

AGENDA

Please Note Meeting Location

**Special Village Board Meeting
Monday, September 13, 2010**

6:00 P.M.

Village Hall
383 Park Street

**Police Department Building
Municipal Court Room**
Oregon, WI 53575

1. Call to order
2. Roll call
3. Discussion and Possible Action re: RTA Referendum (**Trustee Poole**)
 - a) Discussion of Estimated Referendum Costs (**Berman**)
 - b) Discussion of RTA Information
4. Discussion and Update of Village Board's September 8, 2010 Proposed TIF Assistance for Development of Hotel
5. The Village Board may adjourn into closed session from time to time during the course of the meeting pursuant to **Wis. Stat. sec. 19.85(1) (e) to discuss negotiations with hotel developer.**
6. The Board will reconvene into open session
7. Discussion and Possible Action re: Negotiations with Hotel Developer

8. Community Input. The Village Board has established an opportunity for the public to address the Board. In the event community members wish to address the Board, 15 minutes will be provided; otherwise the agenda will proceed as posted.
9. Discussion and Possible Action re: New Sewer Rates and Sewer Connection Fees (**Trustee Harms**) (Draft July 19th Village Board Minutes – Sewer Rate and Sewer Connection Fee Section Only)
10. Discussion and Possible Action re: Resolution #10-16 Election Workers Wage Change for Chief Inspector and Chief Inspector II
11. Discussion and Possible Action re: Authorizing Village President and Village Clerk to sign the Certificate of Indebtedness for Braun Road Phase II Project
12. Discussion and Possible Action re: Recommended Motion: Authorizing Finance Director to send a letter to Darrell Wild (Innovative Real Estate Services) notifying him that a lien will be put on his property as of November 15, 2010, if the outstanding balance of \$13,961.55 {as of September 10th} is not paid by November 1, 2010
13. Approval of Vouchers
14. Future Agenda Items
 - a) Schedule League of Wisconsin Municipalities Mutual Insurance Company's Viewing of DVD on Public Officials' Liability
 - b) October 18th Board meeting – Discussion of Village Board's possible financial support for THRIVE and Chamber of Commerce in the 2011 Budget
 - c) Development of liquor license policies by Board
 - d) October 18th Board Meeting- Decision regarding Braun Road State Trust Fund Loan and Parking Restrictions
15. Adjournment

Note: Any person who has a qualifying disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act that requires the meeting or materials at the meeting to be in an accessible location or format must contact the Village Clerk at (608) 835-3118, 117 Spring Street, Oregon, Wisconsin, at least twenty-four hours prior to the commencement of the meeting so that any necessary arrangements can be made to accommodate each request

**TRACEY K BERMAN
VILLAGE CLERK
VILLAGE OF OREGON
117 SPRING ST
OREGON, WI 53575
TEL. NO (608) 835-3118
FAX NO. (608) 835-6503**

MEMO

To: Village Board

FROM: Tracey Berman, Village Clerk *T.B.*

DATE: September 10, 2010

RE: Fall Referendum Cost Estimate Per Trustee David Donovan

The cost estimate attached is in response to David Donovan's question from the September 7, 2010 Village Board meeting.

- The first column breakdown shows if we are able to split the costs 50/50 for a local referendum with the Town of Oregon. If this were the case the referendum question needs to be identical to the town's question. Please Note: The attorney fee to draft the Type C Notice with the Town of Oregon may not be able to be shared. At the time of this memo was done the Town of Oregon did not get back to me regarding if they had a Type C Notice to share or not. If the Town is able to share their notice I am unsure of their attorney's fee (if any). I used our attorney's fee as a general estimate.
- The second column breakdown shows if we were to have a local referendum, but use a different question than the town.
- The third breakdown shows the costs without a local referendum. Please note there are other costs to the election. These are only the costs related directly to a local referendum.

The current election budget for 2010 is approximately \$23,500 and to date (9/10/10) approximately \$6,498.90 has been spent, however the September & November elections are projected to cost approximately \$ 17,000.00 without the referendum. I will be in attendance at the Special Village Board meeting on the 13th to answer any questions that you may have regarding the cost estimates.

Thank you.

Local Referendum Cost Estimates for November 2010 Election

Item	Cost if shared with the Town of Oregon	Cost w/o Town		Cost w/ NO
		Sharing	Local	
*Prom Pack Coding	\$900.00	\$900.00	\$ -	-
*Ballots	\$540.00	\$ 540.00	\$ -	-
Type A Notice - Publication	\$ 15.00	\$ 30.00	\$ -	-
Type B Notice - Publication	\$ 42.54	\$ 85.04	\$ -	-
Type C Notice - Publication	\$ 25.00	\$ 50.00	\$ -	-
Attorney Fee to Draft Type C Notice	\$ 200.00	\$ 400.00	\$ -	-
Type D Notice - Publication	\$ 9.71	\$ 9.71	\$ 9.71	9.71
Type E Notice - Publication	\$ 17.25	\$ 17.25	\$ 17.25	17.25
Total	\$1,749.50	\$2,032.00	\$ 26.96	

*2007 Observer Adv. Rates Used

*2007 Observer Adv. Rates Used

*Split 4 ways with V Brooklyn, T Oregon, & T Rutland

*Split 4 ways with V Brooklyn, T Oregon, & T Rutland

* Items Cannot be shared with Town

Michael Gracz

From: Tracey Berman
Sent: Friday, September 03, 2010 11:24 AM
To: Michael Gracz; Renee Hoeft
Subject: FW: November ballots

It looks like we in November we will have at least two referendum questions on the ballot. Just an FYI. We may want to share this with the Board on the 7th.

From: Ohlsen, Robert [mailto:Ohlsen@co.dane.wi.us]
Sent: Friday, September 03, 2010 11:21 AM
To: tgallagher@cityofmadison.com; amy@windsorwi.gov; avolkmann@town.verona.wi.us; tcpclerk@tds.net; alittle@charterinternet.com; sparrell@chorus.net; betty.duckert@grainger.com; banderson@townofwestport.org; townofburke@frontier.com; twnberry@chorus.net; vbrook@verizon.net; CHasslinger@town.dunn.wi.us; cheryl.sutter@mounthorebwi.info; board1@blmgrove.com; christine@windsorwi.gov; cheglund@charter.net; tsplclerk@spwl.net; cokie@shorewood-hills.org; cbushee@village.cottage-grove.wi.us; dhendrickson@charterinternet.com; info@town.middleton.wi.us; dgeo4177@aol.com; dawn.graham@mcfarland.wi.us; deb.neal@mcfarland.wi.us; dwinter@village.cottage-grove.wi.us; darnold@town.oregon.wi.us; bleecker@deerfieldwi.com; Dherrmann@CityofSunprairie.com; dschoor@villageofmaplebluff.com; helentobm@mhtc.net; act112@charter.net; katesterj@yahoo.com; jhanson@town.oregon.wi.us; jandrusz@ci.monona.wi.us; judy.masarik@ci.verona.wi.us; jhelt@vil.waunakee.wi.us; montrose@chorus.net; albion@milwpc.com; Peters, Karen; kathymartin.daneclerk@gmail.com; clerk@towncg.net; linda.cory@city.fitchburg.wi.us; tovtreas@centurytel.net; lmoen@ci.cambridge.wi.us; mccredie@deerfieldwi.com; townofburke2@frontier.com; lburns@ci.middleton.wi.us; lalme@ci.stoughton.wi.us; leggettl@vi.deforest.wi.us; marc@blackearthwisconsin.com; clerk@townofvermont.com; cttops@tds.net; twnmazo@gmail.com; MWitzel-Behl@cityofmadison.com; mrweiland@powerweb.net; maustin2@charterinternet.com; mlprice@mhtc.net; townofdunkirk@att.net; bgadmin@blmgrove.com; nbrattlie@twp.christiana.wi.us; villbluemounds@charter.net; normad@ci.cambridge.wi.us; rockdale5@frontier.com; pjkeach@charter.net; mhogan@ci.stoughton.wi.us; villageofdane@charter.net; rdopkins@hotmail.com; schwassr@town.madison.wi.us; bfpings@merr.com; pings@merr.com; rpulverm@execpc.com; swilke@charterinternet.com; bristolclerk@spwl.net; sludtke@town.middleton.wi.us; sswalheim@town.dunn.wi.us; sarahd@mhtc.net; skorth@marshall-wi.com; townhall@town.springfield.wi.us; Stephanie@blackearthwisconsin.com; sdietzen@villageofmazomanie.com; speck@marshall-wi.com; tina@windsorwi.gov; twilson@townofwestport.org; Tracey Berman; townofspringdale@mhtc.net; windon@chorus.net
Subject: write-in ballots

Diane Hermann-Brown asked if referenda questions should go on the write-in ballots. The answer from the GAB is yes, if you are sure the question will be on the ballot - we're talking November.

With that said, even though I believe MATC will have a question on the ballot, along with another County referendum question, those are not "for sure". The one county question that is for sure should be put on the ballot as follows:

"Should the Wisconsin Legislature enact legislation allowing residents with debilitating medical conditions to acquire and possess marijuana for medical purposes if supported by their physician?" yes/no

Thanks for checking, Diane

Bob

9/7/2010

3(b)

Michael Gracz

To: jmjense1@wisc.edu
Subject: RE: Info for the Board
Thanks

From: jmjense1@wisc.edu [mailto:jmjense1@wisc.edu]
Sent: Thursday, September 09, 2010 4:47 AM
To: Michael Gracz
Subject: Info for the Board

Hi Mike,
Here are a couple of websites to send to the Village Board members for more info on the RTA.
www.Transport2020.net and www.Thegreattrainrobbery.org *LINKS*

I will send more info as I receive it.

Jerry Jensen
Sent from my BlackBerry® wireless device from U.S. Cellular

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To: mgracz@vil.oregon.wi.us

Message Score: 10

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24. The Village should expand cultural and other non-sport recreational programs.

Response	Frequency	Percent	Mean: 3.35
Strongly Disagree	24	6.05	
Disagree	78	19.65	
Neutral	101	25.44	
Agree	143	36.02	
Strongly Agree	30	7.56	
No Opinion	21	5.29	

26. The Village should work with Fitchburg to expand bike/walking trails to connect with Madison's bike trail system.

Response	Frequency	Percent	Mean: 3.83
Strongly Disagree	26	6.50	
Disagree	37	9.25	
Neutral	53	13.25	
Agree	157	39.25	
Strongly Agree	118	29.50	
No Opinion	9	2.25	

28. The Village should work with the Town of Oregon to expand bike/walking trails to connect with the Badger State Trail.

Response	Frequency	Percent	Mean: 3.79
Strongly Disagree	22	5.50	
Disagree	40	10.00	
Neutral	70	17.50	
Agree	149	37.25	
Strongly Agree	108	27.00	
No Opinion	11	2.75	

30. If the Village joined the Regional Transit Authority (RTA), I would vote for the 1/2 cent sales tax required to bring RTA services to Oregon.

Response	Frequency	Percent	Mean: 2.83
Strongly Disagree	119	29.90	
Disagree	68	17.09	
Neutral	54	13.57	
Agree	94	23.62	
Strongly Agree	44	11.06	
No Opinion	19	4.77	

25. The Village should expand its bike/walking trails.

Response	Frequency	Percent	Mean: 3.60
Strongly Disagree	33	8.27	
Disagree	55	13.78	
Neutral	62	15.54	
Agree	149	37.34	
Strongly Agree	87	21.80	
No Opinion	13	3.26	

27. The Village should work to expand bike/walking trails to connect with bike trails in Brooklyn.

Response	Frequency	Percent	Mean: 3.69
Strongly Disagree	26	6.50	
Disagree	47	11.75	
Neutral	70	17.50	
Agree	151	37.75	
Strongly Agree	95	23.75	
No Opinion	11	2.75	

29. The Village should explore bringing commuter bus service to Oregon.

Response	Frequency	Percent	Mean: 3.28
Strongly Disagree	58	14.61	
Disagree	70	17.63	
Neutral	62	15.62	
Agree	134	33.75	
Strongly Agree	56	14.11	
No Opinion	17	4.28	

31. The Village should expend resources to support residents' use of plug-in hybrid vehicles.

Response	Frequency	Percent	Mean: 2.88
Strongly Disagree	78	19.55	
Disagree	96	24.06	
Neutral	97	24.31	
Agree	76	19.05	
Strongly Agree	28	7.02	
No Opinion	24	6.02	

Michael Gracz

To: Eric Poole
Subject: RE: Information on the RTA

Will do

From: Eric Poole [mailto:res0slyw@frontier.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 09, 2010 9:41 PM
To: Michael Gracz
Subject: Information on the RTA

Mike
Can you pass this on to the other Board members or put it in the packet for Mondays meeting.

Thanks Eric

http://www.transport2020.net/publications/newstarts/final/Final_New_Starts_Application.pdf

Here (above) is the link to the NEW STARTS Application that the Transport 2020 Committee submitted to Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) in D.C and the District Chicago Office in June of 2008. (It is huge 4 MB file. see the "work sheets" about 15, 20 pages in for costs of train cars, stations etc.

In Dec 2008 the FTA notified them that to maintain their place "in line" for the New Starts application they should withdraw the application, since they did not have a "stable funding source" and the application would not be approved and a new Application would go to the end of the 10 year line. They did withdraw without prejudice. That is why the Trains are tied to RTA and the attendant 1/2 per cent additional sales tax to fund it. (Ironically we all found out that sales taxes are NOT a "stable funding source")

The RES 152 (below) (and attached) passed by county board creating the RTA on Nov 6 at 1:37 am (In spite of more people speaking and registering against it) directs them to use "existing transit plans" to me that means TRAINS and the 7 million dollar 10 year Transport 2020 most comprehensive plan- NEW STARTS Application of 2008.

Excerpt from Dane County Board RES 152 Passed Nov,6 at 1:37 a.m. "Most developed existing Transit plans" in the opinion of Bill R. would be the NEW STARTS Application for Federal funds for commuter rail for Madison.

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To: mgracz@vil.oregon.wi.us [Remove](#) this sender from my allow list
From: res0slyw@frontier.com

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To be presented to Middleton Common Council 9/7/10 7:30pm
I am one of your constituents I (William Richardson) live at 2040 Allen Blvd. No 5, Middleton.

BACKGROUND: Three Resolutions were passed by the County Board of Supervisors over the last 3 years that call for Commuter rail for Dane County, a 1/2 cent sales tax increase to fund commuter rail and for a county-wide non binding referendum on these issues. (I emailed these to my Alder Mr. Wexler should you wish to read the full text)

Most of these were either co-authored, edited or authored by Supervisor Mark Opitz who is our Asst. City Planner and is now an appointed member of the RTA Board. Last month in a county committee the request for a countywide referendum on the tax increase to fund transit to include commuter rail was voted down. Dane County Board and the RTA Board have refused to add a simple referendum to the Nov. 2nd ballot.

They did manage to add a countywide referendum on "Medical Marijuana" on Nov. 2 that may effect 200 people in the county, in spite of the fact the county had no say over it -the State of Wis does.

PRESENT: Since that time, 20 municipalities have placed this referendum question on the Nov. 2, 2010 ballot and another 25 are considering it now. I ask you to support this next Tuesday as RES. 2010-32:

I note this council has voted in favor of the RTA twice, Aug. of 2008 and Feb 19 09 just 4 days before the middleton public voiced their more than 2-1 opposition to the RTA and commuter rail presentation by Transport 2020 in Feb of 2009. 59 against, 23 in favor (excluding elected officials who had already voted on it) You have had two chances to voice your opinion, we now ask we have that same opportunity.

I hope you agree that after more than three years it is time to give guidance to you and the unelected RTA Board as to what the public wants or does not want for the transit needs they will fund.

I point out also that the county board has not followed their own Resolutions about holding a referendum

Sub. 1 to RES. 185, 2007-08 (Opitz substitute to Martz RES.185)
[Full county Board Meeting Feb 7,2008] (Underlining, highlite added by WR)

AUTHORIZING COUNTYWIDE VOTE ON A DANE COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSIT

AUTHORITY

One plan to address Dane County's future transportation needs is the "Transport 2020 Plan," which calls for improvements to the region's transit system including a commuter rail system that runs from Middleton to the Town of Burke.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, upon enactment of state legislation providing counties with the authority to establish regional transit authorities, Dane County shall place an advisory referendum question on a scheduled countywide ballot within 12 months of passage to gauge support for a Dane County Regional Transportation Authority to provide a range of transportation options for the people of Dane County.

Enabling legislation passed legislature at 5:30 am on June 29, 2009, and signed by the Governor the same day.. April 6, 2010 would be 10 months after it became law. Nov 2, 2010 is beyond the 12month deadline- 16 months after passage of law. WR 9/4/10

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, if the state enacts legislation granting counties the authority to impose additional sales tax, and if Dane County approves an ordinance to enact such an additional sales tax, **that ordinance will be contingent upon approval by referendum.**

McDonnell Res. 152 2008-2009 to Establish an RTA Nov. 5, 2009

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes Dane County to become a member of the Dane County Regional Transit Authority, thereby creating the Dane County Regional Transit Authority pursuant to s.66.1039 (2) (b) of the Wisconsin Statutes; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the RTA develop language for a referendum** to be placed on the ballot in the areas within its jurisdiction to seek voter approval for the imposition of a sales tax to support transit, to be scheduled at a regular election in the RTA area; ,
Thank you for considering my request of support for RES. 2010-32.

1 *Bill R: This is the Resolution the county board passed at 01:37 hrs., 20-16 vote on Nov. 5/6,*
2 *2009*

3
4 **What: Establishing a Regional Transit Authority, Dane County Joint Committee Hearing Public**
5 **Works and Transportation and Personnel and Finance**

6 **When: Thursday, November 5, 2009 at 7:00 pm**

7 **Where: Room 201B City County Building 210 Martin Luther King Jr Dr. Madison**

8
9 **RES. 152, 2009-2010 (Chair, Scott McDonell's Resolution who is also chair of the T2020**
10 **committee)**

11
12 **AUTHORIZING DANE COUNTY MEMBERSHIP IN THE DANE COUNTY**
13 **REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY**

14
15 ***Bolded and blue font added by Bill Richardson on 11/02/09:update 3/5/10***

16 The Wisconsin Legislature passed 2009 Assembly Bill 75, the 2009-2010 state budget,
17 which was signed by Governor James Doyle with amendatory vetoes as 2009 Wisconsin
18 Act 28. The budget bill provides authority for Dane County to create a regional transit
19 authority. In the Budget bill so there were no hearings or public input- signed at 2.20
20 a.m. on May 1, 2009 The legislature passed it at 5:30 A.M on June 29.09 and the Gov
21 signed it the same day.

22 According to the statutory language, the Dane County regional transit authority, a public
23 body corporate and politic and **a separate governmental entity, (with taxing authority**
24 **that will never die, only grow)** is created if the Dane County Board of Supervisors
25 adopts a resolution authorizing the county to become a member of the authority. Page 1
26 Line 13 of RES 152 is missing **The law reads "Once created, this authority may**
27 **transact business and exercise any powers granted to it under this section"** (Added
28 back in at Nov5/6/09 Meeting) If Dane County adopts such a resolution, **any**
29 **municipality located in whole or in part within the Madison metropolitan planning**
30 **area on January 1, 2003, shall be a member of the authority. The cities below get no**
31 **choice in the matter- part of the counties-"we know what's best for you, no need for**
32 **messy discussions or referendum voting. Your job will be to be compliant and pay**
33 **for it" The communities who want out of the new RTA should move quickly (read p**
34 **294 of the Assembly bill 75 the "Withdrawal from [the RTA] Authority") before**
35 **they incur any debt. Otherwise, they have to buy their way out by paying their "fair**
36 **share" of whatever the new RTA board buys or bonds for- like Madison Metro or**
37 **you name it.**

38 The Madison metropolitan planning area is more commonly known as the Madison Area
39 Transportation Planning Board, the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization
40 (MPO) for the Madison Urban Area.

41 **The following municipalities are within the boundaries of the proposed RTA: Cities of**
42 **Madison, Middleton, Monona, Stoughton, Sun Prairie, Verona, Fitchburg; the Villages of Cottage**
43 **Grove, Maple Bluff, McFarland, Shorewood Hills, and Waunakee; and the Towns of Blooming**
44 **Grove, Burke, Madison, Middleton, Bristol, Cottage Grove, Dunkirk, Dunn, Pleasant Springs,**
45 **Rutland, Springfield, Sun Prairie, Verona, Westport, and Windsor.**

46
47 The powers and duties of the RTA are vested in its Board of Directors. Directors shall
48 be **appointed** for 4-year terms. *Appointed? The largest expenditure of funds in the*
49 *history of the county will be run by unelected,[qualified or unqualified?], appointed*
50 *political friends and "trainiacs".* A majority of the board of directors' full authorized

51 membership constitutes a quorum for the purpose of conducting the authority's business
52 and exercising its powers.

53 The Board of Directors of the Dane County RTA consists of the following members:

- 54 1. **Two** members from the Madison metropolitan planning area, **appointed** by the county
55 executive and approved by the county board.
- 56 2. **Two** members **appointed** by the mayor of the city of Madison and approved by
57 the common council.
- 58 3. **One** member **appointed** by the governor. *(At this point the "trainiacs" will have*
59 *a majority (5) can control the new RTA board and can push for commuter rail)*
- 60 4. **One** member from each city, other than the city of Madison, with a population of
61 more than 15,000 located in Dane County, **appointed** by the mayor of each such
62 city and approved by the common council. **(WR: Middleton Mayor Sonnentag**
63 **and city council supports an RTA. Mayor Chase of Sun Prairie asked to be**
64 **appointed to the RTA board at the Oct 26, 2009 joint committee meeting!)**
- 65 5. **One** member from a village within the jurisdictional area of the authority, or
66 from a city within the jurisdictional area of the authority other than a city from
67 which a member is **appointed** under 2 or 4 above, **appointed** by the Dane
68 County Cities and Villages Association. A member appointed under this
69 subdivision **may not serve more than one consecutive term.** Board
70 membership under this subdivision shall follow a rotating order of succession
71 and every village or city eligible to have a member appointed from that village or
72 city shall have such a member appointed before any village or city has an
73 opportunity to have another member appointed under this subdivision. **This is**
74 **the most likely appointee to be against new taxes, commuter rail for**
75 **Madison, hence they can only serve one term. By the time they learn the**
76 **ropes they are gone. Also according to Dane County Towns Assoc. President,**
77 **Jerry Derr, " The 53,000 residents of 16 Dane County towns will pay RTA**
78 **taxes. but they will have not even one vote on [(the RTA Board] which will**
79 **impose those taxes"** Wis. State Journal – (M) 9/14/09 Opinion Guest Column, "Towns
80 need say on RTA"

81 The statutes also authorize the RTA to impose a sales tax in the authority's jurisdictional area, by
82 adoption of a resolution by the Board of Directors. **There are also 16 other taxes listed in the**
83 **Budget bill that the RTA board and the cities within the RTA area could raise to pay for the**
84 **choo choos.**

85
86 ***This is the Resolution that will be discussed and likely voted upon on Nov. 5, 2009***

87 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors hereby
88 authorizes Dane County to become a member of the Dane County Regional Transit Authority,
89 thereby creating the Dane County Regional Transit Authority pursuant to s.66.1039 (2) (b) of the
90 Wisconsin Statutes; and **Once RES. 152 is passed the New RTA entity is a 'separate government**
91 **entity' that has all the powers granted to it in the Wis Assembly Bill 75 which was signed into law by**
92 **Gov. Doyle on June 29, 2009. The county board will no longer have any control over it once it is**
93 **established.**

94
95 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, by adoption of this resolution and creation of the Dane
96 County Regional Transit Authority, **all municipalities within the Madison metropolitan**
97 **planning area, except those exempted by statute, are hereby members of the regional transit**
98 **authority; and, You're in whether you want to or not.**

99
100 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that **appointing authorities are authorized to make**
101 **appointments as soon as possible (So the public will not know what hit them. Once the RTA**
102 **is "created" or established and the political friends of trains ("trainiacs") are appointed**
103 **they can raise taxes, while giving the county board members who voted for this outrage**

104 political cover - "It's the RTA Board, not us that is pushing the train and raising your taxes,
105 **nope, not us!"** to the Board of Directors of the Dane County Regional Transit Authority; and
106 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, after organizing and adopting by-laws, the RTA board shall
107 develop a transit plan in the areas under its jurisdiction, building **on existing transit plans** for the
108 area and shall consult with the State Department of Transportation on issues related to transit in
109 developing the plan; and **The most developed "existing" plan is the NEW STARTS**
110 **application to the Federal Transit Authority Chicago/D.C. from Transport 2020 (A.K.A.-**
111 **"the Trainiacs") build a Commuter Rail system for Madison. Initial application was pegged**
112 **at \$255 million with up to half coming from your federal dollars to kick start construction**
113 **over a 4 to 5 year time frame. My prediction: Their first order of business (after the sales**
114 **tax increase) will be to re-submit that application for your federal tax dollars to build a**
115 **train for Madison that few will use and more will watch screw up their own commuting by**
116 **car, truck, bicycle or on foot at the 58 (at present) new RR street crossings nearly 8,000**
117 **(about 7840, presently, 3/5/2010) times a day between 0600 and 11 p.m.. Add Bicycle and**
118 **Pedestrian RR Crossings = 9,040**
119

120 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the RTA develop language for a referendum to be placed
121 on the ballot in the areas within its jurisdiction to seek voter approval for the imposition of a sales
122 tax to support transit, to be scheduled at a regular election in the RTA area; and **My guess: The**
123 **RTA Board referendum would be, "Do you want more transportation (or Transit) choices**
124 **in Dane County?" Yes or No. It won't matter how it turns out as the RTA board and its**
125 **taxing and implementation authority are already in place BEFORE the referendum takes**
126 **place. A referendum after the RTA is established is a cruel, cynical impractical joke on the**
127 **public.**
128

129 **Also, since there is no mention or guidance in the state law about a referendum (the**
130 **Governor vetoed it) it is questionable that the RTA board has the legal standing to float a**
131 **referendum in just the MPO area. Shouldn't all these questions be resolved BEFORE you**
132 **establish a "separate government entity" that can collect taxes?**
133

134 **The County board can put up a county wide non binding advisory referendum on anything**
135 **they want. So, they could ask the entire county their opinion on the RTA, sales tax increase**
136 **and if they want trains or not. They could count for their purposes only those votes in the**
137 **MPO area - which is the RTA area also- and the non MPO area votes would simply be a**
138 **count of their voters checking in with their constituents to see where they stand. Always a**
139 **good idea!**
140

141 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor's
142 Office, and to each municipality within Dane County. **And won't they be surprised!**

143 **On Friday Dec 4,2009 (four year) Appointments made were:Falk: Kristine Euclide V.P**
144 **Gen Counsel MG&E, Dick Wagner, Fmr Cty Exec. Mayor Dave: Steve Hiniker Exec**
145 **Dir.200 friends of WIS., Susan Schmitz, Pres., Downtwn Mad Inc. Mayor Sonnentag: Mark**
146 **Optiz Asst City planner Middleton, Dist 26 Dane Super, Mayor Joe Chase (volunteered to**
147 **be on the board on Oct 26th! Donald A Esposito, V.P Land Acq. & Dev Veridian homes,**
148 **Mayor Jay Allen Fitchburg - Kimberly Warkentin State Dir. America Votes (Umbrella org**
149 **for Acorn, over a dozen leftwing organizations. Gov Doyle: Head of Wis Global Warming**
150 **initiative? Darrell Bazzall Dane County Cities & Villages Assoc. 2 year, non renewable only**
151 **and floating among all the communities rep is Tom Wilson, the only one who may actually**
152 **oppose commuter rail..**
153

154 Submitted by:

155 _____
156 (primary sponsor)

Michael Gracz

From: jmjense1@wisc.edu
Sent: Thursday, September 09, 2010 10:19 AM
To: Michael Gracz
Subject: Re: Info for the Board

Hi Mike,

The New Starts Application that was returned by US DOT is also available at www.Transport2020.net. The Board should know about this too.

The latest info is that Town of Rutland and the Village of Mt. Horeb are going to put the question on the ballot.

Jerry

Sent from my BlackBerry® wireless device from U.S. Cellular

From: Michael Gracz <MGracz@vil.oregon.wi.us>
Date: Thu, 09 Sep 2010 07:21:16 -0500
To: <jmjense1@wisc.edu>
Subject: RE: Info for the Board

Thanks

From: jmjense1@wisc.edu [mailto:jmjense1@wisc.edu]
Sent: Thursday, September 09, 2010 4:47 AM
To: Michael Gracz
Subject: Info for the Board

Hi Mike,
Here are a couple of websites to send to the Village Board members for more info on the RTA.
www.Transport2020.net and www.Thegreattrainrobbery.org

I will send more info as I receive it.

Jerry Jensen
Sent from my BlackBerry® wireless device from U.S. Cellular

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To: mgracz@vil.oregon.wi.us
From: srs0=i+dsfa=qn=wisc.edu=jmjense1@srs.bis.na.blackberry.com

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Michael Gracz

From: twilson [twilson@townofwestport.org]
Sent: Wednesday, September 08, 2010 1:58 PM
To: Michael Gracz
Subject: FW: RTA Plan for Transit Committee
Attachments: Transit-plan-principles.docx

Mike,

Attached is a transit plan principles document that the Plan for Transit committee has been working on. Not sure what else you may want but this is going to give you an idea about where the committee is going....

Thomas G. Wilson

Attorney/Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer
 Town of Westport (Dane County, WI)
 Population 3,819

5387 Mary Lake Road
 Waunakee, WI 53597
 twilson@townofwestport.org
www.townofwestport.org
<http://twitter.com/TownofWestport>
 (608) 849-4372
 (608) 849-9657 FAX

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From: Trowbridge, David [mailto:DTrowbridge@cityofmadison.com]
Sent: Friday, September 03, 2010 2:19 PM
To: Trowbridge, David; Angie Christensen (achristensen@veridianhomes.com); Darrel Bazzell (darrellbazzell@gmail.com); Debra Flynn (dflynn@townofwestport.org); Dick Wagner; Don Esposito; kimberly warkentin; KLee@mge.com; Klein, Chris; Kristine Euclide; Lisa Walters (lwalters@vc.wisc.edu); opitzmark@gmail.com; Steve Hiniker; Schmitz, Susan; Tom Wilson (twilson@townofwestport.org); apetlover@hotmail.com; Arnold Harris; Betty Chewing (bachewing@pharmacy.wisc.edu); Bill Dovi; Bill Richardson (wwrichar@sbcglobal.net); Blaska@wicounties.org; Bob Schaefer; Clark, Brad; Brenda Konkel; Brian Solomon (briansolomon@charter.net); burroak15@charter.net; bvedder@charter.net; carlos.pena@dot.gov; Caron Kloser; Caryl Terrell; chast0717@charter.net; Chris Klein (Chris.klein@dot.wi.gov); Chris Kopp (ckopp@hntb.com); Chuck Erickson (chuck@chuckerickson.com); Connie White; Dan Viste (dviste@chorus.net); Dawn Crim (dbcrim@chancellor.wisc.edu); Olson, Debbie; devos@ssc.wisc.edu; dnewton@greatermadisonchamber.com; dvorhees@charter.net; Fitchburg Public

9/8/2010

Meetings (trans@fitchburg.wi.us); forrestvs@charter.net; Gurdip Brar (gurdipbrar@hotmail.com); Hans T Noeldner (E-mail); 'Hoelker, Michael'; imageset@imagesetterinc.com; internet: delamate@ssc.wisc.edu; internet: dwight.mccomb@fhwa.dot.gov; internet: fcbartol@sbcglobal.net; internet: leanna.wall@dot.wi.gov; jay.allen@city.fitchburg.wi.us; jdavidoff@madison.com; Hoffman, Jeanne; Jerry Shadewald; Jesse the K; Jim Berkenstadt (travelinwilburys@yahoo.com); John Vesperman; joseph.olson@dot.wi.gov; JOYCE E. BROMLEY; Kamran Mesbah (kamranm@danecorpc.org); Karl Frantz; karl_schulte@unioncab.com; Karna Hanna (scdc@baraboo.com); Keith Plasterer (kplast@charter.net); klobdell@klengineering.com; klucht@wsorrailroad.com; Larson, Dan J.; Horvath, Linda; Veldran, Lisa; Luke Diaz; Olinger, Mark; Mark Shahan; Matt DeFour (mdefour@madison.com); matt@loganfamily.ws; Gay, Michael; Michael J. Lawton [mlawton@lathropclark.com]; Mike Heidenreich (azreal60@yahoo.com); Mike Roach (mikero9@charter.net); mmmbergamini@wisc.edu; mwrailroyce@yahoo.com; Noel Radomski; Nook & Cranny; Paul Munz (tricortransit@centurytel.net); Phil Hanegraaf; rebshar@chorus.net; rmw@oregon.k12.wi.us; Russell A Anderson; 'Sally J. Kefer'; Schmidt, Chris; Susan De Vos; syzygy1@charter.net; threinen@aol.com; tim wong; Tom Clauder (Thomas.Clauder@wisconsin.gov); Tom Fleming; Tony Smick (smick@wisc.edu); Violante; WILLIAM P ROWE; Ahnaray Bizjak (ahnaray.bizjak@city.fitchburg.wi.us); Gullickson, Ann; Murphy, Brad; Bruce Wilson; Kamp, Charles; McCormick, Dan; Dryer, David; Brasser, Dean; Diane Paoni (diane.paoni@dot.state.wi.us); Friedlander, Michael; internet: matana@mailbag.com; mcdonell; internet: rkennedy@fpm.wisc.edu; mandli; Kay, Lori; Margaret Brown (mbrown@downtownmadison.org); merritt; Waidelich, Michael; Patrick Kass (pkass@fpm.wisc.edu); Piraino, Janet; Rao, Arun - DOT; Phillips, Rob; rod.clark@dot.wi.gov; sandy.beaupre@dot.wi.gov; 'Steve.Arnold@Fitchburg.WI.US'; Strauch-Nelson, Rachel; Sobota, Tim; Schaefer, William

Subject: RTA Plan for Transit Committee

Please see attached, for your information - - meeting agenda for the RTA Plan for Transit Committee. The Committee will meet:

- Tuesday, September 7, 4:30 p.m., Room LL-110 Madison Municipal Building

Also attached is a revised Plan for Transit Principles document, for your review....

=====
 Agenda text below, for those with Word 97 - -

DANE COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY (RTA) BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Plan for Transit Committee

Tuesday, September 7, 2010
 4:30 p.m.

Madison Municipal Building, Room LL-110ⁱⁱ
 215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard
 Madison, WI

AGENDA

- (1) Call to Order/Roll Call
- (2) Public Comment ^[ii]
- (3) Review and Discussion of Plan for Transit Principles
- (4) Discussion of Committee Work
- (5) Adjournment

^[i] If you need an interpreter, materials in alternate formats, or other accommodations to access this service, activity or program, please contact the City of Madison, Planning Division at (608) 266-4635, TTY/TEXTNET (866) 704-2318. *Please do so at least 48 hours prior to the meeting so that the proper arrangements can be made.*

^[iii] This is an opportunity for the public to introduce and comment on issues for *future* Committee agendas; time of commentary is limited to three minutes per person.

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Plan Steps

1. Adopt Principles for Transit Plan
2. Create RTA Advisory Committee
3. Visit Communities in RTA region
(Note already Madison, Middleton, Fitchburg and Shorewood)
On the list

Monona
Sun Prairie
Stoughton
McFarland
Verona
Cottage Grove
Waunakee

4. Create Transit Service Models: maps and technologies
5. Create Financial Plan noting Economic Benefits
6. Draft and Schedule Referendum

Principles for Transit Plan (Draft for Discussion Sept 3, 2010)

Expand transit services in the current Madison metro service area, in order to provide a higher level of service in the core metropolitan area

Tasks include a review of Metro service areas and corridors to determine where service gaps exist and where higher frequencies could be supported.

Expand transit to a truly regional service using existing providers and selected new providers where needed.

Tasks include compiling lists of present providers and funding sources used by providers. Review present contracts of providers for inter-municipal services. Discuss issues of inter-service linkages and transfers. Sources likely to include MPO and providers.

Provide financially secure base for existing transit service and remove present transit costs from property tax being paid by citizens of Madison, Middleton, Fitchburg, Shorewood Hills, Town of Madison, Monona, Sun Prairie, Stoughton and Dane County (within RTA for elderly and specialized services).

Tasks include data from the MPO on present mix of funding and likely trends. Consideration of how to establish a baseline local funding that could be assumed by the RTA. Review how expansions of service will impact present funding splits and what adjusting factors may be appropriate. Sources likely to include MPO, Dane County, and providers.

Elements of regional service in the future will include express bus service from many parts of the region for prime commute times and may include Sun Prairie, Fitchburg, Stoughton, Middleton, Verona, Cottage Grove, Waunakee, and McFarland.

Tasks include visits with municipal transit commissions or review of survey instruments used by communities to envision express service. Discuss with Metro and UW-Madison on most likely routes for service to central destinations and drop off locations. Consider policies related to new express service, e.g. a multi-year commitment for service start up to build ridership. Develop cost estimates for service. Sources will include Metro ridership survey, communities survey and transit commissions and planners

Elements of regional service will include park and ride lots to access express routes and park and ride lots to access other mid-region locations for transit to reduce core congestion trips yet riders can chain errands with their overall trip.

Tasks include reviewing data from past DOT studies and discussions with Metro on how informal lots work at present. Consider locations that may be most probable and feasible. Develop cost estimates for a series of park and ride operations. Sources DOT and Metro ridership survey and other observations.

Elements of regional service will include improved elderly and specialized transit for the RTA area.

Task include requesting service and area improvements from those managing the present system. Review potential service improvements for priorities and develop cost estimates. Sources Dane County and Metro and communities.

Elements of regional service may include new types of service to be determined by the RTA like Bus Rapid Transit and Commuter Rail as analysis of their feasibility continues.

Task include reviewing data on impact of inter-city rail service on prior commuter rail modeling. Consider what a preliminary operating segment might be. Explore BRT corridor possibilities that will likely require further planning and cost development. Sources MPO and communities.

Elements of regional service will include a comprehensive fare system permitting differential rates and easy transfers across providers.

Tasks include gathering data on other systems use of newer technologies and what systems may be compatible with multiple local providers. Sources MPO and Metro.

Elements of regional service will include commitment to green technologies with expansion of bus service by hybrid vehicles, low sulphur options, and other green options as they are developed.

Tasks include gathering data on cost for better technologies and implementation strategies and preparing options for plan inclusion. Source Metro and other operators.

Elements of regional service may include as communities express interest in better intra-service connectivity like shared taxi service used by some communities (at present Stoughton and Sun Prairie) or local circulators combined with express service.

Task include a survey of community interest in such service and evaluating models and developing costs.

Elements of regional service will include participation in a multi-mode transit hub for the region to be developed to accommodate regular mainline bus

connections, express bus connections, and possibly BRT buses and commuter rail with inter city bus and rail service.

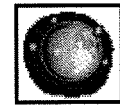
Tasks include monitoring ongoing plans by the state and city for intermodal station development and weighing options for regional service integration. Source city and state staff.

Elements of regional service will include new transit options for special events especially those at the Kohl Center and Camp Randall.

Task include reviewing service model used by Middleton for this type of service and considering what proposals may be most appropriate. Source Metro and UW Madison.



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As RTA plans emerge, more municipalities put transit tax referendums on ballot

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By MATTHEW DeFOUR | mdefour@madison.com | 608-252-6144 | Posted: Tuesday, August 17, 2010 8:11 pm | (15) Comments

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Related Stories

- Related: Draft principles for regional transit plan
- Related: Dane County clerk says RTA referendum is unlikely in November
- Related: Madison train station planners look to Milwaukee for inspiration

As the Dane County Regional Transit Authority begins to flesh out the details of its transit plan, more municipalities are putting a transit sales tax advisory referendum on their local fall ballot.

The RTA Board is unlikely to hold a referendum in November, so several municipalities are considering asking voters whether they support a half-cent sales tax for commuter rail. Sun Prairie, Cottage Grove, Waunakee and several towns have already voted to put the question on the fall ballot and others will be voting on the proposal in coming weeks.

The RTA Board has committed to holding a referendum before imposing a sales tax to fund its operations, so communities that vote this fall will likely vote again on the issue in a future election.

Tom Wilson, an RTA Board member and administrator of the town of Westport, which voted Monday to hold the referendum, said he doesn't see a problem with local communities weighing in on commuter rail now.

"If all the communities want to go ahead and have a referendum on commuter rail, they're certainly entitled to do that," Wilson said. "The more information we can get, the better."

But RTA Board Chairman Dick Wagner cautioned that interpreting the results of those votes could be complicated.

"It doesn't tell us whether they may support express bus," Wager said. "If they vote against it, does that mean they don't want any transit service?"

On Tuesday, Wagner introduced a 10-point "Principles for Transit Plan" that lays out the multiple modes of transit that the RTA may eventually finance in Madison and its suburbs.

Though much of the sales tax discussion has focused on commuter rail, Wagner's plan says regional service "may include" commuter rail, yet "will include" express bus service, park-and-ride lots, and specialized service for the disabled and elderly. He said the distinction was made because the commuter rail proposal remains in flux as a separate passenger rail connection to Milwaukee is developed.

The principles also include removing transit costs from local property tax rolls, using environmentally friendly technology and supporting a regional transit hub to connect both local and intercity buses and trains. A final transit plan will include more details, including how much each transit option will cost and how it will be financed.

"We really are looking at a whole series of elements for this transit plan," Wagner said.

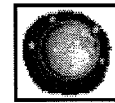
Posted in [Govt_and_politics](#) on *Tuesday, August 17, 2010 8:11 pm* Updated: 10:17 pm. Dane County Regional Transit Authority, Rta, Rta Board, Tom Wilson, Dick Wagner

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Draft principles for regional transit plan

- Story
- Discussion

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Dick Wagner | Posted: Tuesday, August 17, 2010 8:16 pm | 1 Comment

- 1 retweet

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RTA Board Chairman Dick Wagner drafted the following 10 points as a starting point for creating a regional transit plan. A final version will eventually include detailed financial information.

1. Expand Transit to a truly regional service using existing providers and selected new providers where needed.
2. Provide financially secure base for existing transit service and remove present transit costs from property tax being paid by citizens of Madison, Middleton, Fitchburg, Shorewood Hills, Town of Madison, Monona, Sun Prairie, Stoughton and Dane County (within RTA for elderly and specialized services).
3. Elements of regional service in the future will include express bus service from many parts of the region for prime commute times and may include Sun Prairie, Fitchburg, Stoughton, Middleton, Verona, Cottage Grove, Waunakee and McFarland.
4. Elements of regional service will include park and ride lots to access express routes and park and ride lots to access other mid-region locations for transit to reduce core congestion trips yet riders can chain errands with their overall trip.
5. Elements of regional service will include improved elderly and specialized transit for the RTA area.
6. Elements of regional service may include new types of service to be determined by the RTA like Bus Rapid Transit and Commuter Rail as analysis of their feasibility continues.

7. Elements of regional service will include a comprehensive fare system permitting differential rates and easy transfers across providers.
8. Elements of regional service will include commitment to green technologies with expansion of bus service by hybrid vehicles and other green options as they are developed.
9. Elements of regional service may include as communities express interest in better intra-service connectivity like shared taxi service used by some communities (at present Stoughton and Sun Prairie) or local circulators combined with express service.
10. Elements of regional service will include participation in a multi-mode transit hub for the region to be developed to accommodate regular mainline bus connections, express bus connections, and possibly BRT buses and commuter rail with inter city bus and rail service.

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SEARCH

Dane County's New RTA Holds First Meeting

Body Says Half-Cent Sales Tax Hike Must Come With Referendum

Updated: 11:32 am CST March 6, 2010

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MADISON, Wis. -- A historic meeting was held on Thursday to help shape the future of transportation in Dane County.

After years of debate, the Dane County Regional Transit Authority gathered for the first time in downtown Madison. The afternoon meeting was mainly an organizational meeting, but there was some business taken care of, WISC-TV reported.

The RTA members met and voted against implementing a half-cent sales tax increase to pay for a transportation plan until the public has approved of the idea by referendum. The RTA does have the authority to implement such a tax hike for county residents.

By and large, however, the meeting itself and not the agenda was the most noteworthy factor. The idea of a regional transit authority has been tossed around since the 1970s, but is now finally a reality. The body's purpose is to look big picture at how all transportation should be shaped and connected in the future in Dane County.



"We don't really have a regional system. We're not very well connected to Sun Prairie, which is not very well connected to Middleton. And even the far-flung areas within the boundaries of the RTA have transit issues," said RTA member Steve Hiniker.

The members will work together in the months and years ahead to come up with a comprehensive transit plan for the area. They won't all be following the same frontage as many have different ideas for the community's needs and how the different transportation gaps should be filled, WISC-TV reported.

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Several of those in attendance at Thursday's meeting said that they had hoped the RTA would set a date for a referendum, but it was decided that there was just too much to do and too many unknowns to implement a deadline of sorts.

The RTA is expected to meet again within the next few weeks.

Previous Stories:

- January 19, 2010: [Doyle Announces Bill To Create Transit Authority For SE Wisconsin](#)
- November 19, 2009: [Report Details State's Transportation Needs](#)
- November 7, 2009: [Questions Remain After RTA Passage](#)
- November 6, 2009: [Board Votes To Create RTA Board Without Referendum](#)
- September 8, 2009: [Doyle Proposes RTA For Southeastern Wisconsin](#)

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Michael Gracz

To: Eric Poole; 'Steve Staton'
Subject: RE: RTA

Eric, this will be on the September 7th agenda.

From: Eric Poole [mailto:res0slyw@frontier.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 26, 2010 5:49 PM
To: Steve Staton; Michael Gracz
Subject: RTA

Hi Mike and Steve

I was watching the news tonight and there was a report about the train from Middleton to Burke and how 6 or more towns or villages have put the question on the next ballot. I know we just talked about this at one of the last meeting and we said we would wait. I would like to have this on the next agenda so we can look at it again to see if we should put it on the ballot. In the report it was said that every town and village should do this to send a message to the county board to let them know we don't want the additional sales tax to help cover the cost that residents of Oregon will not get any use out of.

I have also had a few village residents call me telling me that they don't want this also.

Thanks

Eric

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No county rail tax referendum this fall

MATTHEW DeFOUR | 608-252-6144 | mdefour@madison.com | Posted: Tuesday, August 24, 2010 10:05 pm

The last chance for a countywide commuter rail sales tax referendum in November died in committee Tuesday despite calls from rail opponents to let the public be heard.

About 30 people spoke at the County Board's Public Works and Transportation Committee meeting, all of them supporting a proposal to ask voters whether they supported a half-cent sales tax for commuter rail between Middleton and the town of Burke.

Expressing a common criticism, Colleen Curtin, a single mother from Madison's West Side, said she wouldn't take the commuter train to work in McFarland because it would be too difficult to pick up her child from daycare. She said it felt like the \$250 million commuter rail proposal was being "shoved down our throats."

"We feel hopeless, that we have no voice," Curtin said. "And you guys are demonstrating that even more by pushing off this referendum."

The committee's 2-2 vote prevented the resolution from advancing to the County Board. Committee chairman Sup. Matt Veldran, of Madison, said the Regional Transit Authority is working on a transit plan that must be completed before a vote can be taken.

"I fully believe there will be a vote," Veldran said. "I understand the frustration, but I believe the RTA is what I approved and I would like them to come up with a complete question."

But some communities aren't willing to wait. Verona, Stoughton, Cambridge and Cross Plains this week joined Sun Prairie, Cottage Grove, Waunakee and a handful of towns in putting the sales tax referendum on the ballot. Those communities represent about 22 percent of the county's population. Others, including Madison and Fitchburg, don't plan to put the referendum on the fall ballot.

"It's the wrong question," Madison Mayor Dave Cieslewicz said. "It's set up by the opponents of the RTA and it's an unfair question because the RTA is a lot more than commuter rail."

Cieslewicz had been pushing the RTA to hold a referendum in November but acknowledged Tuesday that appears unlikely. He said he supports the RTA holding a referendum in April when he is up for re-election. "I'm supportive of getting it started as quickly as we can."

Michael Gracz

From: Kim Banigan [clerk@towncg.net]
Sent: Wednesday, August 11, 2010 10:08 AM
To: Ohlsen, Robert
Cc: tgallagher@cityofmadison.com; amy@windsorwi.gov; avolkmann@town.verona.wi.us; tcpclerk@tds.net; alittle@charterinternet.com; sparrell@chorus.net; betty.duckert@grainger.com; banderson@townofwestport.org; townofburke@frontier.com; twnberry@chorus.net; vbrook@verizon.net; CHasslinger@town.dunn.wi.us; cheryl.sutter@mounthorebwi.info; board1@blmgrove.com; chegglund@charter.net; tspclerk@spwl.net; cokie@shorewood-hills.org; cbushee@village.cottage-grove.wi.us; dhendrickson@charterinternet.com; info@town.middleton.wi.us; dgeo4177@aol.com; dawn.graham@mcfarland.wi.us; deb.neal@mcfarland.wi.us; dwinter@village.cottage-grove.wi.us; darnold@town.oregon.wi.us; bleecker@deerfieldwi.com; Dhermann@CityofSunprairie.com; dschoor@villageofmaplebluff.com; helentobm@mhtc.net; act112@charter.net; katesterj@yahoo.com; jhanson@town.oregon.wi.us; jandrusz@ci.monona.wi.us; judy.masarik@ci.verona.wi.us; jhelt@vil.waunakee.wi.us; montrose@chorus.net; albion@milwpc.com; Peters, Karen; kathymartin.daneclerk@gmail.com; linda.cory@city.fitchburg.wi.us; tovtreas@centurytel.net; lmoen@ci.cambridge.wi.us; mcredie@deerfieldwi.com; townofburke2@frontier.com; lburns@ci.middleton.wi.us; lalme@ci.stoughton.wi.us; leggett@vi.deforest.wi.us; marc@blackearthwisconsin.com; clerk@townofvermont.com; cttops@tds.net; twnmazo@gmail.com; MWitzel-Behl@cityofmadison.com; mrweiland@powerweb.net; maustin2@charterinternet.com; mlprice@mhtc.net; townofdunkirk@att.net; bgadmin@blmgrove.com; nbrattlie@twp.christiana.wi.us; villbluemounds@charter.net; normad@ci.cambridge.wi.us; pat.anderson@ci.verona.wi.us; rockdale5@frontier.com; pjkeach@charter.net; mhogan@ci.stoughton.wi.us; villageofdane@charter.net; rdopkins@hotmail.com; schwassr@town.madison.wi.us; bfpings@merr.com; pings@merr.com; rpulverm@execpc.com; swilke@charterinternet.com; bristolclerk@spwl.net; sludtke@town.middleton.wi.us; sswalheim@town.dunn.wi.us; sarahd@mhtc.net; skorth@marshall-wi.com; townhall@town.springfield.wi.us; Stephanie@blackearthwisconsin.com; sdietzen@villageofmazomanie.com; speck@marshall-wi.com; tina@windsorwi.gov; twilson@townofwestport.org; Tracey Berman; townofspringdale@mhtc.net; windon@chorus.net
Subject: Re: Notices re: referendum
Attachments: Resolution 2010-__ Requiring referendum for RTA.doc



Resolution 2010-__
Requiring r...

To clerks of municipalities having the RTA referendum:

I checked with the GAB and they said it was perfectly fine, and in fact encouraged, for us to combine notices if we are going to be publishing the exact same thing. I have attached the resolution that I expect the Cottage Grove Town Board to adopt on September 7th. Since we all had a common source for this resolution, I imagine we all have the same resolutions and questions, with the only difference being the name of the municipality. As long as we have identical resolutions and share an official newspaper, I would think it would be much more economical and also less confusing for voters if would combine notices. The Town of Cottage Grove uses the Wisconsin State Journal. If anyone wants to combine notices, let me know.

Kim Banigan
Clerk, Town of Cottage Grove
4058 County Road N
Cottage Grove, WI 53527
PH: 608-839-5021
FAX: 608-839-4432
www.tn.cottagegrove.wi.gov

TOWN OF COTTAGE GROVE
TOWN BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 2010-__

REQUIRING A REFERENDUM ON THE LEVYING OF
A SALES TAX TO FUND COMMUTER RAIL

The 2009-10 Executive Budget Act, signed on June 29, 2009, provided that the Dane County Board of Supervisors could establish a Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) for certain areas in Dane County, and that additional areas can voluntarily attach themselves to such RTA in the future. Further, the Budget Act provided that the Board of the RTA may levy a 0.5% sales tax within the jurisdictional area of the RTA. The Board of Supervisors subsequently established the RTA in 2009. The Budget Act does not require that a referendum be held on the sales tax issue. The RTA has not yet scheduled a referendum on the sales tax, but the November 2010 general election is approaching, and this election, with its large voter turnout, is the most appropriate time for a referendum on the sales tax to be held. Given that neither the RTA nor the Dane County Board has acted to schedule a referendum in November 2010, it is appropriate that a referendum be held at the local level to give residents an opportunity to voice their opinion on this important question.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Board of the Town of Cottage Grove that the following advisory referendum question be placed on ballot in such Town at the November 2, 2010 General Election:

“Shall commuter rail from Middleton to the Town of Burke be funded by up to a half-cent (0.5%) increase in the sales tax?”

Yes _____ No _____

Explanation of the advisory referendum question: A “yes” vote on the advisory referendum question means that you support an increase in the sales tax from the current 5.5% sales tax to a 6.0% sales tax, with the 0.5% increase in the sales tax to be used to provide funding for a commuter rail line from downtown Middleton, through the City of Madison, to a location near the intersection of Reiner and Nelson Roads in the Town of Burke. A “no” vote on the advisory referendum question means that you oppose an increase in the sales tax of 0.5% for commuter rail from Middleton to the Town of Burke.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Town Board of the Town of Cottage Grove that the Clerk shall take all necessary steps to implement this resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Town Board of the Town of Cottage Grove that the Clerk shall communicate the results of such referendum to the following: the RTA, the Dane County Executive and County Board Chairman, the Governor and our representatives in the Legislature, our representatives in the United States Senate and House of Representatives and the Administrator of the Federal Transit Administration.

This resolution was duly considered and adopted by the Cottage Grove Town Board pursuant to a vote of ____ for and ____ against and ____ abstentions on this ____ day of _____, 2010.

Kris Hampton, Town Chair

Kim Banigan, Town Clerk

3(b)

**DRAFT MINUTES
DANE COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY (RTA)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Wednesday, August 25, 2010
5:00 p.m.**

**Shorewood Hills Village Hall, Board Room (Lower Level)
810 Shorewood Boulevard
Village of Shorewood Hills**

Minutes

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Darrell Bazzell; Donald Esposito; Kristine Euclide; Steve Hiniker; Mark Opitz; Susan Schmitz; Dick Wagner; Tom Wilson.

Members Absent: Kimberly Warkentin (excused).

1. CALL TO ORDER

The August 25, 2010 meeting of the RTA Board of Directors was called to order at 5:04 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JULY 14, 2010 RTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Board members Tom Wilson/Susan Schmitz moved to approve the minutes from the July 14, 2010 RTA Board of Directors meeting. The motion was passed unanimously.

3. REPORT FROM STAFF AND BOARD MEMBERS

i. Bylaws and Agreements Committee Work

Mr. Wilson presented on the Bylaws and Agreements Committee work. The group has drafted bylaws for the Board to review and approve. The finalized version was emailed prior to the cancelled June meeting and was presented in July, but a previous version was emailed with the agenda for today's meeting. Mr. Wilson has brought the finalized version with him. The group has been examining contracts utilized by various transportation bodies. The group has also put together a revised version of the committee scope to be reviewed and approved by the Board.

Amendments include the title of the committee, which has been revised to read “Bylaws, Policies and Contracts Committee” to reflect duties that have been assigned to the group from Mr. Wagner. The group has also drafted a work plan with deadlines. This has been transmitted to the group. The group would like to meet with transportation agencies to discuss contracts.

Mr. Wagner stated that the revised scope will be acted upon next month.

ii. Plan for Transit Committee Work

Mr. Hiniker has examined/established a list of principles drafted by Mr. Wagner including: expanded transit to a truly regional service using existing providers and selected new providers where needed; providing financially secure base for existing transit service and removal of present costs from property tax being paid by citizens; Bus rapid transit service; Park and ride lots; Improved elderly and specialized transit; New types of transit; A comprehensive fare system; Green technologies; intra-service connectivity such as shared-ride taxi service; and participation in a multi-modal transit hub for the region.

The group is still working on establishing a consistent schedule and is fleshing out the details of the principles.

Mr. Bazzell requested a fiscal ledger of the implementation of the principles. A plan has been drafted for implementation.

iii. RTA Advisory Committee Update

Mr. Wagner has been discussing the details of this committee with Ms. Warkentin. The group will be updated next month.

iv. Report of RTA Chair

Mr. Wagner talked to Bob Ohlsen, the Dane County Clerk. The voter database is still being programmed. Mr. Ohlsen has stated that April is possible for the referendum if that would be our choice.

The Department of Revenue contacted Mr. Wagner. The way that sales tax is assessed for certain services requires a 9 digit postal code for areas that are not entirely within the RTA boundaries. With a GPS system it may be possible to uncover these codes.

Some communities are creating referendums and one Mr. Wagner to discuss issues with him.

4. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

i. Update of High Speed Passenger Rail Planning Activities Wisconsin Department of Transportation)

Mr. Paul Trombino (WisDOT): The group has been meeting in Sun Prairie to discuss corridor

issues. Two parts of the overall state grant of \$810 million have been approved for release by the FRA. Station design issues are currently being examined through a public process. The Watertown design process is well underway. The group is disseminating information to these communities. There is a public information meeting coming up on Tuesday August 31 at the Department of Administration building, 101 E. Wilson St, from 4:30 to 7:30 pm. More complete renderings will be presented at this meeting and public input will be received. A website has been created: <http://www.wisconsinrail.gov>. The information presented at public meetings is available at this website as well as future meeting dates. Final design and engineering plans will be completed in the near future. Construction will begin within the next few months on the land bridges portion of the right-of-way.

Ms. Euclide asked about the possibility of the station not precluding the possibility for commuter rail in the future as well as accommodating multimodality. WisDOT is aware of the RTA resolution and has been preserving the elements currently in place that would support future commuter rail options. The station is also being planned as a multi-modal transportation center. There is a capacity study and analysis currently being executed. An environmental document is also being drafted for the station (and all stations in the corridor). WisDOT must address both safety and capacity issues. The FRA requires that the infrastructure can accommodate future capacity increases.

ii. Update on Referendum efforts

Mr. Wagner talked to the county clerk, and learned that there are about a dozen referendums, some potentially outside the RTA boundaries. These referendums are not binding in any way. Cross Plains, Middleton, Burke, Sun Prairie, Waunakee, Westport, Springfield have all voted to have a referendum this fall.

iii. Overview of Shorewood Hills Comprehensive Plan (Transportation Chapter)

Ben Zellers (with Vierbicher Associates, working with Shorewood Hills to draft the plan) presented transportation aspects of the Shorewood Comprehensive Plan and outlined plans for the University Avenue corridor.

The Shorewood comprehensive plan was adopted on December 15, 2009. Shorewood has a very low rate of single-rider commute trips. There is a high rate of public transportation use and carpooling and other transportation methods in Shorewood. The majority of village residents work in the city of Madison.

-Goal: Support and accommodate multiple modes of transportation. Objectives: Increase transit ridership and other modes of transportation.

-Policy: Require any new developments be "transit-ready" by incorporating elements of transit oriented development. Recommendation: support development of commuter rail.

-A bike path could be developed at Doctor's Park/Marshall Court funded with the assistance of the TID in Shorewood. Intersection improvements are planned for the Eastern end of this area and are being considered for the Western end (by University Bay Dr.) Marshall Court improvements are also being implemented with the first step completed in the 800 block of Marshall Court. There are plans to redevelop the AT&T

Plaza as well.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT (*Note: Three Minutes Maximum per Person*)¹

Bob Schaefer: Commends the Board for the drafted Bylaws that include a binding resolution. He questions whether if the referendum came back as a failure the positioning of the Board. In observation he states that he would like to attend committee meetings but that his work schedule does not work with the scheduled subcommittee dates and requests that these meetings be rescheduled so that a broader feedback base can be established. He asks that a mixture of opinions be represented at these committees. He recommends as part of the referendum positive aspects of commuter rail be presented as well as quality of life aspects. Safety factors including the potential for children playing in the corridor, students and transients, need to be weighed.

Caryl Terrell (Sierra Club): Thanks the RTA Board for their public service in lieu of a current budget. She requests that the group find a host for minutes and meeting announcements and materials. There seems to be a glitch on the listservs. She has been dropped from the list announcing dates and times and knows of others that have been as well. She recommends the MPO assist with information on the RTA. Her RTA committee within the Sierra Club has been working with other transit groups in the state and says that recurring issues include the importance of a multi-modal hub and thought given to other transit choices as part of a comprehensive system. Ms. Terrell states that ADA accessibility and user accommodation are vital.

Royce Williams (MPO Citizen's Advisory Committee): Would like to reinforce what he has discussed in the past- that it is urgent to secure a source of funding. He recommends a .25% sales tax, or smaller, to secure staffing required for planning efforts. Mr. Williams is surprised that the (MPO?) transit plan is not being discussed more frequently.

Hans Noeldner: Would like to offer a perspective on transportation choices. He biked to today's meeting from Oregon and says that most would not choose to do this for safety reasons. He expressed his wishes for reduced car travel in general.

Libby Lewis (Shorewood resident): Welcomes alternative transportation options, especially including rail. Her son has drafted a document on cost implications of a multi modal system, she would like this to be sent to the group.

City of Fitchburg Mayor Jay Allen: Wishes to address concerns regarding terms of officers. He states that it may make sense to change the terms of officers. Originally there was a one-year term for officers, he says that the Board may want to change this to two years. He states that he is willing to assist with the staffing for planning efforts

Luke Diaz: Thanks the Board for all of their hard work. He urges the Board to work with all possible speed to establish a solid transit plan.

Mike Thompson: Thanks the group for the lack of derogatory remarks regarding the various planned referendums. States that the Board and all involved are serving the public and that he is glad to hear

positive remarks. He says that it is vital that environmental studies take place. He would like to ensure that there is no increased pollution and that he would like to see a study done to ensure that there will not be.

Supervisor Al Matano: Would like to see a fall referendum based upon the findings of the Transport 2020 report. The findings of the Transport 2020 commission were to be implemented by the RTA.

6. DISCUSSION AND ACTION BY RTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

i. Adoption of RTA Bylaws

Mr. Wilson explained that documents from other entities were used to draft the bylaws for the RTA. He explained that comments on these bylaws include the question of the length of officer's term- the one year term was selected by the committee so that new members could be elected at the annual meeting, and that consideration would be given to turnover on an annual basis and that two years seemed to make sense for the term of an officer. Mr. Esposito addressed this issue as well. He stated that when looking at other organizations the term limit of officers is typically mandated by the Bylaws. Mr. Hiniker proposed the amendment that the two year term limit be removed. Mr. Esposito stated that this simply was not the recommendation of the Bylaws committee. Ms. Euclide stated that based upon her experience it seems to be best not to limit the body/organization. If someone is doing a great job and would like to continue working with the Board, there is no reason to restrict them. Mr. Wagner states that this has been a recurring question/comment. Another recurring concern is that of committees- question of who would/could appoint members. The group discussed the possibility of listing the committees within the bylaws- he stated that the section was left brief because there is a section in Roberts' rules addressing this and that leaving the section with the thin description would help to reduce the possibility that the bylaws would need to be amended in the future. Mr. Wilson's final comment on the document was that the question of approval date and method was left to the RTA Board by the committee as well.

Mr. Opitz commented that it was ironic that there is mention of a Public Hearing within the bylaws as a requirement for amendment, and yet there is no public hearing on the adoption of the Bylaws themselves. He also questions the Revenue Sources section: "Increasing" to "Changing" on fare costs. Mr. Wilson replied that this is the language from the statute and that that is the rationale for leaving in the terminology. The TPC holds hearings when there are any fare changes- so Mr. Opitz proposes that we change this terminology despite the language of the statute. His other question is regarding page 3 under voting whether the vote of the majority of Board when there is quorum that votes would pass on 3-2 votes. Mr. Wilson replied that yes, this is what the phrase entails.

Mr. Wilson motioned, for discussion purposes "Motioned to approve the Bylaws as drafted on July 13 with two changes- Article 5 1 B "prior to imposing or changing any fare for services" and at Article III section 1 page 3 "second sentence ends at shall serve a term of one year, and deleting the rest of the provision." Susan Schmitz seconded this motion. Ms. Euclide clarified for the group that this document is numbered 0825101509 at the bottom of the page. Mr. Wilson stated that he is not opposed to adopting this document this evening. He says that were this document to be amended it must be done so with a public hearing. It is his hope that there would

be a public hearing. Mr. Wagner responded that there is no definition of a public hearing for this body. Other minor typos: Page 3; Section 7 B- \$1,000,000.00 and a space between V and I. The motion was passed unanimously.

ii. Discussion of Transit Plan Elements

Mr. Wagner placed this item on the agenda to be left open for discussion. Mr. Wilson discussed the third item and stated that the following phrase should be added at the end of the item: "This will in turn serve surrounding area towns" As an example, bus service that would serve Waunakee would serve Westport as well.

Ms Euclide mentioned that the phrase "but not limited to" should be added to emphasize the above point.

Mr. Wagner also mentioned that some comments made by Ms. Euclide would also be integrated into this plan- that services for special events would also be examined. (Kohl Center events, etc.)

Mr. Wilson mentioned that the Shared Taxi service mentioned in this document is in fact called "Shared Ride Taxi service"

Mr. Wilson asked whether consideration was ever given to the concept of the RTA as the implementation force behind the Transport 2020 findings. Mr. Hiniker responded that Transport 2020 will be utilized/imported into the plan going forward.

David Trowbridge replied that with HSR service levels have been altered and so Transport 2020 efforts/findings must be altered. The city is working on making these changes. The Feds were going to pay a fraction of costs for much of the corridor and with HSR the Feds will now be paying 100% for approximately half the corridor. Ms. Euclide echoed this sentiment and added that because the Feds were funding the plan, certain areas of focus emerged; whereas the RTA has a broader focus in creating a truly regional transit plan. Limitations were also placed on the studies done within the Transport 2020 framework- for instance, the ridership projections could not include special events.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Board members Mark Opitz/Susan Schmitz motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was passed unanimously.

The August 25, 2010 meeting of the RTA Board of Directors was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Future Dates:

September 22: TBD

October 27th: TBD, Potentially Sun Prairie

Potential topics/presentations: Presentation by the UW, next month. Mr. Bazzell will make these plans