

MINUTES

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Thursday, May 22, 2014

2:00 p.m.

SEWRPC Office Building
Commissioners' Conference Room
W239 N1812 Rockwood Drive
Waukesha, Wisconsin 53187-1607

Present:

Excused:

Committee Members:

David L. Stroik, Chairman
William R. Drew, Vice-Chairman
Gilbert B. Bakke
Thomas H. Buestrin
Michael A. Crowley
James T. Dwyer
Adelene Greene
Nancy L. Russell
Daniel S. Schmidt
Gustav W. Wirth, Jr.

Staff:

Kenneth R. Yunker	Executive Director
Elizabeth A. Larsen	Business Manager
Debra A. D'Amico	Executive Secretary

Guest:

Dwight E. McComb	Planning and Environmental Manager/Team Leader Federal Highway Administration, Wisconsin Division U.S. Department of Transportation
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ROLL CALL

Chairman Stroik called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum declared with all Committee members present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF MARCH 27, 2014

Chairman Stroik asked if there were any changes or additions to the March 27, 2014, meeting minutes.

On a motion by Mr. Wirth, seconded by Ms. Greene, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on March 27, 2014, were approved as published.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman Dwyer reported that the Administrative Committee, at its meeting held just before the Executive Committee meeting, had taken the following actions:

1. Reviewed and approved disbursements for four financial periods: Year 2014 No. 7, No. 8, No. 9 and No. 10; extending over the period March 10 to May 4, 2014.
2. Reviewed and approved the Statement of Projected Revenues and Expenditures for the period ending May 4, 2014.
3. Reviewed and approved a series of budget assumptions for calendar year 2015 proposed by the Commission staff. The key assumptions include Federal and State transportation funding for the Continuing Land Use Transportation Study will remain the same as the 2014 projected revenue, one time Wisconsin Department of Transportation funding for the Washington County Transit Development Plan and the Origin and Destination Travel Survey will end in 2014 due to the completion of these projects, a \$24,000 decrease in State funding is expected for water quality planning, a \$486,000 increase in service agreement revenue is due in part to the use of \$200,000 in program development funds for the reevaluation and extension to the year 2050 regional land use and transportation plan and the conduct of the 2015 Regional Aerial Orthophotography Program, and a continued freeze for the ninth consecutive year in the regional property tax levy at a level of \$2.37 million. The full time staffing level will increase from 67 to 70 positions. Overall, the budget assumptions result in a 6.7 percent increase over the 2014 Adopted Budget, mainly due to the 2015 regional aerial orthophotography project and service agreement revenues.
4. Reviewed and approved a report from an Ad Hoc Committee, consisting of Commissioners Stroik, Buestrin, Russell, Schmidt, and the Commission's Executive Director, regarding annual salary adjustments, which were made on the basis of merit, promotion, and market equity adjustment.
5. Reviewed and approved staff to engage the services of Harwood Engineering Consultants, Ltd., to prepare a request for proposal for, and then to manage, the building tuckpointing project.

There being no questions or comments, on a motion by Mr. Drew, seconded by Mr. Schmidt, and carried unanimously, the Administrative Committee report was approved.

REPORT ON CONTRACTS

Chairman Stroik asked Ms. Larsen to review the proposed contracts, noting that Committee members had received a report with a table listing six contracts prior to the meeting. Ms. Larsen then briefly reviewed those contracts with the Committee.

There being no questions or comments, on a motion by Mr. Drew, seconded by Ms. Greene, and carried unanimously, the six contracts on the report were accepted and the report placed on file (copy of report attached to Official Minutes).

small portion of Jefferson County which is now part of the Milwaukee urbanized area, and a small part of Dodge County which is now part of the West Bend urbanized area.

There being no questions or comments, on a motion by Mr. Crowley, seconded by Mr. Drew, and carried unanimously, Resolution No. 2014-12, was approved (copy of Resolution 2014-12 attached to Official Minutes).

CONSIDERATION OF CHANGES TO COMMISSION BYLAWS

Chairman Stroik asked Mr. Yunker to review the proposed changes to be made to the Commission Bylaws.

Mr. Yunker, referring to his May 13, 2014, memorandum to the Commission Executive Committee (copy of memorandum attached to Official Minutes), stated there are two new requirements in the most recent Federal transportation legislation, "Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act," (MAP-21) regarding governing body structure for Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs). Specifically, MPO governing body composition shall include officials of public agencies that administer or operate major modes of transportation in the metropolitan area, and appropriate State officials.

Mr. Yunker then indicated staff is recommending that Article III of the current Commission Bylaws be amended to add Section 11, TRANSIT REPRESENTATION RESPONSIBILITIES, and Section 12, STATE REPRESENTATION RESPONSIBILITIES. He noted that Section 11 assigns to the County Board appointments on the Commission the responsibility to represent the public transit systems in their counties. Mr. Yunker added that Section 12 assigns to the Commissioners appointed by the Governor the responsibility of representing the concerns and needs of the State, and particularly the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.

A short discussion ensued regarding Article III, Sections 11 and 12.

There being no questions or further comments, on a motion by Mr. Stroik, seconded by Ms. Greene, and carried unanimously, the recommendation to the full Commission of changes to the Commission Bylaws was approved (copy of memorandum with proposed change to be made to the Commission Bylaws attached to Official Minutes).

PRESENTATION BY U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICIALS ON THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 2012 TRANSPORTATION PLANNING CERTIFICATION REVIEW

Chairman Stroik introduced Mr. Dwight McComb, representing the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) of the U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S.DOT), and requested that he report on the outcome of the Commission's 2012 Transportation Planning Certification Review. The Federal Highway and Transit Administration's report, "2012 Transportation Planning Certification Review for Milwaukee, Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Portion of the Round Lake Beach, Illinois-Wisconsin Transportation Management Areas (TMA's)," May 2014, was distributed to the Committee. Mr. McComb stated the U.S.DOT has fully certified the Commission's transportation planning process as meeting Federal transportation planning requirements.

Mr. McComb provided a brief summary of the report findings and recommendations, and complimented the Commission for its strong investment in public involvement and outreach. During his report, he also recognized the recent completion of the Regional Housing Plan. Mr. McComb also recognized the travel demand modeling program where staff has developed a cooperative and positive working relationship with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation on traffic forecasting projection within the Region.

Mr. McComb noted some of the public comments made during the certification process. He discussed the issue of transit funding, and the perception that SEWRPC as the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) has the authority to require the implementation of recommended transit improvements, and the authority to block highway projects. Mr. McComb discussed the recommendations with respect to these perceptions, including development of fact sheets for Federal and State funding programs, and greater documentation of the Transportation Improvement Program development process. He also noted that the staff in working with Advisory Committees could encourage consideration of transit funding with Federal programs which direct funding to the metropolitan area, including FHWA Surface Transportation Program-Milwaukee Urbanized Area funding and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement funding. In response to an inquiry by Chairman Stroik, Mr. McComb recommended the use of the Commission's website as a way to communicate transportation funding issues. In response to an additional question by Chairman Stroik, Mr. McComb stated there may be other MPOs which may have more authority than SEWRPC. Mr. Yunker added that the State of Wisconsin has a very prescriptive transportation budget which specifies specific amounts of funding for each type of funding program, and specifies in some cases specific projects. He noted that in contrast, in some other states, amounts of funding may be allocated to an urban region, and the MPO with the region's Department of Transportation office select projects for funding.

Chairman Stroik noted some public comments suggested that the Commission blocks highway projects to encourage State and local government action to increase transit funding and service. Mr. Yunker directed the Committee's attention to page 39 of the Federal certification report which states "... contrary to the opinions provided by several commenters, SEWRPC does not have the authority to act as a super legislative body to coerce, compel, or mandate the implementation of SEWRPC planning documents. Title VI, EJ, and other nondiscrimination requirements do not provide SEWRPC with the obligation or authority to override or ignore the role of Federal, State, or local governments or their valid funding decisions," and page 46 of the report which states "The lack of authority for SEWRPC to exclude highway projects, or force transit projects, was previously addressed."

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Yunker reported that there was no correspondence and no announcements to report.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:08 p.m., on a motion by Mr. Drew, seconded by Mr. Bakke, and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth R. Yunker
Executive Director