

**Greater Madison Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)**  
**April 2, 2025, Meeting Minutes**

Virtual Meeting hosted via [Zoom](#)

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Opitz called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

**1. Roll Call and Introductions**

**Members present:** Clement Abongwa, Richelle Andrae, Liz Callin, Phil Caravello, John Duncan, Michelle Ellias, Paul Esser, Derek Field, Tom Lynch, Mark Opitz, Kristi Williams, Doug Wood

**Members absent/excused:** MGR Govindarajan (absent), Barbara Harrington-McKinney (absent)

**MPO staff present:** Alex Andros, Ben Lyman, Bill Holloway

**Others present in an official capacity:** None

**2. Approval of March 5, 2025, Meeting Minutes**

Action: Williams moved, Duncan seconded to approve the March 5, 2025 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

**3. Communications**

- UPWP Amendment approval letter from WisDOT
- TIP Amendment approval letter from WisDOT

**4. Public Comment (for items *not* on MPO Agenda)**

None.

**5. MPO 2025 Resolution No. 6 Amending MPO Policies and Scoring Criteria for STBG Transportation Alternatives Set Aside Program Projects**

Lyman stated that he provided a presentation on this item at the last policy board meeting. Notice was sent to our public email list on March 3; no comments were received. Abongwa asked if Dane County would be subject to these changes, since most county highways are in rural areas. Lyman responded that Dane County would be subject to the proposed changes. The changes would enable Dane County to use TAP funding to develop an ADA Transition Plan, which is already required by federal law. Dane County must have an ADA Transition Plan because it is an agency with more than 50 employees. Lyman noted the potential consequences of not having an ADA Transition Plan. He stated that public entities or agencies with less than 51 employees are not required to have an ADA Transition Plan, but they must still comply with ADA requirements. Abongwa stated that some of the county highways have trails, and that they are widening shoulders to accommodate cycling, but these facilities are not subject to ADA requirements. He stated that the county would like to comply with ADA Transition Plan requirements but doesn't want to duplicate efforts of municipalities. Lyman said that three communities have requested guidance on developing an ADA Transition Plan, and that he has been working to develop a guide and best practices for local municipalities. He noted that the City of Madison has been working on a draft ADA Transition Plan, and that he would forward it to the board members. Abongwa stated that Dane County has been partnering with the City of Madison on the Rimrock Road pavement replacement project, and that they are particular about meeting ADA standards. He indicated that Dane County intends to develop an ADA Comprehensive Plan in some form to ensure any deficient county highway facilities subject to ADA requirements are brought into compliance. Lynch added that it is important to have an adopted plan in

your files; Milwaukee was cited for not having one a few years ago. Lynch noted that Liz Callin and the City's Department of Civil Rights have been developing the City of Madison's plan.

Esser moved, Wood seconded, to adopt MPO 2025 Resolution No. 6 Amending MPO Policies and Scoring Criteria for STBG Transportation Alternatives Set Aside Program Projects. Motion carried.

**6. MPO 2025 Resolution No. 7 Amending the MPO Program Management and Recipient Coordination Plan for the Madison Urbanized Area's Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program**

Lyman explained that this amendment updates our Program Management and Recipient Coordination Plan to reflect that both the MPO Policy Board and the Dane County Specialized Transportation Commission have adopted the new Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan for Dane County. In addition, the amendment incorporates two updated circulars issued by FTA related to the federal section 5310 program in 2024, makes administrative changes to bring the document into compliance with the MPO's Style Guide, and incorporates the MPO's name change. Lastly, it explicitly lists maintenance reporting requirements for subrecipients.

Esser moved, Clement seconded, to adopt Resolution No. 7 Amending the MPO Program Management and Recipient Coordination Plan for the Madison Urbanized Area's Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program. Motion carried.

**7. Amendment of Greater Madison MPO Section 5310 (Enhanced Mobility of Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities) Program 2024 Program of Projects to transfer accessible vehicle purchase funding from NewBridge Madison to the Down Syndrome Association of Wisconsin**

Lyman stated that this amendment would transfer \$115,200 in federal Section 5310 accessible vehicle purchase funding that was awarded to NewBridge Madison to the Down Syndrome Association of Wisconsin.

Lyman described why an amendment is needed to transfer federal Section 5310 accessible vehicle purchase funding from NewBridge Madison to the Down Syndrome Association of Wisconsin (DSAW). Due to City of Madison budget cuts that eliminated \$200,000 in funding to NewBridge Madison, they are no longer able to provide the local match required for an accessible vehicle purchase and have terminated their agreement with the City of Madison/Metro Transit. DSAW is willing and able to take over the purchase of the vehicle which has already been built and to purchase their awarded vehicle from the 2025 Program of Projects. This can be done because Section 5310.g allows the transfer of a 5310-funded vehicle between eligible subrecipients through the amendment of a Program of Projects. If this amendment to the 2024 Program of Projects is approved, a subsequent TIP amendment for this transfer would be included in the next 2025-2029 TIP amendment.

Williams moved, Caravello seconded, to approve Amendment of Greater Madison MPO Section 5310 (Enhanced Mobility of Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities) Program 2024 Program of Projects to transfer accessible vehicle purchase funding from NewBridge Madison to the Down Syndrome Association of Wisconsin. Motion carried.

**8. Presentation: Update on Regional Active Transportation Plan**

Lyman provided a presentation on staff's efforts to draft the Dane County Active Transportation Plan. He described the purpose of the plan, the completed and upcoming plan schedule, current activities and next steps, and public outreach and GIS efforts. Opitz stated that the City of Middleton had placed their active transportation plan update on hold to coordinate with the MPO's planning efforts. Perhaps other communities have that in mind as well. Lyman stated that at this phase, we are mostly trying to coordinate

public engagement and define the end product and goals. For example, Madison intends to develop a separate bike plan and pedestrian plan. They envision the bike plan as a new bike network map that denotes existing and planned facilities. They don't intend to include pages on the health and economic benefits of bicycling, since these tenets have been talked about for years. We will coordinate with them so our maps are consistent, and we hope that their regional maps will continue across municipal boundaries into neighboring communities. Andros added that this is an opportunity to coordinate and share data and ideas.

## 9. Announcements and Staff Reports

- Andros stated that FHWA released a notice on the redistribution of Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) funds to the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Urban Program. More information will follow when we send out the project solicitation notice. Lynch stated that the City of Madison received a \$1 million TIFIA grant, and that they need to submit their project management plan in the next week or so. It's interesting that they are taking funding from the program. How much funding is expected from the redistribution? Lyman stated that a large amount of TIFIA funding was not being used, so congress transferred \$2 billion from that fund to the STBG-Urban program. Funding from this formula program is distributed to STBG-U, STBG-Rural, and STBG-Transportation Alternatives. They have announced the apportionments, and the Madison MPO will receive just over \$1.2 million in STBG-U funding, and just over \$187,000 in TAP funding. FHWA was supposed to redistribute 75% of the remaining unobligated FY2025 dollars yesterday. We should learn how much additional money we will be getting soon. Another redistribution will follow on April 1, 2026 for the FY 2026 TIFIA funds.
- Andros reported that the MPO Federal Certification renewal process is scheduled for this year. FHWA and FTA district staff will conduct the review, which takes six to nine months to complete. A public participation element is required. More information will be provided as the process unfolds.
- Andros noted that the Spring Roll! Challenge has started. A record number of people have registered, and there are several opportunities to win prizes. Opitz asked Andros to show the board how to register for the challenge via the MPO website. Andros explained how to register, and mentioned that the most efficient way to log trips is by downloading and using the Commute Tracker app from the RoundTrip website.
- Alex reported that the MPO recently released its new and improved Bike map. She described enhancements and new features, including QR codes and Spanish translation. Lyman stated that the MPO ordered 10,000 maps, and that over 9,000 have already been distributed. Lyman mentioned that former City of Fitchburg Mayor Steve Arnold is an advocate and distributes the maps in south and west Dane County. Fitchburg is on their way to having the most bicycle friendly businesses in the country. Opitz asked if the maps are available in most bike shops. Andros confirmed that they are. Lyman added that a full box of 300 maps was distributed to the Middleton public library.
- Andros stated that we will be voting on new Policy Board leadership at the next board meeting. The Dane County Small Cities and Villages Association is assisting with the effort for new board appointments. Wood asked for the names of the candidates. Andros replied that the Mayor of Fitchburg has nominated Alder Bill Jetzer and the Mayor of Stoughton has nominated Alder Adrienne Nienow. Mark Opitz has also been nominated. Opitz, Wood, and Abongwa recognized and thanked Tom Lynch and Mayor Paul Esser for their service and contributions to the board. Lynch thanked Mayor Esser for his service and regional leadership, noting the successful movement to bring Metro Transit service to the City of Sun Prairie. Mayor Esser recognized Tom Lynch for his role in this effort. Lynch also thanked Wood for his leadership in helping bring Metro Transit service to the City of Monona.

## **10. Adjournment**

Esser moved, Lynch seconded, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m. The next meeting will be held on May 7, 2025, virtual.