

MINUTES

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Thursday, May 7, 2009

1:30 p.m.

SEWRPC Office Building
Commissioners' Conference Room
W239 N1812 Rockwood Drive
Waukesha, Wisconsin

Present:

Excused:

Committee Members:

David L. Stroik, Chairman
Thomas H. Buestrin
William R. Drew
James T. Dwyer
Daniel S. Schmidt
Gustav W. Wirth, Jr.

Michael J. Miklasevich

(via teleconference)

Richard A. Hansen, Vice-Chairman
Adelene Greene
Nancy Russell

Staff:

Kenneth R. Yunker
Lynn Heis

Executive Director
Staff Secretary

ROLL CALL

Chairman Stroik called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum declared present, including Commissioners Greene, Hansen, and Russell who participated in the meeting via teleconference. Mr. Yunker noted for the record that Commissioner Miklasevich had asked to be excused.

CONSIDERATION OF ACTION TAKEN BY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING IN MILWAUKEE URBANIZED AREA WITH RESPECT TO APPROVAL OF FUNDING ALLOCATION PROCESS AND PROJECTS TO RECEIVE FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM-MILWAUKEE URBANIZED AREA AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT FUNDING

Mr. Yunker reviewed the staff memorandum entitled "Proposed American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Federal Highway Administration Surface Transportation Program – Milwaukee Urbanized Area (ARRA FHWA STP-MUA) Funding Allocation and Project Selection Process" (copy attached to Official Minutes).

He noted that the proposed funding allocation and project selection process attempted to treat each County and community fairly and equitably, and address three criteria which encompass the concerns raised by local governments. One of those criteria was that the overall need for funding and the allocation of funding should be in proportion to the lane-miles of arterial facilities in the Milwaukee urbanized area under the jurisdiction of each county and community. A second criteria was that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act states that priority is to be given to projects located in economically distressed areas and there was a need to adjust the long standing lane-mile funding allocation to account for this criteria. The third criteria was that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is an economic stimulus bill and projects under construction in 2009, as opposed to 2010, should receive priority for funding. Mr. Yunker then reviewed the funding allocation process, project selection process, and the projects selected for funding. He noted that the Advisory Committee of 19 members agreed unanimously on the funding allocation and project selection process. He stated that the final Advisory Committee vote was 15 to 4 approving the funding allocation and the project selection process, and the projects selected for funding, due to a difference of opinion only on how to allocate \$2 million of funding within Milwaukee County of the total \$38.7 million of funding. Specifically, the difference was whether the funding should go to a single Milwaukee County project or two municipal projects.

Messrs. Wirth and Buestrin noted an article that appeared in the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* on May 7, 2009 indicating the appreciation of local governments in the Milwaukee area of the Commission's work and the nearly unanimous agreement achieved on the projects selected to receive funding. Mr. Yunker distributed the newspaper article (copy attached to Official Minutes).

Mr. Yunker stated that the projects selected to receive funding were identified in the memorandum, but those cities and counties with multiple projects including the Cities of Milwaukee and West Allis and Counties of Milwaukee and Waukesha County were being permitted to modify their projects as long as their modified list of projects would stay within their total approved funding. Mr. Yunker distributed the final list of projects stating that Milwaukee County and City of Milwaukee chose to modify their list of projects (copy attached to Official Minutes).

Mr. Dwyer stated that the Waukesha County staff participating in the Advisory Committee meetings had reported to him and to the Waukesha County Executive that the Commission staff had done excellent work. In their opinion, the Commission staff had accomplished a significant amount of work between a Thursday, April 30 meeting of the Committee and a Wednesday, May 6 meeting of the Committee in developing and applying a funding allocation and project selection process. Moreover, the Commission staff had developed a funding allocation and project selection process and list of projects to receive

funding that could be accepted with unanimity, and there was complete disagreement less than a week earlier. Mr. Yunker noted that staff had also received a letter from Milwaukee County staff expressing their agreement with the Commission staff's work, and he distributed copies of the letter (copy attached to Official Minutes).

On a motion by Mr. Buestrin, seconded by Mr. Wirth, and carried unanimously, the Executive Committee of the Commission endorsed the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Transportation System Planning and Programming for the Milwaukee Urbanized area with respect to approval of a funding allocation and project selection process for, and the projects to receive, Federal Highway Administration Surface Transportation Program-Milwaukee urbanized area American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Buestrin notified that he, as the past Chairman, had arranged a meeting with Wisconsin Department of Transportation Secretary, Frank Busalacchi, to introduce the new Commission Chairman, Mr. Stroik. Mr. Buestrin noted that Mr. Yunker was also in attendance at the meeting. Mr. Stroik commented on the good relationship between the Commission and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and noted that the basis for that work is the high quality technical work done by the Commission staff which the Wisconsin Department of Transportation can rely on in carrying out their duties.

Mr. Yunker noted that the Administrative Committee at their next meeting will be considering the Commission budget. He stated that the Commission staff was anticipating once again proposing a flat budget with no increase in local tax levy, and most likely a decline in total budget. Mr. Yunker noted that based on changes in the total equalized assessed values of the Region's Counties, some counties will experience an increase under a flat budget and others will experience decreases. Messrs. Dwyer, Buestrin, Wirth, and Stroik stated that a budget with no increase in local tax levy would probably be the best assumption for the Commission staff to follow in preparing next year's budget.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:56 p.m., on a motion by Mr. Dwyer seconded by Mr. Schmidt and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth R Yunker
Deputy Secretary

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Attachments