



**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

Thursday, August 3, 2006

11:30 a.m.

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

-- **ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Sandy Beaupre; Michael Blaska; LaMarr Billups; Ald. Ken Golden; Jesse Kaysen; Sup. Scott McDonell; Dick Wagner.

Members Absent: Chris Klein (*notified*).

TAC/Staff Present: Rod Clark (WisDOT Bureau of Transit and Local Roads); Ann Gullickson (Madison Metro); Rob Kennedy (UW-Madison); Jim Matzinger (Dane County Highway and Transportation); Bob McDonald (Madison Area Metropolitan Planning Organization); David Trowbridge (Madison Planning and Development; *Transport 2020 Project Manager*); LeAnna Wall (WisDOT-Southwest Region).

Others Present: Margaret Bergamini; John DeLamater (ITF Member); Susan DeVos; Steve Hiniker (ITF Member); Laurie Hussey (Cambridge Systematics); Chris Kopp (Cambridge Systematics); Ward Lyles (1000 Friends of Wisconsin); Sup. Al Matano (ITF Member); 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 to the meeting. Laurie Hussey and Chris Kopp of Cambridge Systematics presented some slides outlining the various decisions that need to be made regarding finance and governance for the preparation of the New Starts Application. Major

decisions that need to ultimately be addressed in the near future include:

- jurisdictional boundary of regional authority;
- local funding source;
- board structure;
- enabling legislation strategy; and,
- institutional roles and responsibilities.

Laurie Hussey summarized the key governance and finance aspects of the New Starts application, focusing on the need to prepare a finance plan with stable and reliable sources of capital and operating and maintenance funding. As part of this plan, the financial condition of the organization that will operate or manage operations of the system needs to be documented. This demands that a governance plan be developed for Transport 2020. For purposes of the initial application to the FTA, only an assumption about how T2020 will be funded, operated, and managed is needed at this point. However, those assumptions must be accompanied by a detailed plan and schedule for making final decisions about funding and governance.

Chris Kopp then described various considerations in the establishment of a governance structure. This structure would assume either that Metro expands its bus operations to include rail, that a new rail operating entity is established, or that a new entity is established to operate multiple modes. Any of these scenarios could include the creation of a Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) to collect revenues and oversee construction and operations.

Ald. Ken Golden noted that he has been part of numerous recent discussions about membership of the MPO and other regional entities. He said that proportional representation is generally good and that small cities prefer to appoint their own representation. Dick Wagner said that the University is also becoming a major player in these regional discussions.

Rod Clark reported that there are some discussions taking place throughout the state regarding regional transportation authority (RTA) legislation, although the parties are far from consensus. The efforts are being coordinated by the Wisconsin Urban and Rural Transit Association (WURTA). Clark said that numerous pieces of legislation could also move forward, allowing local units to choose the version that fits their situation best. Clark said that an RTA exists in southeastern Wisconsin, but has very limited powers at this time.

Ald. Ken Golden said that the separation of funding authority from the operating authority may be worth exploring here. Chris Kopp said that the Chicago region has the RTA acting as an umbrella for Metra, CTA and PACE, but that those three transit entities are largely independent operators. Golden said that the RTA could also pay for other items, such as town roads. Dick Wagner said that park and ride lots for rail and express bus could also be in the mix, to provide benefits for residents in areas outside the urbanized parts of the County.

Dick Wagner said that numerous funding and operating options exist, including Dane County as an operating entity and a regional sales tax that could provide some funding. Sup. Scott McDonell said that a sales tax would be difficult. Ken Golden said that Dane County has 30,000 commuters coming into the County every day, and that sales tax would capture some of those peoples' expenditures. Dick Wagner said that, in the initial County sales tax discussions, it was estimated that about 15% of revenues would come from those outside Dane County. Scott McDonell said that some down sides to sales tax are that it is not terribly progressive, can fluctuate with the economy and is strongly affected by vehicle sales.

Dick Wagner asked Laurie Hussey to come back with a fleshed out timeline of the various decisions that need to be made. Laurie Hussey said that she would do that and forward it to David Trowbridge. Sandy Beaupre said that, if RTA legislation were to move forward, there are certain State timing issues that need to be kept in mind as well.

Dick Wagner and Co-Chair Michael Blaska thanked the staff and consultants for the information provided and looked forward to the next meeting.

3. SCHEDULING OF FUTURE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS

The next Finance and Governance Subcommittee will be held:

- Finance and Governance Subcommittee/TAC
- ***Tuesday, September 5, 12:00 noon, Room 260 MMB***

Other Transport 2020 meetings currently scheduled include:

- Implementation Task Force
- ***Thursday, September 28, 5:00 p.m., Room 300 MMB***
- Transit Operations Subcommittee/TAC
- ***Wednesday, September 6, 6:30 p.m., Room 300 MMB (tentative location)***

4. ADJOURNMENT

The Finance and Governance Subcommittee adjourned its meeting at 12:45 p.m.