

**SAINT CLOUD AREA PLANNING ORGANIZATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEETING**

***Thursday, July 28, 2022 @ 10:18 a.m.***

A meeting of the Saint Cloud Area Planning Organization’s (APO) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was held at 10:18 a.m. on Thursday, July 28, 2022. Senior Transportation Planner Vicki Johnson presided with the following people in attendance:

In-Person TAC Members:

Michael Kedrowski	Saint Cloud Metro Bus
Mark Loidolt	Benton County
Jon Noerenberg	City of Waite Park
Jodi Teich	Stearns County
Andrew Witter	Sherburne County
Todd Schultz	City of Sauk Rapids
April Ryan	City of Sartell
Matt Glaesman	City of Saint Cloud
Matt Staehling	City of Saint Cloud
Nate Keller	City of Saint Joseph

Non-Member In-Person Attendees:

Vicki Johnson	APO, Senior Planner
Brian Gibson	APO, Executive Director
Alex McKenzie	APO, Associate Planner
James Stapfer	APO, Planning Technician
Mike Ginnaty	MnDOT District 3
Philip Schaffner	MnDOT

Zoom Attendees

Anna Pierce	MnDOT
Colin Korst	FTA
Angie Tomovic	MnDOT District 3

Introductions were made.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

No members of the public were present.

**CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Approve minutes of May 26, 2022, TAC meeting
- b. Receive staff report of June 9, 2022, Policy Board meeting
- c. Receive staff report of June 16, 2022, Central Minnesota Area Transportation Partnership (ATP-3) meeting

***Ms. Teich made a motion to approve the consent agenda items. Mr.***

***Witter seconded the motion. Motion carried.***

## **PRESENTATION OF THE MINNESOTA STATE HIGHWAY INVESTMENT PLAN 2023-2042**

Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) Statewide Planning Program Director Philip Schaffner provided a presentation on the 20-Year State Highway Investment Plan (MnSHIP). MnSHIP's investment direction guides the planning of projects and improvements on Minnesota's 11,703 miles of state highways. Mr. Schaffner said MnSHIP is updated every five years and priorities identified in the plan will help inform the selection of projects appearing in MnDOT Districtwide Capital Highway Investment Plan (CHIP) and the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). Mr. Schaffner estimated Minnesota's transportation revenue between 2023 and 2042 will be \$30-33 billion, however, the state will need \$52-57 billion. In addition to the needs identified by MnDOT, cities and counties have identified \$5-6 billion in priority investments on the state highway system.

Mr. Schaffner polled TAC representatives on the top five improvements they felt were most important.

Mr. Schaffner said of the \$30-33 billion available, the state needs a minimum of \$23.5 billion to:

- Manage highest risks
- Complete programmed projects
- Implement federal funding programs
- Meet requirements in each category.

This leaves approximately \$7-9 billion for additional improvements or outcomes.

Mr. Schaffner detailed six different visions for the state highway system and polled TAC representatives on their preferred alternative.

1. Prioritize Pavements (current approach): I'd like to see the existing system maintained first before expanding or adding to the system. A smooth road surface when driving is most important. Roads which become rough should not stay that way for long.
2. Adapt to Changing Technology and Climate: Highways should be made more resistant to the growing extreme weather events and support changing transportation technology. Highways also need to be designed to support more walking and bicycling.
3. Prioritize Bridges: Whatever additional resources are available should be put towards improving and maintain bridges. MnDOT should not be in a position where it would need to close or limit traffic on bridges because they need repairs.
4. Focus on Safe and Equitable Communities: Highways should be safer for people to use, including for walking and bicycling. Improvements on highways should support strategies for reconnecting divided communities

and other livability improvements.

5. Prioritize Highway Capacity Expansion: In the future, there needs to be fewer delays and less congestion. Population continues to grow and MnDOT should be planning for and accommodating the increase in vehicle traffic.
6. Improve Mobility for All Highway Users: Minnesota is growing but we cannot build ourselves out of traffic congestion. In addition to addressing vehicle mobility, the highway system needs improvements for freight and for people walking, bicycling, and taking transit.

Mr. Schaffner provided information on the Highway Budget Tool that will allow members of the public to weigh in on MnDOT's MnSHIP budget scenarios. He stated the plan is in the first stage of public engagement. By fall, the state hopes to have compiled a draft investment direction. It is anticipated the plan will be adopted in late summer 2023.

### **CONSIDERATION OF THE 2023-2024 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)**

APO Executive Director Brian Gibson reviewed the proposed draft UPWP. Mr. Gibson outlined the following expected planning efforts for 2023:

1. Development of the draft Metropolitan Transportation Plan
2. Completion of Safe Routes to School Plans for District 742
3. Stearns County CSAH 1 corridor study from CR 120 to Ninth Avenue N.

In addition, Mr. Gibson said that upon receipt of final Census data work will begin on reevaluating the metropolitan planning area and a review of roadway functional classifications.

Mr. Gibson provided a budgetary overview of various work categories along with the anticipated dues for member jurisdictions.

Mr. Gibson also provided a preliminary look at the 2024 consultant projects which includes:

1. Pavement condition measurement for approximately \$92,750.
2. Evaluation of high crash intersections for approximately \$80,000.

Mr. Gibson also mentioned the potential of partnering with MnDOT on a safety study of MN 23 through Waite Park/Saint Cloud in 2024.

***Ms. Teich made the motion to recommend the Policy Board approve the draft 2023-2024 UPWP. Mr. Glaseman seconded. Motion carried.***

### **CONSIDERATION OF THE 2023 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PRIORITIES**

Mr. Gibson provided a review of the proposed APO Regional Transportation Priorities to be included in the legislative briefing booklet that he and the APO's Board Chair take to Washington, D.C. He proposed no real changes to the priorities from last

year. Mr. Gibson outlined the following projects:

1. Mississippi River Bridge environmental review: \$1.25 million.
2. MN 15 environmental review: \$1 million.
3. Construction of Benton County CSAH 29 Extension.

Mr. Gibson also identified other projects for TAC consideration including 322<sup>nd</sup> Street and Northstar.

Ms. Teich suggested sticking with the original three projects. Mr. Witter concurred. Mr. Loidolt provided an updated estimate for the Benton County CSAH 29 extension. He said that project will cost approximately \$5 million.

***Mr. Witter made the motion to recommend the Policy Board approval of the draft 2023 Regional Transportation Priorities. Mr. Loidolt seconded. Motion carried.***

#### **OTHER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ms. Johnson reminded TAC representatives of upcoming solicitations, including the special HSIP solicitation for 2023 funding.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:23 a.m.