



**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) MEETING

Thursday, September 28, 2006

5:00 p.m.

**Madison Municipal Building, Room 300
215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard
Madison, WI**

-- **ROLL CALL**

ITF Members Present: Sandy Beaupre; Michael Blaska; Sup. Chuck Erickson; Steve Hiniker; Jesse Kaysen; Lori Kay (*for LaMarr Billups*); Sup. Al Matano; Sup. Scott McDonell; Dick Wagner.

ITF Members Absent: Jim Berkenstadt (*notified*); John DeLamater (*notified*); Kristine Euclide (*notified*); Ald. Ken Golden (*notified*); Chris Klein (*notified*); Joe Olson (*notified*).

TAC/Staff Present: Russ Anderson (Wisconsin DNR); Tom Koprowski (Wisconsin DOT-Southwest Region); Arun Rao (WisDOT-Planning); Bill Schaefer (Madison Area MPO); David Trowbridge (Madison Planning and Development; *Transport 2020 Project Manager*).

Others Present: Fred Bartol (Dane Alliance for Rail Transit); Margaret Bergamini (Associated Students of Madison); Susan DeVos (Madison Area Bus Advocates); Ken Kinney (HNTB); Caron Kloser (HNTB); Hans Noeldner.

1. REVIEW OF AGENDA

Sup. Scott McDonell welcomed Transport 2020 Implementation Task Force members to the meeting. There were no suggested modifications to the meeting agenda.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JULY 26, 2006 TASK FORCE MEETING

The Minutes for the 7-26-06 Transport 2020 Implementation Task Force meeting were unanimously approved, as submitted on a motion by Jesse Kaysen/Dick Wagner.

3. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Hans Noeldner distributed his email comments and summarized his request that the ITF consider a route down Park Street to Fitchburg. Members of the ITF noted that this route could be added in the future.

There were no other registrants for public comment on this agenda item.

4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF TRANSPORT 2020 SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Scott McDonell noted that ITF members have requested to sit on either the Transit and Operations or Finance and Governance subcommittees. There was agreement that the subcommittees could be open to new members. Sup. Al Matano was added to the Finance and Governance Subcommittee, replacing Ald. Warren Onken.

5. OVERVIEW OF OPERATING STRATEGIES/PLANS (INCL. BUS OPERATIONS) AND RANGE OF VEHICLE TECHNOLOGIES

Ken Kinney reviewed the revised schedule which shows a LPA selection in April 2007 and delivering the New Starts Application no later than June 2007. Ken further reviewed the land use analysis activities, which are about midway to being complete. A report is scheduled for mid-November.

Ken then reviewed the initial findings of the preliminary Operations Plan, noting that assumptions will change through the course of project development. At this point there was discussion about how assumptions will be affected by the ongoing Streetcar study. The 2020 study will need to continue to differentiate between the two studies and communicate that the two studies will be integrated as information becomes available. The assumptions will change. For the purposes of this study, however, the group must make assumptions on stations and technology to start evaluating operating characteristics, ridership and costs; then assumptions can be further evaluated to improve performance.

Ken emphasized that this initial phase of the study must continue to focus on those elements on which the FTA will place the greatest emphasis; that is, cost and ridership. The Operations Plan will affect both of these elements. The preliminary Operations Plans initial running times between the alternatives range from 22 to 32 minutes, depending on termini and whether routes are on existing rail or street running. Alternative 5, the street running alternative has initial longer running times. The operating plan will continue to be refined to improve performance by considering changes to acceleration and deceleration rates, number of stations, dwell times, grades, track speeds and traffic signal prioritization.

The Operations Plan is initially assuming the use of FRA-non compliant technology, the Bombardier DMU, as it demonstrates better operating performance.

The next Task Force meeting is tentatively scheduled for December 20 to review information on ridership and costs.

6. UPDATE: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Caron Kloser provided an update of ongoing public involvement activities. The project team has met with key stakeholders such as MGE, Meriter Hospital and St. Mary's Hospital. Additional meetings are being scheduled for UW-Madison and Madison Chamber of Commerce. Caron reviewed the activities leading up to the neighborhood workshops held on September 26 and 27. The initial open house held

with elected officials, Madison Bus Advocates and neighborhood leadership provided an early insight into potential neighborhood concerns and recommendations on additional contacts. The workshops were well received by those attending. The majority of the comments were very positive. Some key comments were maintaining and improving the existing bus system along with providing rail transit, quality of life impacts, the cost of the project and benefit to taxpayers.

Caron noted that the next formal public information meeting is anticipated in February 2007 to present findings on ridership, operations, impacts and costs. Michael Blaska noted that there should also be outreach to the outlying Dane County communities as well since this is a regional transit system. He said that it will be important to reach out to the Dane County Cities and Villages Association and the Dane County Towns Association before the project gets too far along. Scott McDonell noted he has started that coordination. Additional outreach is anticipated once more data on costs, benefits and impacts are obtained from the project team.

7. IMPLEMENTATION TASK FORCE AND SUBCOMMITTEE SCHEDULE/NEXT STEPS

David Trowbridge summarized various Transport 2020 meetings currently scheduled:

- Transit Operations Subcommittee/TAC
- *Thursday, November 2, 5:30 p.m., Room LL 110 MMB*
- Finance and Governance Subcommittee/TAC
- *To be scheduled*
- Transit Operations Subcommittee/TAC
- *Thursday, December 7, 5:00 p.m., Room 300 MMB*
- Implementation Task Force
- *Wednesday, December 20, 4:45 p.m., Room 300 MMB*

8. INFORMATION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS BY TASK FORCE MEMBERS

There were no announcements or information provided by Task Force members.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned its meeting at 5:50 p.m.

These minutes represent the writer's interpretation of discussion and resolution of key points. Please contact Caron Kloser of HNTB (414/359-2300) to discuss questions, modifications or corrections.