



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

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## Minutes

### TRANSPORT 2020: IMPLEMENTATION TASK FORCE (ITF) FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE SUBCOMMITTEE

**Wednesday, March 29, 2006**

**7:00 p.m.**

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

#### -- **ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Sandy Beaupre; LaMarr Billups; Michael Blaska; Ald. Ken Golden; Lori Kay; Warren Onken; Dick Wagner.

Members Absent: Chris Klein (*notified*); Sup. Scott McDonell (*notified*).

TAC/Staff Present: Dean Brasser (City of Madison Comptroller); Rod Clark (WisDOT-Bureau of Transit and Local Roads); Catherine Debo (Madison Metro); Chuck Hicklin (Dane County Comptroller); Bob McDonald (Madison Area Metropolitan Planning Organization); David Trowbridge (Madison Planning and Development; *Transport 2020 Project Manager*).

Others Present: Fred Bartol (Dane Alliance for Rail Transit); Charlie Hales (HDR, Inc.); Ward Lyles (1000 Friends of Wisconsin); Bob Schaefer; Royce Williams (ProRail).

#### 1. **INTRODUCTIONS**

Subcommittee members, agency staff, and the general public introduced themselves to one another.

#### 2. **SUBCOMMITTEE DISCUSSION OF FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES AFFECTING THE TRANSPORT 2020 PROJECT**

Co-Chair Dick Wagner welcomed Subcommittee members and asked members of the public if they wished to make a brief comment.

Royce Williams said that he supported a governance structure based on MPO boundaries, noting that the boundaries are developed using Census data.

Bob Schaefer said that the long-term system should be looked at when considering finance and governance issues, not just a small start-up. He suggested that traffic impacts would be a problem and that more public involvement is needed at these meetings.

Wagner then distributed and walked through a 2-page document summarizing various Transport 2020 financing issues. Various issues surrounding potential funding sources, such as property tax, sales tax and wheel tax, were discussed. He said that a tourism-oriented tax had not yet been researched.

Wagner said that, in terms of a regional sales tax, boundary issues would emerge from merchants concerned about cross-over sales leaving their area. He added that there is not much evidence of this happening, but that this was an issue in 1991 (when the Dane County sales tax was last discussed). Wagner also said that a change in state law would be needed to levy additional sales tax (above the current 0.5%). He said that sales draws from a larger region and that those people use the local transportation system. He pointed out that the current 0.5% County sales tax has been relatively stable, now generating about \$42 million annually.

Sandy Beaupre summarized some data re: wheel tax and local fuel tax, noting that the fuel tax estimates were very rough. She said that a wheel tax would not generate much revenue and is politically unpopular. Ald. Ken Golden said that a wheel tax has been shown to be highly regressive. Beaupre said that a County-wide fuel tax of 1 cent would generate \$3 million per year, but that administrative costs are not assumed (and could be high).

Ald. Ken Golden discussed federal Medicaid transit funding issues, noting that it is complex. He said that these funds pass through the County (about \$2.5 million per year).

Dean Brassler summarized various Madison Metro financing information. He said that he could try to break out the paratransit portion of that, for discussion purposes

Sandy Beaupre said that the MPO is not well understood by the public. LaMarr Billups said that the beneficiaries of a regional transit system should be well articulated, and linked to who pays for it. Warren Onken said that the full regional transit system desired should be considered as these financing options are discussed. He said that smaller start-up systems can be evaluated as the discussions evolve.

Chuck Hicklin said that property taxes are not well received by the general public in Dane County (or elsewhere in Wisconsin). He said that other sources may have problems with limits on levies.

Rod Clark said that some other municipalities in Wisconsin are considering a regional funding source for transit, and that Transport 2020 should monitor these activities (and possibly join forces in the state Legislature at some point). He gave examples of the Southeastern WI, Fox Valley, Eau Claire and LaCrosse. Catherine Debo agreed, noting that the Wisconsin Urban and Rural Transit Association (WURTA) is working on legislation and that some in the Legislature are willing to discuss the issues. She also agreed that property tax burdens are becoming a major problem for transit service delivery. Ken Golden said that Mike King (fmr RPC director) could be asked about the Twin Cities model.

Mike Blaska said that the sources of revenue are limited. He said that a local income tax could be a way to reduce other local burdens. He said that the City of Racine recently conducted a study to explore issues related to services, benefits and tax payments.

Dick Wagner thanked Subcommittee members for their thoughts and asked that the HNTB team provide

some examples of transit finance and governance options at a future meeting.

### 3. SCHEDULING OF FUTURE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Finance and Governance Subcommittee will next meet:

- **Wednesday, May 10, 12:00 noon, Room 260 MMB**

As a reminder, other Transport 2020 meetings currently scheduled are noted below:

- Agency Scoping Meeting: Wednesday, April 26, 1:00-2:00 p.m. (Monona Terrace, Hall of Ideas);
- Agency Scoping Bus Tour: Wednesday, April 26, 2:00-3:30 p.m. (*rsvp for attendance*);
- Public Informational Meeting #1: Wednesday, April 26, 5:00-8:00 p.m. (6:00 presentation), Monona Terrace, Hall of Ideas (rooms H and I);
- Land Use Meeting with Area Developers (w/Robert Cervero): Thursday, May 11, 2:00-4:00 p.m., Room 260 MMB;
- Management Team: Tuesday, May 9, 12:00 noon, Room LL-110 MMB;
- Implementation Task Force: Thursday, May 11, 4:45 p.m., Room 300 MMB;
- Land Use Workshop (w/Robert Cervero): Friday, May 12, 8:30 a.m.-noon, Room 260 MMB; and,
- Management Team: Thursday, June 8, 12:00 noon, Room 260 MMB.

### 4. ADJOURNMENT

The Finance and Governance Subcommittee adjourned its meeting at 8:50 p.m.