



**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

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

5:30 p.m.

**Madison Municipal Building, LL-110
215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard
Madison, WI**

-- ROLL CALL

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

Members Absent: Chris Klein; Sup. Scott McDonell; Jeff Miller; Paul Munz; Dan Viste.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair Dick Wagner called the January 27, 2009 Transport 2020 Finance and Governance Subcommittee meeting to order. There were no modifications to the meeting agenda.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 17, 2008 SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

The Minutes of the 12-17-08 Transport 2020 Finance and Governance Subcommittee meeting were unanimously approved, as submitted on a motion by Michael Blaska/Sup. Al Matano.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Bob Schaefer said that he has concerns about the full cost of the Transport 2020 system when built out, and whether or not the community can afford it. He said that surrounding counties should be considered for inclusion in a future regional transit authority (RTA). He also felt that land use controls need to be in place before a light rail system operates, or it will result in more urban sprawl. He also felt that the rail system will increase traffic congestion, which will not improve quality of life in Dane County.

Fred Bartol said that he represents the group Dane Alliance for Rational Transportation (DART). He said that the draft Executive Summary does a good job of framing the key issues, but that the importance of Transport 2020 in advancing land use and livable community goals needs to be stressed more. He

appreciated the extended discussion of regional bus, park-and-ride, etc. as part of the regional network. He also said that one of the goals - “enhance the natural and social environment” – is not clear and needs to be fleshed out.

Royce Williams said that the governance recommendations should leave open the option of having elected officials on the RTA board. He suggested considering an “Executive Council” of the Dane County Board of Supervisors serving on the RTA board, as elected by the County Board members.

4. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF DRAFT SUBCOMMITTEE DOCUMENTS: FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS (EXECUTIVE SUMMARY) AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION & APPENDICES

David Trowbridge (Transport 2020 Project Manager) walked through the new 3-page Executive Summary document, and highlighted the key *draft* recommendations. He thanked Subcommittee member Al Matano for organizing the first draft of the document and providing some initial recommendations for the Subcommittee to consider. Trowbridge said that he would like Subcommittee feedback on these potential recommendations, and that the document will be used to help frame the discussion at a series of public meetings scheduled for February and March.

Jim Pulvermacher said that - in the section describing the regional transportation system - some language should be added to note that the service area for the system extends beyond the borders of Dane County.

Karna Hanna agreed that areas outside of Dane County should be considered, if only in terms of future expansion possibilities. David Trowbridge said that he would add some language to that affect, in the sections describing the regional transportation system and the regional governance model.

Chuck Kamp said that, in the section on Funding Sources, it may be better to indicate that a sales tax between 0.5% and 1% could be considered. He said that it would be better to have a range, rather than a fixed amount at this time (to allow for flexibility). Michael Blaska agreed that a range might be better. Dan Larson suggested using “approximately” to describe the amount necessary to implement the regional vision. Karna Hanna suggested language such as “to-date, an increase of the sales tax in the amount of 0.5% has been recommended to implement the regional transportation vision”. The Subcommittee agreed to that.

Dan Larson asked about the federal stimulus and whether or not any of those funds could be used for these purposes. Rod Clark said that those stimulus funds are intended for projects that are ready to be implemented. In addition, the Transport 2020 start-up system still needs to be approved by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Dan Larson said that these types of questions will likely be asked at the upcoming public meetings. He also said that other parts of the regional vision (such as bus options or park-and-ride facilities) may be closer to implementation and could be eligible. Rod Clark said that he would provide some information to help determine what is possible.

Dan Larson also said that there would likely be detailed questions from the public about the cost figures for the various transportation system components. He said that there are still some questions about the costs of some of the components noted in the Executive Summary (such as express bus and park-and-ride facilities). Chuck Kamp said that he would provide some general figures for what an express bus route might cost. Kamp also said that there is a need for additional express bus service within the City of Madison (such as between the four transfer points), and not only for communities outside the City.

Rod Clark felt that there are some infrastructure improvements that can be made to enhance the quality of bus service (such as bus rapid transit, or BRT, elements). He said that examples include traffic signal

priority or other street right-of-way improvements, intended to speed up buses in various corridors. Dick Wagner said some estimates of the cost of that park-and-ride facilities could be obtained. Jim Pulvermacher referred to the Dutch Mill park-and-ride facility, and said some general estimates could be obtained from that experience.

Chuck Kamp asked about the language in the Funding section, regarding operating costs and the use of local sources to finance them. Dick Wagner said that it was intended to leave open the possibility of local funding for operations, if communities should wish to do so. David Trowbridge said that he would modify the language to read: “Operating costs for the regional public transportation system will be covered by a mix of revenue sources (which could include - but are not limited to – farebox revenues, federal, State, regional and local revenue sources)”.

Dan Larson said that the RTA membership might consider representation from the business community, and not just government representation. Rod Clark said that the language in the last bullet under Regional Governance Model should be modified to make it more clear that numerous governance options exist for existing entities. He also said that language describing options for new transit services should be added. David Trowbridge said that he would modify the language in that bullet to read: “Governance and operation of existing public transit services (such as Madison Metro, elderly and specialized transportation systems, and shared-ride taxi services) may remain in their existing format and continue to receive federal and/or other funding under the new RTA model. Governance and operation of new public transportation services (such as new regional bus or feeder bus/van circulator services) may be operated directly by the RTA or by another operating entity (by contract)”.

Dick Wagner thanked the Subcommittee for their suggestions and said that a revised version would be sent out to members as soon as possible. Jim Pulvermacher said that the revised version should be posted on the Transport 2020 web site, along with the announcement of the upcoming public meetings.

The Transport 2020 Finance and Governance Subcommittee then voted unanimously to adopt the (1) Findings & Recommendations (Executive Summary) document, *as amended*, and (2) Background Information & Appendices document, on a motion submitted by Chuck Kamp/Dan Larson.

5. OVERVIEW OF SCHEDULED PUBLIC MEETINGS: “COMMUNITY BRIEFING & DISCUSSION: FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE FOR POSSIBLE FUTURE REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY (RTA) IN DANE COUNTY”

David Trowbridge provided a summary of the four public meetings that have been scheduled to provide opportunities for public input on regional transit and transportation issues. The meetings are scheduled for:

- (1) City of Middleton: Monday, February 23th, 6:00-8:00 p.m., Middleton City Hall (Council Chambers), 7426 Hubbard Avenue.
- (2) City of Stoughton: Thursday, February 26th, 6:00-8:00 p.m., Stoughton City Hall (Fire Dept. Training Room), 401 East Main Street.
- (3) Village of DeForest: Monday, March 2nd, 6:00-8:00 p.m., DeForest Area Community and Senior Center (Community Room), 505 North Main Street.
- (4) City of Sun Prairie (*Madison Area MPO meeting*): Wednesday, March 4th, 7:00-9:00 p.m.,

Sun Prairie Library (Community Room), 1350 Linnerud Drive.

Jim Pulvermacher said that it will be important to make arrangements for the public to speak and to give written testimony, if they would like. Lori Kay said that it may be useful to have an opportunity at the meetings for a video to be played, showing the type of train technology that is being considered.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The Finance and Governance Subcommittee adjourned its meeting at 6:35 p.m.