

DRAFT MINUTES  
BAY-LAKE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION  
TECHNICAL AND POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEES JOINT MEETING  
FOR SHEBOYGAN MPO  
October 17, 2024  
(In-Person and Virtual)

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

Policy Advisory Committee:

- George Marthenze (Town of Herman)
- Jenny Nelson (WisDOT, on behalf of Nick Weber)

Technical Advisory Committee:

- David Smith (Bicycle and Pedestrian Enthusiasts)
- Travis Peterson (City of Sheboygan - Department of Public Works)
- Aaron Brault (Sheboygan County- Planning and Conservation)

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

- Tom Holton (Town of Sheboygan)
- Karl Buck (FHWA – Wisconsin Division)
- Matt Sorenson (WisDOT – Bureau of Planning & Economic Development)
- Charles Born (Town of Lima), Policy Advisory Committee Vice-Chair
- Kevin Jump (City of Sheboygan)
- Jerry Benzschawel (City of Sheboygan Falls - Director, DPW)
- David Bizot (Wisconsin DNR)

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 11:10 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 October 17, 2024, joint Technical Advisory Committee/Policy Advisory Committee meeting was approved.

**Moved** by David Smith and seconded by George Marthenze.

3. The Draft meeting minutes for September 5, 2024, joint Technical Advisory Committee/Policy Advisory Committee meeting was approved.

**Moved** by Aaron Brault and seconded by Travis Peterson.

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

1. Public Hearing, Review, and Recommendation of Approval of *the Sheboygan Metropolitan Planning Area Transportation Improvement Program: Calendar Years 2025-2028* to the Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission.

- i) Public Hearing

Ed Procek provided his comments via email and requested Ms. Bhatt to read the comments. Ms. Bhatt read the following comments:

- Will Sheboygan County’s Transportation planning and feasibility study’s results/findings be added to the TIP? Ms. Bhatt mentioned that the findings were starting a Share-Ride Taxi Pilot Program in the rural areas of Sheboygan County and since that is not in the MPA it is not necessary to add it in the TIP.
- The Union Pacific Rails-Trails Conversion project from Pennsylvania Ave to Union Ave is still as illustrative project, to be completed in 2027. Mr. Procek recommends prioritizing that project to find funding.
- County highway TA/Taylor Drive from Union Ave to Erie Ave project is anticipated to be completed in 2024? Aaron Brault mentioned that the City of Sheboygan is working towards finding a grant and applying for this project, Travis Peterson agreed to that.
- The project CTH TT/STH 23 is a J turn intersection. How close are the counts and difficulties in this being a full interchange. Mr. Procek mentioned he supports a full interchange.

- ii) Document Review and Review of Comments Received

David Smith asked the use of the grouped project in table 5: Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects

- iii) Recommendation of Approval

After some minor discussions on the public hearing comments the members recommended the approval of *the Sheboygan Metropolitan Planning Area Transportation Improvement Program: Calendar Years 2025-2028*.

**Moved** by David Smith and seconded by Aaron Brault.

5. Review and Recommendation of Approval of the *2025 Sheboygan Metropolitan Planning Area Transportation Planning Work Program*.

Ms. Bhatt mentioned that every year Bay-Lake RPC as the designated Sheboygan MPO receives federal funding to work on the MPO activities and they layout their anticipated activities for the next year along with the number of staff working on it, their hours, and cost required to perform those activities. They have completed the draft of the 2025 Sheboygan MPO work program and distributed the activities in 5 work elements:

- Program Administration
- Short Range Planning
- Long Range Planning
- Transportation Improvement Program
- Safe and Accessible Transportation Options

Ms Bhatt briefly described the activities, staffing hours, and budget for each work elements mentioned above. Without any discussions the *2025 Sheboygan Metropolitan Planning Area Transportation Planning Work Program* was recommended for approval.

**Moved** by David Smith and seconded by George Marthenze.

6. Recommendation of Approval of Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) 2025 Performance Targets for the Sheboygan Metropolitan Planning Area to the Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission.

Mr. Thompson reviewed Highway Safety Improvement Performance Targets with the committee. It was noted that 2023 saw a drop in motorized fatalities from 6 in 2022 to 5 in 2023, however, there was an increase in motorized serious injuries and fatalities from 21 in 2022 to 25 in 2023. Additionally, 2023 saw an increase in non-motorized serious injuries and fatalities from 8 in 2022 to 9 in 2023.

Mr. Thompson noted that like past years, Bay-Lake RPC recommends supporting WisDOTs targets for 2025, these targets included:

- A 2% reduction in average annual fatalities (from 591.6 to 579.8).
- A 2% reduction in the average annual fatality rate (from 0.922 to 0.904 per 100 million VMT).
- A 2% reduction in average annual serious injuries (from 3,145 to 3,082.1)
- A 2% reduction in the average serious injury rate (from 4.906 to 4.808 per 100 million VMT); and
- A 2% reduction in non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries (from 388.6 to 380.8).

Mr. Thompson explained that when WisDOT's targets are applied to the Sheboygan MPA, four of the five safety performance measures are below the state targets, the only exception being the annual average non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries.

**Moved** by George Marthenze and seconded by David Smith.

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

Jenny Nelson provided an update for WisDOT, Ms. Nelson mentioned that there are several grants that will roll out in the spring.

- Surface Transportation Program – Local Bridges (STP – L) for the cycle 2026-2031
- Transportation Alternatives- Set Aside (TAP)
- Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ)
- Carbon Reduction Program (CRP)

Ms. Bhatt provided an update on MPO planning activities, the Public Transit Agency Safety Plan and Transit Asset Management Plan has been updated and will be presented at the next meeting in December. The TIP, Work Program, and the HSIP targets discussed today will be presented at Bay-Lake RPC Executive Committee meeting for approval on October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Ms. Bhatt mentioned a doodle poll invite will be sent out soon for the sub-committee to review the progress of the MPO Bike and Ped Master Plan. Additionally, Transportation Access to Public Health Options study for the Bay-Lake region is going forward and stakeholder meetings are conducted with representatives from different departments of the counties, so far separate meetings were conducted with stakeholders from Brown County and Sheboygan County.

8. Chair Vernon Koch announced the next meeting date is December 12, 2024, at 11:00 am.

9. Adjournment

**Moved** by David Smith and seconded by George Marthenze 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 11:50 am.

Recording secretary,

Heena Bhatt  
Transportation Planner III