



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

For additional project information: www.transport2020.net

Minutes

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

Tuesday, September 5, 2006

12:00 noon

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

-- ROLL CALL

Members Present: Arun Rao (*for Sandy Beaupre*); Lori Kay (*for LaMarr Billups*); Jesse Kaysen; Rod Clark (*for Chris Klein*); Dick Wagner.

Members Absent: Michael Blaska.

TAC/Staff Present: Russ Anderson (Wisconsin DNR); Ann Gullickson (Madison Metro); Rob Kennedy (UW-Madison); Bob McDonald (Madison Area Metropolitan Planning Organization); David Trowbridge (Madison Planning and Development; *Transport 2020 Project Manager*); LeAnna Wall (WisDOT-Southwest Region).

Others Present: Fred Bartol (Dane Alliance for Rail Transit); John DeLamater (ITF Member); Susan DeVos; Ken Kinney (HNTB); Caron Kloser (HNTB); Sup. Al Matano (ITF Member); Susan Schmitz (Downtown Madison, Inc.); 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, and requested that Ken Kinney review a memo from Cambridge Systematics regarding assumptions, major decisions remaining and near term actions (available upon request).

Key assumptions are that a Regional Transportation Authority would be established, representing Dane County communities. The RTA and the transit system would be supported through a regional sales tax, encompassing Dane County. No questions were raised about the assumptions.

The memo further outlined major decisions remaining prior to submitting a New Starts application; identifying the level of sales tax, who will operate the rail service, what portion of the tax would fund Metro bus service, the level of funding for other transportation services in Dane County, the RTA Board structure and the mechanism to enable the sales tax. Ken noted that while an operator must be identified in the New Starts application, this can evolve as operating details are worked out with Metro, Dane County and WSOR.

Subcommittee members noted that the project team needs to be aware of the existing teamster contract and whether the contract requires that union members of Metro operate the transit service.

Regarding allocation of sales tax funds to other transportation services, subcommittee members asked whether existing funds dedicated to disabled and elderly riders would have to go through a future RTA. A representative from Dane County said he did not think that the funds would be redirected. Members also said that a portion of the sales tax could also support bikeway development.

The structure of a future RTA Board can remain fairly broad for the application; the details of the structure would be worked out in future negotiations. The city has prior experience with other public projects in Madison in developing these details.

There were 12 near-term actions identified in the memo. Key among these is the need to begin the process of developing enabling legislation for a regional sales tax. Members of the subcommittee have initiated this activity. The time frame for a finance plan is expected to be 20 years.

Subcommittee members asked whether the New Starts application can be submitted prior to enabling legislation being in place (yes); the ITF does not want to miss the deadline for submitting the application in the upcoming funding cycle. Ken noted that the application is expected to be submitted before June 2007; Ken Kinney will confirm anticipated submittal date.

A subcommittee member asked about the timing to introduce the enabling legislation. This can be done as either a new bill or inserted into the regular budget process. The preference of the subcommittee is to insert the legislation into the budget process. The Governor introduces the budget in February, so now is the time to draft the legislation. The legislation would at minimum address legislation for Dane County, and possibly state-wide.

For the submittal of the New Starts application, the project should be approved and publicly supported by the end of 2006. This will require ongoing communication with the County Executive and the Mayor.

3. SCHEDULING OF FUTURE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS

The next Finance and Governance Subcommittee will be held:

- Finance and Governance Subcommittee/TAC
- **Tuesday, October 24, 12:00 noon, Room LL-110 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, 7:30 p.m., Room LL-110 MMB*

4. ADJOURNMENT

The Finance and Governance Subcommittee adjourned its meeting at 12:50 p.m.