

CHIPPEWA-EAU CLAIRE

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION



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**Minutes of the
Chippewa-Eau Claire Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Policy Council**
Wednesday, May 1, 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 (outgoing Vice-chair), Duane Shoebridge – Chippewa County, Matt Biren – City of Altoona, Greg Hoffman – City of Chippewa Falls, Emily Berge – City of Eau Claire, Connie Russell – Eau Claire County (new, incoming Vice-chair), Jennifer Meyer – Town of Union, Robert Solberg – Town of Washington, Alice Droske – Town of Wheaton

Members with no representative present (8): Town of Anson, Town of Brunswick, Town of Eagle Point, Town of Hallie, Town of Lafayette, Town of Pleasant Valley, Town of Seymour, Town of Tilden

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, two new members introduced (Mr. Shoebridge and Ms. Russell).
3. Elections were held for Chair and Vice-chair positions. Mr. Spilde was nominated for Chair by Mr. Hoffman, seconded by Mr. Solberg. Mr. Spilde was elected by a unanimous vote. Ms. Russell was nominated by Mr. Hoffman for Vice-chair, seconded by Mr. Biren. Ms. Russell was elected unanimously.
4. Review and Approval of the minutes of the January 31, 2024, MPO Policy Council meeting. Mr. Biren moved to approve; Mr. Solberg seconded the motion. The motion to approve passed unanimously.
5. The minutes of the April 10, 2024, MPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting were reviewed.
6. Mr. Anderson presented Amendment #2 (TAM performance measures) to the Chippewa – Eau Claire MPO Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) 2024-2028. Mr. Spilde moved to approve, Mr. Biren seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
7. Mr. Anderson presented the recommendation from the MPO TAC for the distribution of \$4,870,716 funds received in the recent STP-Urban grant to the MPO. The TAC recommendation was to allocate three of the four requests for project funding at the full amount requested. The fourth request could not be accommodated within the funding restriction for the funds. The recommended funding would leave \$283,666 in STP-Urban funds unallocated and available for use in future grant funding rounds. There was a discussion about the process of requesting and allocating the funds, the rules regarding allowable expenses, and the limits on percentages of total allowable projects costs that this grant funding can be allocated for. Mr. Shoebridge asked about geographic spread of the recommended grant awards. Mr. Rothrock discussed the balance of funding for recent rounds of STP-Urban grant projects and said staff will send a link to Members of a map showing the location of Federal grant funding.

Mr. Spilde moved to approve the TAC-recommended allocations, a motion seconded by Ms. Berge. The motion was approved unanimously.

Approved project funding:

Eau Claire County – State Street/CTH F: \$1,920,000
City of Eau Claire – Prairie Lane : \$1,418,746
City of Chippewa Falls – Bridgewater Avenue: \$1,248,304

8. Mr. Anderson presented the proposed update to the Chippewa – Eau Claire MPO Metropolitan Planning Area Boundary recommended for approval by the MPO TAC. This TAC recommendation had been considered at the January 31, 2024, Policy Council meeting. After amendments to both add and delete areas had been approved at the earlier meeting, the consideration of the amended map had been tabled until this meeting. Mr. Anderson reviewed the amendments for Members. Mr. Rothrock reminded Members that the Wisconsin Department of Transportation would review the map and has to approve the map before it is official.

Mr. Solberg made a motion to approve the MPO Boundary map as presented with the previously approved amendments. Ms. Berge seconded the motion. The map was approved unanimously.

9. Mr. Straight asked the Policy Council to appoint a Water Quality Technical Advisory Committee (WQ-TAC) to replace the MPO TAC during the process of developing the upcoming Sewer Service Plan update. He discussed that, with the finalization of the agreement with the Department of Natural Resource (DNR) to fund work on the update, the process could start moving forward quickly. He discussed the historical make-up of the WQ-TAC, one representative from each government entity in the planning area and suggested that the make-up of the new WQ-TAC follow that model. Mr. Hoffman moved to approve that make-up of the WQ-TAC, seconded by Mr. Biren. The motion passed unanimously. The Members agreed to designate the appointees quickly. Mr. Rothrock stated that the MPO staff will reach out to all the absent Members to get their appointees.
10. Mr. Anderson reviewed the Chippewa Valley Bike Route project. He presented the recently released on-line map which is optimized for mobile users, such as those bike riding. He detailed the press release which had been sent out and recent media. There was a discussion about further steps to be taken and who the responsible parties might be for those steps.
11. Mr. Rothrock discussed recent decisions by the City of Chippewa Falls and their Transit Board to expand, on a trial basis, their Shared Ride Taxi Service to serve one or two bus stops on the Eau Claire Transit fixed-route system. This change was in response to the shut-down of the HSHS/Prevea healthcare facilities in Chippewa Falls and the resulting difficulty for Chippewa Falls residents to access transportation to replacement medical providers in Eau Claire.
12. Other Business - none
13. The next meeting date was tentatively set for August 28th, 2024.
14. Adjournment – Mr. Hoffman moved to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Meyers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Spilde adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m.