



LRSC Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, June 26, 2008

Location: Wisconsin Rapids City Council Chambers

Dave Botts and Mary Forlenza called the meeting to order at approximately 9:10 AM.

All major presentation materials will be made available on WisDOT's Local Roads and Streets Council Internet page.

Opening Business

- The Council welcomed new WCA member Gary Kennedy. The Council also welcomed Brian Bliesner, WisDOT Local Project Delivery Chief.
- December 6, 2007 minutes were reviewed and approved as written.
- WisDOT staff provided a report on a June 2, 2008 meeting between the Department and local associations. The meeting included a discussion of the LRSC-supported GTA Incentive Proposal and the DNR Single Point of Contact issue.
 - Lori Richter indicated that at the meeting, WTA Executive Director Rick Stadelman indicated that WTA would not support the GTA Incentive Proposal at this time. WTA would like to see the Department fully implement the WISLR analysis tools for local statewide reporting before using the pavement ratings submittals as an incentive for local units of government. The association would also like to see the Department flesh out more fully the impact of incentives on communities through time. The associations agreed that the submission rate is really quite remarkable, given that there are currently no incentives or penalties attached.
 - Mary Forlenza provided an update from the meeting pertaining the DNR Single Point of Contact initiative. WisDOT staff provided associations with an introduction to the initiative and WisDOT/DNR efforts to complete the funding plan and other documents. Associations agreed that they do not want local governments paying twice for permitting, and support WisDOT's proposal to tie the permissive LRIP funding associated with the DNR Single Point of Contract to DNR removing the permit fees on projects not covered under the Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement.

The group discussed the future of the Council. Mary provided a recap from the May Executive Committee Meeting. She described the frustrations WisDOT staff to the Council are experiencing given staffing shortages and balancing multiple priorities, including assignments from the Council. WisDOT staff asked for more leadership from the Council to lead Council activities and focus future efforts. Mary suggested that now

would be a good time to refocus the Council's efforts on those tasks that remain unfinished from the original charge of the group.

- A full Council discussion followed. Mary reiterated the Executive Committee's recommendation to discontinue subcommittees and reconvene ad hoc subcommittees as needed to complete projects agreed upon by the Council.
 - Mary shared the executive committee items from May 22, 2008 meeting
 - It might be useful to group the Council's work in several "themes" such as:
 - Local asset management
 - Efficiency and effectiveness
 - Communication and education
 - Revenue future
 - What are you as local officials getting out of your participation in the LRSC and its activities? What aren't you getting?
 - Are the local associations getting value from the LRSC? Why or why not?
 - Bring closure to long-standing issues (complete, drop, re-focus, etc.)
 - WISLR using current tools, and analyzing future needs

The group will continue this discussion as it looks to focus activities for 2009.

Lori Richter from WisDOT gave a presentation on the Local Roads Improvement Program (LRIP), including:

- An update of LRIP communication, training and outreach efforts.
- A 2008-2009 program status report, including the number of project approved and a tentative schedule for sending out executed SMAs for the cycle.
- Reminders pertaining to the upcoming first program sunset date – June 30, 2009, for all projects programmed with funding from the 2004-2005 cycle and earlier.
- Status on the LRIP Web application development project. This application will be used to manage the program, beginning with the 2010-2011 LRIP cycle. A technical advisory committee made up of County Highway Commissioners and other local staff is assisting in determining and testing system functionality
- Status of the effort to repeal and recreate Administrative Rule Trans 206, which governs LRIP. Kickoff meetings have been held with local associations and other stakeholders, and pre-draft language has been distributed for review. Additional input will be sought prior to preparing the final draft rule for public hearing.
- A copy of this presentation is available for viewing on the LRSC Home page:

The WisDOT Federal team provided Federal Program Updates

- Mary Forlenza provided a follow-up presentation of FHWA's Local Program Review.
- Brian Bliesner gave a Local Force Account (LFA) presentation. After a discussion of the different types of LFAs, Brian provided background related to federal requirements and WisDOT's subsequent efforts to comply with those rules.
 - In addition to previously implemented actions, ongoing discussions continue, related to:
 - Subcontracting,
 - The definition of staffed and equipped,
 - Working on another's system, and
 - Cost effectiveness findings

- Future discussions will include basis of payment, small tools/administrative fees, excluded work and penalties.
- Communication efforts, including meetings, memos and Program Management Manual updates are forthcoming.
- A copy of this presentation is available for viewing on the LRSC Home page:
- Mary Forlenza (for Will Kline) gave a presentation on the Department's efforts to prepare for the 2011-2014 Local Program Cycle.
- Mary provided an update on Flood Damage Aids from Bob Fasick, WisDOT Bureau of Highway Operations.
 - A copy of this information is available for viewing on the LRSC Home page:
 - For additional questions related to flood damage, local units of government should contact Bob Fasick at WisDOT's Bureau of Highway Operations at (608) 266-3438 or robert.fasick@dot.state.wi.us.

The Council adjourned for lunch from 12:00-12:45 PM. After lunch, UW-MRUTC staff Ernie Wittwer gave a presentation on Asset Management – Distance Learning Pilot

- Ernie explained that the initiative consists of the 18-hour pilot course *Improving Transportation Management*. The format of the course will include 8 Web conferences, course discussions and suggested readings. The focus of the course will be threefold – doing improved transportation management, internal alignment of goals and activities, and garnering external support for management initiatives.
 - Several Council members volunteered to participate in the effort.

Wisconsin Truck Size & Weight Study Update (John Corbin, WisDOT State Traffic Engineer) – Cancelled

- Mary provided an update of the Study kick-off on John's behalf. Several Council members will be representing their associations on the group.

Closing Business

- Members discussed draft agenda items for the September 25, 2008 Council Meeting. These include:
 - Connections 2030 Update
 - Continued Council focusing discussions
- The meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM.