



## Minutes

### TRANSPORT 2020 IMPLEMENTATION TASK FORCE (ITF) MEETING #1

Wednesday, December 3, 2003

4:45 pm

Madison Municipal Building, Room 260  
215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard  
Madison, WI

#### -- ROLL CALL

ITF Members Present: Sandy Beaupre; Jim Berkenstadt; LaMarr Billups; Supv. Michael Blaska; John DeLamater; Supv. Chuck Erickson; Kristine Euclide; Ald. Ken Golden; Jesse Kaysen; Supv. Scott McDonell; George Nelson; Ald. Warren Onken; Rose Phetteplace; Randy Romanski; Dick Wagner.

ITF Members Absent: None.

TAC/Staff Present: Jim Arts (Dane County Executive's Office); Rod Clark (Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transit and Local Roads); Doug Dalton (WisDOT, Bureau of Planning); Catherine Debo (Madison Metro); Lori Kay (UW-Madison); Sally Kefer (Wisconsin DNR); Rob Kennedy (Dane County Executive's Office); Dwight McComb (Federal Highway Administration); Bob McDonald (Madison Area Metropolitan Planning Organization); John Norwell (Dane County Highway and Transportation Department); Mark Opitz (City of Middleton, Planning); Bob Pike (Madison Area MPO); Bill Schaefer (Madison Area MPO); Tim Sobota (Madison Metro); David Trowbridge (Madison Planning and Development; *Project Administrator for Transport 2020*); Todd Violante (Dane County Planning and Development); Michael Waidelich (Madison Planning and Development).

Others Present: Fred Bartol (Dane Alliance for Rail Transit); Carousel Bayrd; Jerry Bridgman; Secretary Frank Busalacchi (WisDOT); Madison Mayor Dave Cieslewicz; County Executive Kathleen Falk; Tom Fleming (Downtown Trolley Inc.); Gene Gray (Wisconsin River Rail Transit Commission); Matt Hintze (HNTB); Vikki Kratz (Isthmus); Mike McConville; Bob Schaefer; Forrest Van Schwartz (Wisconsin River Rail Transit Commission).

#### 1. REVIEW OF AGENDA

Supv. Scott McDonell welcomed Transport 2020 Implementation Task Force members to Meeting #1.

He suggested moving the Public Comment agenda item to after the introductory remarks by the Transport 2020 sponsors, due to the sponsors' schedules. The Task Force agreed to that modification.

## **2. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY TRANSPORT 2020 SPONSORS**

Kathleen Falk (Dane County Executive) thanked the Transport 2020 participants for their hard work on this process. She noted the importance of the next phase of analysis and said that the funding for Transport 2020 will be a very challenging endeavor. She also said that technologies for rail vehicles are rapidly evolving and that Rob Kennedy will be providing a summary of this issue. Ms. Falk stressed the need to hone in on a particular technology and address the issues in a cost-effective way. She said that issues being looked at with East Washington Avenue reconstruction will need to be considered and she hoped that this community can begin to build a transportation system that does not detract from our quality of life. She said that the linkages between land use and transportation are more important today than ever, and have profound implications for our economy and quality of life. She pointed out that several communities, such as Sun Prairie, Middleton and Fitchburg, have done good work with land use in this area. She urged the Task Force to meet with those communities and keep moving forward with this important work.

Mayor Dave Cieslewicz welcomed Task Force members, noting that he had served on the previous committee. He felt that Transport 2020 is the next large public infrastructure investment in Dane County and he feels that there could not be a better group of people to work on this issue. He recalled his past tenure on the Transport 2020 committee and said that he always preferred streetcars, as a transit vehicle technology. He said that streetcars make multiple stops, are more amenable to cities (i.e., clean and quiet), and people like them. He said that this type of investment does a great deal for the community that are difficult to put a number on. Mayor Cieslewicz said that streetcars are limited by speed, but could still provide service to outlying communities quite well, as very high speeds are not necessary here. He said that technologies are changing rapidly and urged the Task Force to consider this carefully. He also hoped that the possibility of using rail as an option to East Washington Avenue during construction could be reviewed, even though it will be challenging.

Wisconsin Department of Transportation Secretary Frank Busalacchi thanked Task Force members for participating in Transport 2020 and said he appreciated the opportunity for WisDOT to participate as well. He said that, based on his own personal experience, Madison is facing traffic problems and that transportation options need to be considered. He added that Governor James Doyle supports this process and said that strong economic growth in this area will depend on an effective transportation system. He said that we need to send a message that Madison is a great place to do business. He stressed the importance of WisDOT participation and noted the experiences and strengths of participating members, both on the Task Force and technical advisory committee. He concluded by saying he looked forward to the results of the study and wished the Task Force good luck.

## **3. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

The first registrant was Bob Schaefer. Mr. Schaefer read from a prepared statement outlining his various concerns with Transport 2020. In a nutshell, he said that he felt the data in Transport 2020 did not provide a logical argument for proceeding with commuter rail. He asked Task Force members to think about other alternatives to meet the area's transportation goals.

*(Note: A copy of Mr. Schaefer's prepared comments can be obtained by request)*

Jerry Bridgman spoke next. He said that ridership estimates were too high in previous studies. He also said that the alternatives analysis was deficient and that the rail alternative was moved forward without sound analysis. He felt that a bus alternative would be more cost effective. He also said that land use impacts are strong with some bus options and said that rail might actually increase traffic congestion. Bridgman felt that the commuter rail option was poorly analyzed. He urged a referendum on the issue. He pointed out that streetcars are too expensive and suggested a market-based approach to transit service. He also said that auto vouchers would help the low-income residents of the area more than new transit. He said that the state of Kansas has an auto voucher program. He urged the Task Force to focus

on this type of program rather than public transit options.

#### **4. INTRODUCTION OF TRANSPORT 2020 IMPLEMENTATION TASK FORCE MEMBERS**

Implementation Task Force members introduced themselves and noted how they had been appointed to the group. David Trowbridge said that over half of ITF members were members of the group's predecessor, the Transport 2020 Oversight Advisory Committee (OAC).

#### **5. REVIEW OF TRANSPORT 2020 ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS RESULTS AND THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION NEW STARTS PROCESS (DAVID TROWBRIDGE, TRANSPORT 2020 PROJECT ADMINISTRATOR)**

David Trowbridge provided a slide presentation summarizing the decisions made in the past Transport 2020 process and the components of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) New Starts process. He also updated members on the progress made to advance Transport 2020 over the past year.

*(Note: A copy of Mr. Trowbridge's slides can be obtained by request)*

Trowbridge pointed out that, in order to obtain federal funds for Transport 2020, it is necessary to go through several steps of system-level study, environmental analysis (i.e., the NEPA process), engineering and design work. He said that all of this takes many years and that Transport 2020 has taken positive steps forward recently, but that there is still a great deal of work to be done.

#### **6. OVERVIEW OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS, NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IN MADISON AND DANE COUNTY (ROB KENNEDY, TRANSPORTATION CONSULTANT FOR DANE COUNTY)**

Rob Kennedy (Transportation Consultant, Dane County) provided a slide overview of some of the technological changes that have taken place with various transit vehicles. He also summarized some of his research into federal regulations governing the shared use of railroad corridors and track. He highlighted some of the pros and cons of the various options and said that more information will be collected for this Task Force to consider.

*(Note: A copy of Mr. Kennedy's slides can be obtained by request)*

He concluded that there may be some possibilities to use the rail corridor for some parts of the transit operation and deviate onto the street in other areas. He said that, based on this new information, the initial east-west transit corridor will continue to be the primary focus for Transport 2020, but that a hybrid street-running/rail corridor option now seems to be more feasible than previously thought. Kennedy added that this offers flexibility in serving the various transit markets in the City of Madison and Dane County.

#### **7. DISCUSSION OF NEXT STEPS FOR IMPLEMENTATION TASK FORCE**

David Trowbridge said that the next meeting of the Task Force would include some options for addressing the many outstanding issues. He said that a draft work plan concept will be prepared for discussion, which will include approaches for addressing funding issues, operations and governance issues, and the PE/NEPA study itself.

Ald. Warren Onken suggested that subcommittees be used to address some of these issues. Ald. Ken Golden agreed but said that more effort should be made to engage the staff/technical expertise of the various agencies - perhaps including them as subcommittee members. Trowbridge said that he would provide some options for organizing subcommittees, noting that they could comprise of ITF members, staff/TAC members and also include representation from other communities (as they may become more interested in certain issues).

**8. SCHEDULE NEXT TASK FORCE MEETING**

The next meeting of the Transport 2020 Implementation Task Force was scheduled for:

**- Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 5:00 p.m., Room 300 Madison Municipal Building.**

**9. ITEMS BY TASK FORCE MEMBERS**

There were no items by the Co-Chairs or Committee members.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned its meeting at 6:00 p.m.