



**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, May 10, 2006

12:00 noon

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

-- ROLL CALL

Members Present: Michael Blaska; Lori Kay; Jesse Kaysen; Sup. Scott McDonell; Dick Wagner.

Members Absent: Ald. Ken Golden (*notified*); Chris Klein; Sandy Beaupre (*notified*); Warren Onken (*notified*).

TAC/Staff Present: Dean Brassler (City of Madison Comptroller); Rob Kennedy (UW-Madison); Bob McDonald (Madison Area Metropolitan Planning Organization); Arun Rao; Bill Schaefer (Madison Area MPO); David Trowbridge (Madison Planning and Development; *Transport 2020 Project Manager*); LeAnna Wall (WisDOT-Southwest Region).

Others Present: Fred Bartol (Dane Alliance for Rail Transit); Margaret Bergamini; John Delamater (ITF Member); Ken Kinney (HNTB); 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 Michael Blaska welcomed Subcommittee members to the meeting. Co-Chair Dick Wagner said that the main purpose of the meeting would be to go through an exercise to rate the desirability of various Transport 2020 financing options. He distributed a blank copy of a table that was to be used to conduct a "consumer reports"-type exercise.

The exercise to rate financing options used criteria such as relation to service, equity for region, administrative reality, functional w/governance part, progressivity, public acceptance and timing (need for Legislative changes). The financing options discussed included sales tax (County), sales tax (MPO), property tax (County), property tax (MPO), wheel tax (County), wheel tax (MPO), local income tax, employer payroll tax, motor fuel tax, room tax and auto rental tax.

(Note: a copy of the completed consumer reports evaluation matrix can be obtained by request)

After the Subcommittee went through the rating exercise, Wagner summarized that the options most desirable and would warrant further exploration included county sales tax, a combination of county sales tax and county wheel tax (and possibly some auto rental tax), and possibly a county motor fuel tax. Scott McDonell said that property tax levy limits are a problem, although caps can be exceeded by referendum. Dick Wagner said that we should assume that all new sources of revenue for Transport 2020 would require a referendum.

Wagner also said that the next steps should be a review and evaluation of various governance options in Dane County, and the processes that took place to get to agreement. He said that regional governance examples included Monona Terrace, the 911 services, Dane County Regional Airport, Overture Arts District and the Lakes and Watershed Commission. Wagner also pointed out that, at this point in the evaluation, we should be thinking of the financing options as potentially funding “transportation system improvements”, and not just public transit improvements. The Subcommittee agreed.

The Subcommittee also agreed that there should be some exploration of what other regions in Wisconsin are doing in terms of regional finance. Michael Blaska said that there is some current legislation being worked on that allows regional transportation authorities to be formed. He also said that a Legislative Council study might be considered. Scott McDonell recalled a 1996-97 study that should be reviewed. He said that Senator Risser’s office had some role in that.

3. SCHEDULING OF FUTURE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Finance and Governance Subcommittee will next meet some time in early summer, to be scheduled at a later date. As a reminder, other Transport 2020 meetings currently scheduled were noted:

- Land Use Meeting with Area Developers (w/Robert Cervero): Thursday, May 11, 2:00-4:00 p.m., Room 260 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 1:10 p.m.