

MINUTES
SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, May 21, 2015

1:00 p.m.

SEWRPC Office Building
Commissioners Conference Room
W239 N1812 Rockwood Drive
Waukesha, WI 53187

Present:

Excused:

Commissioners:

David L. Stroik, Chairman
Charles L. Colman, Vice-Chairman
Thomas H. Buestrin
Michael A. Crowley
Mike Dawson
William R. Drew
Robert W. Pitts
Nancy Russell
Daniel S. Schmidt
Peggy L. Shumway
Gustav W. Wirth, Jr.

José M. Delgado
Brian R. Dranzik
David L. Eberle
Adelene Greene
Michael J. Skalitzky
Daniel W. Stoffel

Teleconference:

Marina Dimitrijevic
James T. Dwyer
Linda J. Seemeyer

Staff:

Kenneth R. Yunker	Executive Director
Michael G. Hahn	Deputy Director
Elizabeth A. Larsen	Assistant Director - Administration
Debra A. D'Amico	Executive Secretary

ROLL CALL

Chairman Stroik called the Special meeting of the Commission to order at 1:00 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum was declared present. Chairman Stroik indicated for the record that Commissioners Delgado, Dranzik, Eberle, Greene, Skalitzky, and Stoffel had asked to be excused.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MARCH 18, 2015, MEETING

On a motion by Mr. Schmidt, seconded by Mr. Wirth, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the March 18, 2015, Quarterly Commission Meeting were approved as published.

CONSIDERATION OF THE CITY OF MILWAUKEE REQUEST TO AMEND THE YEAR 2035 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM PLAN, DOCUMENTED IN SEWRPC PLANNING REPORT NUMBER 49, "A REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM PLAN FOR SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN: 2035" AND SEWRPC MEMORANDUM REPORT NUMBER 215, REVIEW AND UPDATE OF THE YEAR 2035 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN, TO ADD AN EXTENSION OF THE PROPOSED MILWAUKEE STREETCAR SYSTEM TO THE LAKEFRONT IN DOWNTOWN MILWAUKEE

Chairman Stroik asked Mr. Yunker to present the proposed Regional Transportation Plan amendment to add an extension to the proposed Milwaukee Streetcar in downtown Milwaukee and Resolution 2015-11. Mr. Yunker stated that the City of Milwaukee has requested the amendment of the Year 2035 Regional Transportation System Plan to add a 0.4-mile lakefront extension of the proposed Milwaukee Streetcar in downtown Milwaukee. He further stated that the initial 2.1-mile segment of the Milwaukee Streetcar, intended to serve the Milwaukee central business district and the Lower East Side area, is currently included in the adopted Year 2035 Regional Transportation Plan. He noted the City of Milwaukee Common Council and Mayor have approved the project engineering and construction of the initial Streetcar line and the 0.4-mile extension. He added that the Advisory Committee on Regional Transportation System Planning approved the amendment at its April 25, 2015, meeting, and the Planning and Research Committee recommended approval at their May 5, 2015, meeting.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Colman, Mr. Yunker stated the 0.4-mile extension is consistent with the Year 2035 Regional Transportation Plan, as the plan recommends the substantial improvement and expansion of public transit. He added the plan acknowledges that the specific transit technology to be implemented would be made by a transit operator following preliminary engineering.

In response to an inquiry by Ms. Shumway, Mr. Yunker stated that the City of Milwaukee is seeking partial Federal funding for this project by applying for a Federal Highway Administration TIGER grant in the amount of \$10 million, with the City having committed to funding the remaining \$15 million. To enhance the potential for receiving the grant, the Year 2035 Regional Transportation Plan must be amended to include the 0.4-mile Streetcar extension. The City has until June 5th to submit the grant application.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Yunker stated that the Planning and Research Committee unanimously approved that this amendment be added to the Plan, and the Advisory Committee on Regional Transportation System Planning overwhelmingly approved the amendment with only one vote in opposition.

Mr. Yunker then commented on the businesses the Streetcar extension will serve; the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance 32-story office tower under construction, the proposed 44-story Couture building (which is currently proposing to incorporate the Streetcar extension into the building), and potentially, a new Johnson Controls world headquarters building. He noted that, in particular, spokespersons for Johnson Controls have indicated the building of the Streetcar extension will influence their decision regarding locating their headquarters in downtown Milwaukee.

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There being no further questions or discussion, on a motion by Mr. Drew, seconded by Mr. Schmidt, and carried by a vote of 12 ayes and 1 nay by Ms. Shumway, Resolution No. 2015-11 was approved (copy of Resolution No. 2015-11 is attached to the Official Minutes).

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, on a motion by Mr. Drew, seconded by Mr. Wirth, and carried unanimously the meeting was adjourned at 1:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth R. Yunker
Deputy Secretary

KRY/MGH/EAL/dd
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