

May 23, 2011

Fran Keally
Bureau of Watershed Management
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
101 South Webster Street
Eau Claire, WI 53703-3474

RE: Chippewa Falls/Eau Claire Sewer Service Area Plan for 2025
Type IV Sewer Service Plan Amendment – Concord Trail/Princeton Crossing

Dear Ms. Keally:

The City of Eau Claire requested an amendment to the Chippewa Falls/Eau Claire Sewer Service Area Plan (SSA Plan) in a letter with attachments dated February 28, 2011. This request has been uploaded to the WDNR SWIMS website.

WCWRPC conducted its staff review which was completed on April 1, 2011, and previously uploaded to the WDNR SWIMS website; regional WDNR staff were not available to assist with this review. The proposed amendment was determined to be consistent with the goals and intent of the SSA Plan, though the timing of the request did conflict with certain plan policies.

At its May 18, 2011, meeting, the Chippewa-Eau Claire Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)¹ considered the amendment request and staff report, then passed the following motion:

A motion was made by Ms. Kincaid, recommending WDNR approval of the Type IV amendment to the SSA Plan for the Concord Trail-Princeton Crossing site as requested by the City of Eau Claire on February 28, 2011, with the conditions that any applicable environmental or erosion control permits are obtained and related plans implemented as required by City of Eau Claire code and that no development should encroach upon the newly created steep slopes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kranig, and passed unanimously.

¹ The Chippewa-Eau Claire Metropolitan Planning Organization is the area's designated water quality management planning entity.

The MPO also approved by motion a staff recommendation that the MPO revisit the SSA Plan policies and processes later in Summer 2011 to clarify the definitions and circumstances which trigger Type IV amendments and to revise the review process, as needed, to address the circumstances related to the timing of this request. A full version of the MPO's 5/18/11 meeting minutes are attached for reference.

This amendment request is now being forwarded to WDNR for final action. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Chris Straight
Senior Planner

Cc: John R. Genskow, P.E., Deputy City Engineer, Eau Claire

*Minutes of the
Chippewa-Eau Claire Metropolitan Planning Organization*

*Wednesday, May 18, 2011
7:30 p.m.
Suite 401, Banbury Place
800 Wisconsin Street, Eau Claire, Wisconsin*

Members Present: Douglas Kranig, Town of Seymour (chair); Jeff Bechard, Town of Union; Chris Flaten, Eau Claire County; Kerry Kincaid, City of Eau Claire; Dave Walter, City of Altoona; Larry Willkom, Chippewa County

Others Present: Brian Amundson, City of Eau Claire

Staff Present: Ann Z. Schell, WCWRPC; Chris Straight, WCWRPC

1. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Kranig at approximately 7:30 p.m.
2. Mr. Kranig welcomed those present and introductions were made.
3. The minutes of the February 9, 2011 meeting were approved as presented. Motion by Ms. Kincaid, seconded by Mr. Kranig; motion carried.
4. The minutes of the April 6, 2011 TAC meeting were accepted.
5. Ms. Schell noted that the City of Eau Claire had withdrawn two projects (Riverview Dr., Hickory Ln.-Chippewa River Dr.; and E. Riverview Dr., Chippewa River Dr. to East 1,400') that were previously selected for STP-Urban funding by the MPO. Mr. Amundson elaborated that the City was unable to meet the "Complete Streets" requirements in the corridor due to right of way constraints and a desire to keep on-street parking. The TAC addressed the reassignment of the funds totaling \$711,003. The remaining projects that were funded in the last cycle were the Chippewa County CTH S/CTH Q intersection project and the City of Chippewa Falls Columbia Street project. The projects that were considered for funding, but not funded were considered, including two projects for which the City of Eau Claire stated they did not want funded, the Chippewa County CTH J/50th Avenue project, and the City of Altoona Bartlett Avenue (7th St. W. - 10th St. W.).

Due to a significant change in the scope of the CTH S/CTH Q project, Chippewa County requested an increase in the funding for that project, from \$220,000 to \$300,000 (federal). Ms. Schell stated that the remaining \$631,003 was assigned to the CTH J/50th Avenue project. Mr. Walter stated that he had thought that the Altoona project (Bartlett Avenue) had received the TAC recommendation for funding. After considerable discussion, Ms. Schell noted that we would proceed at this time with the items as noted on the agenda and presented, and that she would straighten out the issue the next day and take any necessary actions necessitated by any subsequent changes.

Ms. Kincaid moved to approve the shift in funding, contingent upon the clarification on funding for the Altoona project. The motion was seconded by Mr. Willkom, and passed unanimously.

6. Ms. Schell described the Amendment #7 to the 2010-2014 TIP. The amendment includes the projects discussed in the previous item, as well as the addition of a Transportation Economic

Assistance (TEA) grant for improvements at the intersection of USH 12 and CTH AA, in the City of Altoona. A road is being built to the north of that intersection to serve Curt Manufacturing's expansion. The amendment also includes the addition of interstate crossovers needed during some construction on some I-94 bridges.

Mr. Willkom moved for approval of Amendment #7 to the 2010-2014 TIP. Seconded by Ms. Kincaid, the motion passed without opposition.

7. WCWRPC Senior Planner Chris Straight presented a staff report on the City of Eau Claire's request for a sewer service area Type IV plan amendment to allow for new residential development to encroach upon steep slopes (20+%) which will result in a net loss of less than one-half acre near the intersection of USH 53 and the North Crossing. The MPO serves as the local water quality management policy committee for area sewer service planning and the MPO provides an advisory recommendation to WDNR on such amendments. As such, this request is now before the MPO policy committee.

Mr. Straight reviewed the history of the site, including past excavation, grading/clearing, and road and utility installations related to nearby development. Mr. Amundson provided additional insight into the process and noted that Eau Claire's codes have been revised to avoid this type of occurrence in the future.

Mr. Straight reviewed the amendment and each of the pertinent plan criteria and noted that the amendment is consistent with the plan policies, except for the timing of the request since the grading is already complete and sewer service has been installed. He stated that the total acreage would not be increased since the total included a sizable amount of buffer acreage for environmentally sensitive areas.

The staff report states that the MPO advisory recommendation should include the condition that any applicable environmental or erosion control permits are obtained and related plans implemented as required by City of Eau Claire code. The staff report also recommends that the MPO revisit the SSA Plan policies and process to clarify the definitions and circumstances which trigger Type IV amendments and to revise the review process, as needed, to address such circumstances. Mr. Straight stated that the WDNR is currently undergoing some re-organization and suggested that this policy evaluation would likely be delayed until later this year.

A motion was made by Ms. Kincaid, recommending WDNR approval of the Type IV amendment to the SSA Plan for the Concord Trail-Princeton Crossing site as requested by the City of Eau Claire on February 28, 2011, with the conditions that any applicable environmental or erosion control permits are obtained and related plans implemented as required by City of Eau Claire code and that no development should encroach upon the newly created steep slopes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kranig, and passed unanimously.

A second motion was made by Ms. Kincaid, seconded by Mr. Flaten, recommending that the MPO revisit the SSA Plan plan policies and process to clarify the definitions and circumstances which trigger Type IV amendments and to revise the review process, as needed, to address such circumstances. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

8. Ms. Schell distributed and reviewed the background and intent of the federal legislation giving MPOs the responsibility for selecting projects to be funded with STP-Urban dollars, as well as a set of ranking criteria for STP-Urban projects, showing revisions recommended by the TAC.

She noted that the intent of the legislation, in place since 1991, is to consider the urbanized area as a single entity and, therefore, that suballocation of the funds to individual municipalities is not allowed. In the review of the criteria, Ms. Schell noted that the TAC had recommended the elimination of criteria numbers 6 and 7. Number six, "Planned programming", was eliminated because of the lack of a "planning table" in the back of the TIP, as Ms. Schell was familiar with at other MPOs, and also because the "Plan Consistency" criterion already addresses the same intent. Number seven, "Availability of Funding", was eliminated to remove all suballocation considerations.

Ms. Schell stated that the intention is to use the criteria to rate projects that are submitted for this year's TIP process, and to make adjustments to the criteria as they are needed to make it work for the MPO. The MPO Council agreed to this set of criteria, as a starting point, for the prioritization of STP-Urban projects.

9. Ms. Schell noted that the HSR, Milwaukee-Twin Cities study process had down-selected to 4 alternatives. Two of the alternatives are LaCrosse routes, one including Madison and the other along the existing Amtrak route (not including Madison). The other two routes go through Eau Claire, again with one including service to Madison, and the other not including Madison.

On the Gateway alternative analysis, for transit services in the corridor between Eau Claire and the Twin Cities, Ms. Schell noted that there are now seven alternatives, with really two related to the MPO area. One of the two is for express bus service into Eau Claire, and the other is for commuter rail service along the UP line into Eau Claire. Mr. Amundson added that the last meeting of the study's technical committee had looked at station locations. He also added that the next round of public information meetings is to be held in late June. The Eau Claire meeting is scheduled for June 23, location TBA.

10. Ms. Kincaid nominated Mr. Kranig for the office of Chair of the MPO Council. Mr. Kranig accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations.
11. Mr. Kranig nominated Ms. Kincaid for the office of Vice Chair of the MPO Council. Ms. Kincaid accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations. In reference to both agenda items 10 and 11, Mr. Kranig moved to elect the nominees by unanimous ballot. The motion was seconded by Mr. Willkom, and passed unanimously.
12. There was no other business.
13. The next meeting of the MPO Council is scheduled for Wednesday, August 24th, same place and time.
14. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:40 p.m.