

**SAINT CLOUD AREA PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY BOARD
Thursday, July 11, 2024 – 4:30 PM**

A regular meeting of the Saint Cloud Area Planning Organization Policy Board was held on Thursday, July 11, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. APO Chair Raeanne Danielowski presided with the following members:

Jake Anderson	City of Saint Cloud
Matthew Staehling	City of Saint Cloud (Alternate for Dave Kleis)
Jeff Goerger	City of Saint Cloud
Acting Mayor Adam Scepaniak	City of Saint Joseph (Alternate for Rick Schultz)
Frank Theisen	City of Waite Park (Alternate for Rick Miller)
Ryan Daniel	Metro Bus
Jared Gapinski	Benton County
Joe Perske	Stearns County

Also in attendance were:

Brian Gibson	Saint Cloud APO
Vicki Johnson	Saint Cloud APO
Alex McKenzie	Saint Cloud APO
James Stapfer	Saint Cloud APO
Trina Ness	Saint Cloud APO

Absent:

Tim Elness	City of Sartell
Dottie Seamans	City of Sauk Rapids
Jeff Westerlund	Le Sauk Township

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. INTRODUCTIONS

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mr. Goerger motioned to approve the agenda. Mr. Perske seconded the motion. Motion carried.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: There were no members of the public present.

5. CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

- a. Approve Minutes of June 13, 2024, Policy Board Meeting
- b. Approve Bills Lists for June
- c. Receive Staff Reports on Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
- d. Receive Staff Report on Central Minnesota Area Transportation Partnership Meeting

Mr. Gapinski motioned to approve the consent agenda items. Mr. Goerger seconded the motion. Motion carried.

6. CONSIDER RELEASING DRAFT METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN (MTP) FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT

Ms. Johnson presented an overview of the Draft Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Looking Ahead 2050. The deadline to approve the MTP is October 30, 2024. Currently we have completed the Existing Conditions, Environmental Conditions, 2050 Regional Vision, Travel Demand Modeling, Transportation Funding, Transportation Infrastructure Investments, Urban Beltline Corridor, Plan Appendices A-Q, the Transportation and Technology section, the Introduction, the Draft Resolution and Glossary/Acronyms Section of the Draft MTP. The APO is in the process of working on the Implementation section, and the Plain Language Summary (Executive Summary).

Ms. Johnson reviewed what each section consists of and went on to explain what is left and what the next steps are. Ultimately, the TAC needs to conduct the final review and public comments document must be completed in September for Policy Board approval by October 10, 2024, at the latest.

Ms. Danielowski asked if Ms. Johnson feels confident in the 2050 target. Mr. Gibson stated even though this is the 2050 plan, it is updated every five years.

Mr. Anderson questioned the cost when compared to the Mississippi River Bridge. Ms. Johnson reiterated this was ONLY construction costs and was in 2023 dollars.

The Board members encouraged presentations to be given to the Rotary, City Councils, County Boards, and Chambers of Commerce. Ms. Johnson stated she would be more than happy to speak to any entity suggested.

Mr. Goerger motioned to approve Policy Board approval to release the draft Looking Ahead 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan for a 30-day public comment period no later than August 7, 2024. Mr. Theisen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Perske stated that the team did a tremendous job in preparing and presenting the draft MTP.

7. RECEIVE SAUK RAPIDS SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PLAN (SRTS)

Mr. McKenzie began by explaining what the Safe Routes to School Program is, and how it is implemented. The Safe Routes to School Program is an effort to improve walking and bicycling conditions for youth and to encourage more active lifestyles.

The program's goals are to improve safety, reduce traffic, and improve air quality near schools through a multidisciplinary approach structured around the 6 E's: equity, engagement, engineering, education, encouragement, and evaluation.

The APO staff works with community partners to develop the SRTS plans, including school district staff, school principals, and administrators, public health officials, Metro Bus, law enforcement, city staff, and MnDOT staff.

In 2014 a SRTS Plan was developed for the Sartell-Saint Stephen School District ISD 748 for Pine Meadow Primary and Sartell Middle School.

Beginning in 2019, the APO, along with its community partners, completed SRTS Plans for all Saint Cloud School District ISD 742 elementary and middle schools within the planning area, with the exception of Clearview Elementary which is out of our planning area.

In 2023 the APO was awarded a planning assistance grant to collaborate with a consultant to create a SRTS Plan for the Sauk Rapids-Rice Schools, including Pleasantview Elementary, Mississippi Heights Elementary, and Sauk Rapids-Rice Middle School. This plan was completed in the spring of 2024.

Beginning in the fall of 2024 the APO will work with the Sartell-Saint Stephen School District to update/write a plan for Pine Meadow Primary School, Riverview Intermediate School, and Sartell Middle School.

Once plans are complete, agency staff can apply for grants to help build infrastructure projects identified in the plan or incorporate projects into their local Capital Improvement Program (CIP). A few common grant sources include: The Transportation Alternatives (TA), SRTS Infrastructure Grant, and the Active Transportation (AT) Grant.

Ms. Danielowski asked what the purpose of the curb extensions were. Mr. McKenzie stated the curb extensions were to help slow traffic and control turns.

Ms. Danielowski asked how often an existing plan should be updated. Mr. McKenzie stated he spoke with MnDOT and there are no specific guidelines, but the APO is hoping for every five to ten years.

8. OTHER BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Perske questioned the Washington, DC Trip Dates stating that it's an election year and October may be problematic as members we want to speak with may be out of the office campaigning.

Mr. Perske stated that he's getting mixed messages regarding Congressionally Directed Spending, some of the items we've asked for have been put in the House Bill. Do we know where we're at with the Senate?

Mr. Gapinski and Mr. Perske emphasized how important it is to continue going to D.C. and advocating for our needs. The schedule needs to be checked as to when our Congress members and Senators are available that we can be sure to meet with them when we are there.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Goerger motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Daniels seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.