



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

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## Minutes

### TRANSPORT 2020 IMPLEMENTATION TASK FORCE (ITF) MEETING

**Wednesday, July 18, 2007**

**5:30 p.m.**

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

**-- ROLL CALL**

ITF Members Present: Arun Rao (*for Sandy Beaupre*); Jim Berkenstadt; John DeLamater; Sup. Chuck Erickson; Kristine Euclide; Steve Hiniker; Lori Kay; Jesse Kaysen; Sup. Al Matano; Sup. Scott McDonell; LeAnna Wall (*for Joe Olson*); Dick Wagner.

ITF Members Absent: Michael Blaska (*notified*); Chris Klein.

TAC/Staff Present: Russ Anderson (Wisconsin DNR); Rebecca Cnare (City of Madison, Mayor's Office); Ann Gullickson (Madison Metro); Elizabeth Kluesner (Dane County Executive's Office); Jerry Mandli (Dane County Highway and Transportation Department); Bob McDonald (Madison Area Metropolitan Planning Organization); Bob Pike (Madison Area MPO); Bill Schaefer (Madison Area MPO); David Trowbridge (City of Madison, Planning Division; *Transport 2020 Project Manager*).

Others Present: Margaret Bergamini (Associated Students of Madison); Dave Cieslewicz (Mayor, City of Madison); Matt DeFour (Wisconsin State Journal); Kathleen Falk (Dane County Executive); Caron Kloser (HNTB); Keith Plasterer; Ald. Satya Rhodes Conway (Madison Common Council, District 12); Bob Schaefer; Royce Williams (Pro-Rail); Bruce Wilson (Madison Area Bus Advocates).

**1. REVIEW OF AGENDA/MODIFICATIONS**

Chair Scott McDonell suggested that public comment be taken after agenda item 4 (resolution re: regional transportation authority), given the schedule of the Mayor and County Executive. The Task Force agreed with that agenda modification.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JUNE 27, 2007 TASK FORCE MEETING**

The Minutes for the 6-27-07 Transport 2020 Implementation Task Force meeting were unanimously approved, as submitted on a motion by Sup. Al Matano/John DeLamater.

3. **CITY OF MADISON *SUBSTITUTE* RESOLUTION ID 06762, “SUPPORTING THE EXPANSION OF MULTI-MODAL PUBLIC TRANSIT IN THE MADISON METROPOLITAN AREA AND STATE LEGISLATION THAT ENABLES THE CREATION OF A REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY”: REVIEW OF RESOLUTION BY DANE COUNTY EXECUTIVE KATHLEEN FALK AND MADISON MAYOR DAVE CIESLEWICZ, AND TASK FORCE CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION**

Chairman McDonell took up agenda item 4 by introducing Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk (Mayor Cieslewicz arrived shortly after introduction), and invited both the County Executive and Mayor to comment on draft resolution supporting the creation of a Regional Transportation Authority and asking for ITF support of the resolution. Ms. Falk thanked the ITF for its years of service to implement high level transit services to Dane County. Responding to FTA’s call for more definition of finance and governance, both the Mayor and the County Executive took up the call to agree and support creating a RTA that benefits all of Dane County. There is much work to do further implement the RTA and allocate funds, but the resolution provides the overall framework of agreeing to move forward.

The next step is to continue working with the State legislature to create enabling legislation to allow creation of the RTA.

Mayor Cieslewicz also emphasized that the resolution represents the best chance in a generation to address mobility and quality of life. The agreement is structured to be flexible to allow local communities to help define the make up of the RTA and its operation. At the same time the resolution reflects the importance that no element of the resolution be pulled out for special consideration. His support is contingent on this. He emphasized the plan is do-able and is very excited to move forward.

The ITF was invited to ask specific questions on the resolution prior to voting on whether to support it. Jesse Kaysen commented that specific language on the type of transit service be clarified to emphasize the funding of Metro Transit system, inclusive of ADA complementary paratransit service.

It was noted that trolley is not mentioned in the resolution. Mayor Cieslewicz responded that Transport 2020 and any street car implementation are part of a whole system and do not compete with each other. Furthermore, the technology considered for Transport 2020 is expected to respond to the future possibility being able to run on streets.

The Mayor and County Executive confirmed that the County Board resolution will be very similar to the city’s resolution.

Lori Kay asked, considering the bi-annual legislative cycle, if it will be 2 years before the enabling legislation is passed. The Mayor responded that he and others believed there is still time to submit the legislation in this legislative cycle.

LeAnna Wall asked about the anticipated revenue with a ½ cent sales tax. Ms. Falk responded that the numbers will vary, but initial estimates are \$42 million annually. In a related question, an ITF member asked if this funding will be sufficient to cover operating and maintenance costs for Transport 2020. The funds are expected to cover these costs.

Mr. McDonell then opened the floor for public comment. After public comments were received, Chairman McDonell asked for motion on the resolution. Dick Wagner/Kristine Euclide moved to recommend approval of the resolution, and to reflect Ms. Kaysen's suggested language.

Lori Kay asked that the University of Wisconsin-Madison be explicitly spelled out in the resolution.

Sup. Al Matano questioned if the previous action from the last ITF should be rescinded. The group agreed to formally rescind previous action.

The group discussed at length the fund allocation within the resolution. The general agreement is that the resolution is in the public arena and is based on the technical work provided by the ITF. The resolution responds to the FTA's outstanding concerns that there be local support of the project and that finance and governance are further developed and benefits all of Dane County. It is important that the resolution is evidence that Transport 2020 and all transportation investment is going forward in the public arena.

LeAnna Wall asked if the RTA will have State representation; do other states allow this? Bruce Wilson (Madison Bus Advocates) confirmed that other states do have state representation on RTAs. The proposed RTA for Dane County is still conceptual and does not preclude the state from representation on the RTA.

Chairman McDonell asked for a motion to support the resolution. Nine members voted in approval of the resolution, one member voted against the approval of the resolution and two members abstained from voting.

#### **4. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

Royce Williams offered the following comments after discussion of agenda item #4:

- He is concerned that the county is too big of an area for the RTA to work. He suggested that the MPO boundaries would be more appropriate;
- Will Metro Transit be under the responsibility of the RTA?; and,
- Do not put creation of the RTA in the state budget. Wisconsin is the only state not to have RTA enabling legislation.

Hans Noeldner comments:

- He thanked the RTA for its efforts to bring Transport 2020 this far;
- He supports the RTA; and,
- He asked for consideration of reducing the funds for roads as they have historically received disproportionately more funds than transit.

Bob Schaefer comments:

- The RTA is key to the success of any transit system; and,
- The language for distribution of funds among transportation modes must not be misleading. The public must be made aware that the RTA and funding is being created to implement Transport 2020.

**5. TRANSPORT 2020 PROJECT TIMELINE/NEXT STEPS**

David Trowbridge noted that the next Transport 2020 ITF meeting is scheduled for August 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m., at a location yet to be determined. He said that FTA New Starts Application materials would be ready for Task Force review and sent to Task Force members no later than August 8.

**6. INFORMATION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS BY TASK FORCE MEMBERS**

John DeLamater brought to the group's attention two recent articles; one submitted by Dane County Supervisor Eileen Bruskewitz critiquing the value of social investment in transit, and another paper responding to the critique. He believes that the first article (critique) is scientifically flawed.

Sup. Al Matano noted that the Village of Shorewood Hills recently adopted a resolution in support of creating an RTA.

There were no other announcements or information provided by Task Force members.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

***These minutes represent the writer's interpretation of discussion and resolution of key points. Please contact Caron Kloser of HNTB (414/3-2300) to discuss questions, modifications or corrections.***