

MINUTES
BAY-LAKE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
TECHNICAL AND POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEES JOINT MEETING
FOR SHEBOYGAN MPO
September 05, 2024
(In-Person and Virtual)

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Vernon Koch (Sheboygan County), Policy Advisory Committee Chairperson, Presiding

Policy Advisory Committee:

- Charles Born (Town of Lima), Policy Advisory Committee Vice-Chair
- Tom Holtan (Town of Sheboygan)
- Mayor Randy Meyer (City of Sheboygan Falls)

Technical Advisory Committee:

- Kevin Jump (City of Sheboygan)
- Travis Peterson (City of Sheboygan - Department of Public Works)
- Diane McGinnis Casey (City of Sheboygan – Dept. of Planning & Development)
- Karl Buck (FHWA – Wisconsin Division)
- Jerry Benzschawel (City of Sheboygan Falls - Director, DPW)
- Nick Weber (WisDOT Northeast Region, Green Bay)
- David Bizot (Wisconsin DNR – Bureau of Air Management)
- Aaron Brault (Sheboygan County- Planning and Conservation)

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

- David Smith (Bicycle and Pedestrian Enthusiasts)
- Mike Kitzerow (Village of Kohler)
- Matt Sorenson (WisDOT – Bureau of Planning & Economic Development)

STAFF PRESENT:

- Heena Bhatt (Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission)
- Bryce Thompson (Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission)

OTHERS PRESENT:

- Ed Procek

1. The meeting was called to order at 11:01 am. by Policy Advisory Committee Chair Vernon Koch.

Members of both committees and staff introduced themselves for the benefit of everyone participating in the meeting.

2. The meeting Agenda for the September 5, 2024, joint Technical Advisory Committee/Policy Advisory Committee meeting was approved.

Moved by Aaron Brault and seconded by Jerry Benzschawel.

3. The Draft meeting minutes for June 13, 2024, joint Technical Advisory Committee/Policy Advisory Committee meeting was approved.

Moved by Aaron Brault and seconded by Diane McGinnis Casey.

4. Policy Advisory Committee Chairperson, Vernon Koch, asked if there was any public input. No input was provided.

5. Final Review and Recommendation of Approval of the *2024 Public Participation Plan* for the Sheboygan MPO

Heena Bhatt mentioned that Public Participation Plan was sent out for a 45-day public comment period and no public input was received. Ms. Bhatt mentioned that comments were received from Wisconsin Department of Transportation staff and from Federal Highway Administration staff and both the comments were addressed in the plan and added to Appendix B of the Plan.

After some minor discussion the members recommended the approval of the *2024 Public Participation Plan* for the Sheboygan MPO

Moved by Aaron Brault and seconded by Diane McGinnis Casey.

6. Prioritization of the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) Candidate Projects Submitted for the Federal Fiscal Years (FFYs) 2025 – 2028 Funding Cycle under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) in the Sheboygan Urbanized Area.

Ms. Bhatt mentioned that total funding for the FFY 2025-2028 cycle for Sheboygan MPO was \$834,136, with the breakdown shown below.

FFY 2025-2028 Carbon Reduction Program Estimated Allocated Funding for Sheboygan MPO	
FFY 2025	\$208,534 + \$208,534 = \$417,068
FFY 2026	\$208,534
FFY 2027	\$208,534
FFY 2028	Scheduling Available - TBD
Total	\$834,136

There were two project applications for the CRP grant, one from City of Sheboygan for a New Jersey Avenue Trail Connection from South Taylor Drive to Riverpark Road (\$478,940 federal share) and one from City of Sheboygan Falls for a pedestrian bike path parallel to North Main Street (STH 32) from Willow Drive to Hamann Drive (\$1,086,202 federal share).

The MPO staff made a recommendation to prioritize funding to the City of Sheboygan Falls project, pedestrian bike path parallel to North Main Street, with \$417,068 available for FFY 2025 and if/when more funding becomes available City of Sheboygan's project, New Jersey Avenue Trail Connection, should be given second priority.

Moved by Aaron Brault and seconded by Jerry Benzschawel.

7. Draft *Sheboygan Metropolitan Planning Area Transportation Improvement Program (TIP): Calendar Years 2025 – 2028*: Review of Project Tables and Release for a 30-Day Public Comment Period.

Ms. Bhatt reviewed the project tables, Transit and specialized transit operating and capital fuds, Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects and Street and Highway improvement projects with the committee.

After some minor discussion the members recommended the release of Draft *Sheboygan Metropolitan Planning Area Transportation Improvement Program (TIP): Calendar Years 2025 – 2028* for a 30-day comment period.

Moved by Aaron Brault and seconded by Chuck Born.

8. Review of Table 9: Implementation status of projects recommended for 2024

Ms. Bhatt reviewed the Implementation status of projects recommended for 2024 with the committee. Minor discussion took place and there was no action on this agenda item.

9. Preliminary Review of Work Elements in the Draft *2025 Sheboygan Metropolitan Planning Area Transportation Planning Work Program*

Ms. Bhatt reviewed the elements of the *2025 Sheboygan Metropolitan Planning Area Transportation Planning Work Program*. Ms. Bhatt mentioned that that work program elements are divided into five groups, Program Administration, Long-Range Planning, Short-Range Planning, Transportation Improvement Program and Safe and Accessible Transportation Options. She also briefly described each section's tasks planned for 2025. Ms. Bhatt finally requested if there was a need for any equipment purchase (example for traffic count data) she will be willing to discuss it with the committee and WisDOT and FHWA staff.

No motion was required.

10. Update on WisDOT Northeast Region and Other MPO Planning Activities

Nick Webber provided an update and mentioned WisDOT Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality grant is open till September 30th for applications. Additionally, Mr. Webber notified the committee to expect the next cycles of STP, Local Bridge, CRP and TAP programs to roll out next spring.

Ms. Bhatt mentioned that There was one application submitted for **CMAQ** by Shoreline Metro requesting funding to replace five 35-foot buses in 2026.

Ms. Bhatt also mentioned about a few funding opportunities available:

- WisDOT Freight Agriculture Roads Improvement Program (ARIP) open till 9/30/2024.
- USDOT Reconnecting Communities Pilot Grant Program Open till 9/30/24.
- USDOT Low Carbon Transportation Materials Program open till 11/25/24.

Ms. Bhatt provided update on the MPO Bike and Ped Master Plan, the sub-committee met in June, and we are currently working on identifying issues and gaps in the current infrastructure and providing possible short term and long-term solution to it. Next meeting possibly in October.

Additionally, Sheboygan County planning and feasibility study is completed, and the committee decided to start a pilot Shared Ride Taxi program for the rural part of the County and Shoreline Metro will be operating the service. Sheboygan County will purchase two vehicles with the AARPA funds to utilize for the Shared Ride Taxi Service.

11. Chair Vernon Koch announced the next meeting date is October 17, 2024, at 11:00 am.

12. Adjournment

Moved by Jerry Benzschawel and seconded by Chuck Born that the joint meeting of the Sheboygan MPO Technical and Policy Advisory Committees be adjourned. Motion carried, with all voting aye on a voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 11:56 am.

Recording secretary,

Heena Bhatt
Transportation Planner III