



**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

Monday, April 20, 2009

5:30 p.m.

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

-- **ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Sandy Beaupre; Michael Blaska; Tom Clauder; Chuck Kamp; Lori Kay; Dan Larson; Jim Pulvermacher; Dan Viste; Dick Wagner.

Members Absent: Rod Clark; Karna Hanna (*notified*); Chris Klein; Sup. Al Matano (*notified*); Sup. Scott McDonell; Paul Munz.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair Dick Wagner called the April 20, 2009 Transport 2020 Finance and Governance Subcommittee meeting to order. There were no modifications to the meeting agenda.

Dick Wagner noted that Tom Clauder has replaced Jeff Miller on the Subcommittee (representing small cities and villages). He also introduced Patrick Kass (new UW Transportation Services Director) as a replacement for Lori Kay.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JANUARY 27, 2009 SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

The Minutes of the 1-27-09 Transport 2020 Finance and Governance Subcommittee meeting were unanimously approved, as submitted on a motion by Michael Blaska/Chuck Kamp.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Bruce Wilson (Madison Area Bus Advocates) said that an RTA board in this region should consider including some elected officials. He said that he worked in South Florida and that it was helpful to include elected County Board members (for example) on its RTA policy board.

Bill Richardson (Great Train Robbery) said that he disagrees with the conclusions of Transport 2020. He said that the Transport 2020 goals were largely not oriented toward transportation, but to economic development, land use and the environment. He requested that more accurate public views of the project be included in the next version of the federal New Starts Application (including the public dissent).

Bob Schaefer said that the Transport 2020 conclusions are not supported by the data developed for the project. He said that commuter rail will not reduce congestion. He also said that there is a forecast of 11,000 ridership for the rail service but that the number of new transit trips is much less.

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

Jim Pulvermacher said that the one of the common themes from the recent public hearings was the need to provide more information. He asked that a spreadsheet be produced that more succinctly displays the information about the rail project and the other elements of the Transport 2020 regional transit plan. Michael Blaska said that the findings could be summarized into a fact sheet, but that it may not be the job of this Subcommittee to do. Dick Wagner said that this information exists and could be summarized in some fashion (and added to the Subcommittee report materials). Pulvermacher also pointed out that the meetings had very good attendance, basically by word of mouth. He said that they were not heavily advertised in local newspapers.

Lori Kay asked that comparable systems be researched to show how their ridership projections have been exceeded (in many cases), and that Transport 2020 has been captive to the requirements of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

Dick Wagner said that the Subcommittee reports should be made available to Thrive and the full Transport 2020 Implementation Task Force. Jim Pulvermacher also felt that there needs to be additional outreach on the issue. He asked if the full Transport 2020 Implementation Task Force would be hosting additional public meetings on the issue. Dick Wagner replied that there will be numerous opportunities for public discussion as this issue moves toward referendum.

Jim Pulvermacher asked Dick Wagner if the Subcommittee was going to have any more informational meetings. Tom Clauder also asked if any noontime meetings were scheduled. Wagner replied that he was sure that there would be numerous additional informational meetings before the referendum, but at this time he felt that the Subcommittee had met its charge and did not know if it was necessary to meet again.

Tom Clauder said that the Subcommittee should report its findings to Thrive. Pulvermacher thanked the Subcommittee for hosting the three informational meetings and Sup. Al Matano (MPO) for allowing people to speak at Sun Prairie. He also asked if any legal notices had been placed in any local newspapers or the Wisconsin State Journal. David Trowbridge responded that the meetings were properly noticed through the City of Madison and Dane County Clerk. He also ensured that the meeting notices were emailed to the Dane County Towns Association and Cities and Villages Association. Mr. Pulvermacher felt that the meetings were not noticed legally. Jim Pulvermacher said that the only way most people heard about the meetings was because both Jerry Derr and himself went on the Vicki McKenna radio show and let people know about the meeting in Middleton. He said that had the general public known about the meetings the facilities probably would not have been large enough.

Sandy Beaupre said that there are a number of missing pieces from the information that needs to be provided. Lori Kay agreed and said that the impacts of additional sales taxes on individuals (or families)

would be helpful, but is very hard to get at.

Dan Larson reflected on the public hearings and said that most people did not come to listen or learn about the project, rather they had their minds made up and wanted to express those viewpoints. Tom Clauder talked about a likely public referendum on the issue (possibly in Fall of 2010) and said that there needs to be a great deal of information provided, in particular to clear up public confusion on commuter rail vs. high speed rail vs. RTA, etc.

5. NEXT STEPS FOR TRANSPORT 2020 FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE SUBCOMMITTEE

Tom Clauder felt that a presentation to Thrive may need to be provided to bring the process full-circle. Dick Wagner said that he would follow up on that. Dan Larson said that this seems to be the logical next step. Sandy Beaupre also felt that a similar report be provided back to the full Transport 2020 Implementation Task Force. The Finance and Governance Subcommittee agreed to that. Dick Wagner thanked Subcommittee members for their work over the past year.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The Finance and Governance Subcommittee adjourned its meeting at 6:20 p.m.