

CHIPPEWA-EAU CLAIRE

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION



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**Minutes of the
Chippewa-Eau Claire Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Policy Council**
Wednesday, January 31, 2024, 5:30 p.m.
Held at: Room 405H, Building 2, Banbury Place, 800 Wisconsin Street, Eau Claire, WI

Members Present (9): Gary Spilde - Village of Lake Hallie (Chair), Jim Dunning – Eau Claire County (Vice-chair), Dean Mueller – Chippewa County, Matt Biren – City of Altoona, Kate Felton – City of Eau Claire, Wes Vlcek – Town of Brunswick, Rod Eslinger – Town of Hallie, Robert Solberg – Town of Washington, Alice Droske – Town of Wheaton

Members with no representative present (8): City of Chippewa Falls, Town of Anson, Town of Eagle Point, Town of Lafayette, Town of Pleasant Valley, Town of Seymour, Town of Tilden, Town of Union

Staff Present: Eric Anderson & Edwin Rothrock - Chippewa-Eau Claire MPO, Chris Straight & Scott Allen – WCWRPC

Minutes

1. Chairman Spilde called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.
2. Welcome and Introductions
3. Review and Approval of the minutes of the October 4th, 2023 MPO Policy Council meeting. Mr. Biren moved to approve; Mr. Eslinger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
4. The minutes of the January 10th, 2024, MPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting were reviewed.
5. Mr. Anderson presented Amendment #1 (Projects) to the Chippewa – Eau Claire MPO Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) 2024-2028. Mr. Mueller moved to approve, Mr. Vlcek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
6. Mr. Anderson presented the proposed update to the Chippewa – Eau Claire MPO Metropolitan Planning Area Boundary recommended for approval by the MPO TAC. He referred to the TAC minutes for the discussion that occurred prior to the TAC's non-unanimous decision to recommend the boundary map. He also detailed that three changes were requested by TAC members to the draft map developed by MPO staff. There was discussion among Policy Council members regarding those changes as well as suggestions for other potential changes. MPO staff clarified that the map would be drawn to be inclusive of roadway rights of way that were along MPA boundaries. Ms. Felton moved to approve the map recommended by the TAC, seconded by Mr. Eslinger.

A motion to amend the map to remove the area within the Town of Wheaton bounded by County Line Road on the south, 20th Street on the west, 20th Avenue on the north, and 40th Street on the east from the proposed MPA Boundary map was made by Ms. Droske. Mr. Vlcek seconded the motion. After some discussion of the benefits and drawbacks of having an area included in the MPA, a vote on the amendment to remove the area was taken: 6 voted to approve the amendment to remove, 3 voted "No" to the amendment. The amendment was passed.

A motion to amend the map to add an area within the Towns of Washington and Pleasant Valley bounded by Maple Road on the south, a creek running diagonally to CTH F & continuing north along CTH F to Deerfield Road on the west, Deerfield Road on the north, and Balsam Road on the east to the proposed MPA Boundary map was made by Ms. Felton, seconded by Mr. Biren. After some discussion of the proximity of this area to the planned development in the "Orchard Hills" area recently annexed into the City of Eau Claire and the existing rural agritourism uses within the area proposed to be added, a vote was taken on the proposed amendment to

include the area in the MPA Boundary: 2 voted to approve the amendment, 7 voted “no” to the amendment. The amendment failed.

A motion to amend the map to add an area within the Town of Brunswick bounded by Mitchell Road on the south, Highway 37 on the west, a line running east approximately 2000’ along the extended east-west line of Highway 85 on the north, then a line running south to Mitchell Road as the eastern side of the area to the MPA Boundary map was made by Mr. Biren, seconded by Mr. Eslinger. After a discussion of how this addition would make a more compact boundary as well as avoid excluding a section of Mitchell Road that has seen some recent residential development, a vote was taken on the proposed amendment to include the area in the MPA Boundary: 6 voted to approve the amendment to include, 3 voted “no” to the amendment. The amendment was approved.

Mr. Anderson was asked about the timeline for when the updated MPA Boundary map was required to be submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. Mr. Anderson shared that the deadline was the end of the calendar year 2024.

Mr. Vlcek made a motion to table the motion to approve the amended map until the next MPO Policy Council meeting, scheduled for May 1st, 2024, seconded by Mr. Solberg. A discussion ensued, concerning issues including some members’ constituents feeling rushed by the process, the impending April elections which may change membership on the MPO Policy Council, and the need to discuss the amendments proposed and approved at today’s meeting. A vote was taken: 8 voted to table the vote on the MPA Boundary Map to the next MPO Policy Council meeting, 1 voted “no”. The motion to Table was approved.

7. Other business (moved from Agenda Item 8 to Item 7) – Mr. Straight updated the Council on the progress made in securing support from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resource (DNR) to fund an update to the Chippewa Falls - Eau Claire Urban Sewer Service Plan update. He laid out a tentative timeline for the update. Mr. Allen shared that the West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (RPC) is still awaiting a final agreement with the DNR, but plans to move forward as soon as the agreement is in place.
8. Mr. Anderson reviewed the 2023 Chippewa – Eau Claire MPO Summary report for the members. Members voiced thanks for the work the MPO performed in 2023 as well as the method of presenting the MPO’s work. Mr. Rothrock and Mr. Anderson thanked members for their increased participation in the TAC and Policy Council meetings.
9. The next meeting date was tentatively set for May 1st, 2024.
10. Adjournment – Mr. Solberg moved to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Vlcek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Spilde adjourned the meeting at 6:42 p.m.