFECTING REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION

Dick Wagner walked through some initial ideas regarding governance for an RTA. The Subcommittee agreed that appointed members seems to have some positive attributes, as opposed to purely elected RTA board members. Dan Viste felt that a mix of RTA member authorities would provide for broader representation. The Subcommittee felt that there should be some sort of geographic representation to the board.

Karna Hanna said that the “service area” concept should be looked into further, noting that expansions of an RTA are possible if the service area changes. Rod Clark said that “service areas” can be defined in many different ways, and that this needs to be fleshed out in detail. Al Matano said that, as part of the County Executive’s initial agreement to create an RTA, the sense was that everyone should be provided some benefit if they were to be included in an RTA.

Chuck Kamp said that shared-ride taxi (or similar service) should be considered in the service area concept. There could be ways to provide new or expanded service using a shared-ride taxi approach.

Dan Viste said that, with the “Thrive” economic development efforts, it started with just Dane County and eventually expanded to include 8 counties. He said an RTA could start with Dane County and be expanded over time, as demand and interest warrant.

Dan Larson asked how the MPO’s “Urbanized Area” boundaries are developed. Bill Schaefer (MPO staff) said that the boundaries are federally-designated, and are based on population and population density. He said that there are some quirks regarding which communities are included and which are not, primarily due to the contiguous nature of census tracts. He added that the boundaries may not make much sense from a transportation service standpoint. Dick Wagner felt that the MPO boundary is not good for an RTA because it is very hard for the public to understand.

Wagner also asked for comments on RTA representation, noting that it is important to maintain a balance of power on the RTA board. Karna Hanna said that equity is very important as well. Dan Larson said that the users of the service need to be clearly represented. He also said that there should be some requirement that an RTA member have a certain degree of knowledge of the subject matter. Al Matano agreed, noting that the recent changes to the MPO board added transportation expertise to the membership requirements.

Chuck Kamp asked about the range of board size on the examples shown on the 1-page sheet. Dick Wagner said it was generally between 7 and 14 members.

Rod Clark said that, in terms of the funding of the services to be provided, the RTA could have a role in managing the service contracts. He also said that the ongoing operating costs of various facilities (such as for operating and maintaining park-and-ride lots) need to be clearly considered, not just capital improvements. He also felt that vanpool or carpooling might also be included under an RTA’s management structure.

Dick Wagner thanked the Subcommittee for their initial thoughts. He said that more needs to be synthesized as we move forward with the RTA governance discussions.

5. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF DRAFT SUBCOMMITTEE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS DOCUMENT

Dick Wagner said that the document is a work-in-progress and that he asked staff to begin putting some background information together as a starting point.

Dan Larson said that the report needs more concrete recommendations before it can be shared widely with the public. Chuck Kamp agreed. Wagner also agreed and said that these elements would be added after more Subcommittee discussion.

Dick Wagner also said that he would like to entertain the possibility of holding public meetings on the RTA subject in areas outside of Madison, as had been requested by some Subcommittee members. Dan Larson said that it would be useful to hear the reactions from others, outside the process.

Al Matano said that the document is too long, but that a cover sheet of no more than one page would be helpful. Sandy Beaupre agreed, noting that all of the background could still be included but later in the report document. Matano also said that he (as MPO Chair) would be willing to host an MPO meeting in the Sun Prairie area, as a way to reach out to those people and provide some of the information that has been developed.

The Subcommittee agreed that at least two public meeting should be held outside of Dane County, in February or Spring of 2009. Michael Blaska said that one of the communities should be on the rail line, and one off the rail line. David Trowbridge said that he would explore options in the Stoughton/Oregon area, Middleton and DeForest. Chuck Kamp said that one of the meetings should be easily accessible by public transit.

Dick Wagner also said that it would be useful to have one more Subcommittee meeting in January before scheduling the public sessions. David Trowbridge said that he would find a date and notify Subcommittee members.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The Finance and Governance Subcommittee adjourned its meeting at 6:50 p.m.