

**SAINT CLOUD AREA PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEETING  
Thursday, Aug. 26, 2021 @ 10 a.m.**

A meeting of the Saint Cloud Area Planning Organization's (APO) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was held at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 26, 2021. Senior Transportation Planner Vicki Johnson presided with the following members:

Michael Kedrowski	Saint Cloud Metro Bus
Tom Cruikshank	MnDOT District 3
Matt Glaseman	City of Saint Cloud
Chris Byrd	Benton County
Randy Sabert	City of Saint Joseph
Scott Saeher	City of Sartell
Vicki Johnson	APO, Senior Planner
Brian Gibson	APO, Executive Director
Jon Norenberg	City of Waite Park
Fred Sandal	APO, Associate Planner
<u>Zoom Attendees:</u>	
Alex McKenzie	APO, Planning Technician
Amber Blattner	APO, Administrative Assistant
Jeff Lenz	MnDOT District 3
Jodi Teich	Stearns County
Anna Pierce	MnDOT
Bobbi Retzlaff	FHWA
Tammy Buttweiler	ConnectAbility
Cheryl Malikowski	City of Saint Cloud
Voni Vegar	MnDOT, OTAT

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

No Members of the Public were present.

**Consideration of Consent Agenda Items**

**Ms. Saeher made a motion to approve Consent Agenda Items. Mr. Glaseman seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

**Consideration of draft FY 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program**

Ms. Johnson summarized the TIP public outreach results. APO staff released the document on July 14, 2021. Public comment concluded on Aug. 13, 2021. APO staff received 27 responses to the 11 online surveys. APO staff will bring the final draft version of the APO's 2022- 2025 TIP for final approval to the Policy Board. Once approved, APO staff will submit the final version to MnDOT to be incorporated into the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). From there, the STIP will need to be approved by Federal Highway and Federal Transit Administrations.

**Mr. Glaseman made a motion to approve the 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mr. Byrd seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

### **Consideration of FY 2023-2026 Highway Safety Improvement Program**

Ms. Johnson reported that last Friday APO staff was notified by the Office of Traffic Engineering that there are going to be changes to the way the solicitation is handled. MnDOT would like MPOs to have more of a role in this process and request that the MPOs receive the application prior to submittal deadline, Nov. 24. After reaching out to the county engineers Ms. Johnson found that Stearns and Sherburne County are interested in submitting a project. Benton County is not interested this year.

With this information, APO staff have come up with two possible solutions to address the need to prioritize HSIP projects: APO staff would internally rank and prioritize all HSIP projects that fall within the planning boundaries or APO staff would call another meeting of the TAC and Policy Board to review the submitted projects and finalize a ranking/prioritization. Ms. Pierce clarified that this is the how the process has always been intended to go but is now finally being enforced. Mr. Byrd asked if this process bundles things together or if applications can be split up. Ms. Pierce replied that you will be able to bundle countywide, but it would be beneficial to apply separately because you can lose out on funding if you don't separate it. Mr. Gibson notes a third option would be to rank all projects the same, just for this year. Mr. Glaseman likes option two. Ms. Teich is curious if the APO is provided ranking guidelines. Ms. Johnson said as of right now there is no guidance. Going forward for 2022 Ms. Johnson would like to design a process for ranking. Ms. Teich asked if it would be worthwhile to push this process out further instead of rushing applications. Ms. Johnson said all applications would need to be submitted to APO by Sept. 20. Ms. Teich said her project is a county road safety project is proactive and is wondering if the other submitted project is similar, then they can be ranked equal. Ms. Pierce clarified that OTE would do their selection process, but it is still unclear this year because we are trying to correct mistakes from the past. Ms. Johnson asked when they would like TAC and the Policy Board to meet. Ms. Teich said she would make due with whatever date is decided.

**Mr. Byrd motioned to have a September TAC meeting and an October Policy Board meeting to discuss consideration of FY 2023-2026 Highway Safety Improvement Program projects. Mr. Glaseman seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

### **Discussion of Active Transportation Plan jurisdictional and regional profiles**

Mr. Sandal summarized the Active Transportation Plan (ATP) including the revised draft of Chapter 4 of the regional ATP and the active transportation profiles for Sauk Rapids, Sartell, Saint Joseph, Waite Park, and Saint Cloud. This material was reviewed and discussed with the Active Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC) at their meeting on Aug. 11, 2021. The completed ATP draft will be brought to the TAC and Policy Board for action when they meet in February and March. Once approved, the document will be released for public comment. May- June 2022 will be the final review and adoption of the ATP. There were no comments on the presentation and Mr. Sandal will present this at the September Policy Board meeting.

### **Discussion of the FY 2026 Solicitation Cycle:**

Ms. Johnson summarized the solicitation dates and information for the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP), Transportation Alternatives (TA), Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP), Local Partnership Program (LPP), and Safe Routes to School (SRTS). Mr. Lenz confirms the TA workshops will probably be held Microsoft Teams.

**Other Business and Announcements**

Ms. Johnson announced the MTP vision process is ongoing and wrapping up on Sept. 10. The regional household travel survey tool will soon be made available for testing and will be shared with the board and TAC members. Ms. Johnson will send out the annual listing of obligated projects mid-September to get project updates.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.