

**SAINT CLOUD AREA PLANNING ORGANIZATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE (TAC) MEETING  
Thursday, Feb. 6, 2025 @ 10 a.m.**

A meeting of the Saint Cloud Area Planning Organization's (APO's) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was held at 10 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 6, 2025. Senior Transportation Planner Vicki Johnson presided with the following people in attendance:

Voting Members:

Matt Glaesman	City of Saint Cloud
Zac Borgerding	City of Saint Cloud
Randy Sabart	City of Saint Joseph
April Ryan	City of Sartell
Jon Norenberg	City of Waite Park
Scott Hedlund	City of Sauk Rapids
Jodi Teich	Stearns County
Chris Byrd	Benton County
David Roedel	Sherburne County
Michael Kedrowski	Saint Cloud Metro Bus
Steve Voss	MnDOT District 3

Non-Member Attendees:

Brian Gibson	APO, Executive Director
Vicki Johnson	APO, Senior Planner
Trina Ness	APO, Administrative Specialist
Bryan McCoy	MnDOT MPO Program Coord. Central Office
Beth Kallestad	MnDOT Office of Sustainability & Public Health Sustainability Planner

Online Attendees:

Jeff Lenz	MnDOT District 3 Program Coordinator
James Stapfer	APO, Planning Technician
Dena Ryan	FHWA
Tracy Hodel	City of Saint Cloud
Kacie Stanek	MnDOT Office of Sustainability & Public Health
Nene Israel	Saint Cloud Metro Bus

**1. Introductions were made.**

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

No members of the public were present.

**3. CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA**

a. Approve minutes of the Nov. 20, 2024, TAC meeting

- b. Receive 2024 TAC Attendance Record
- c. Receive staff report of Jan. 9, 2025, Policy Board meeting
- d. Receive staff report of Jan. 22, 2025, Active Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC) Meeting

Ms. Teich asked that the ATAC memo verbiage be amended from "deciding" to "recommending".

*Ms. Teich made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items with the amended verbiage of the ATAC Memo. Mr. Byrd seconded the motion. Motion carried.*

#### **4. PRESENTATION ON THE ELECTRIC VEHICLE INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

This item was tabled as Ms. Kallestad was running late.

#### **5. CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATIONS TO THE FY 2025-2028 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)**

Ms. Johnson reviewed the FY 2025-2028 TIP Amendments/Modifications requests submitted by the City of Sauk Rapids, MnDOT, WACOSA, A Home for the Day, Benton County, Saint Cloud Metro Bus, and the City of Sartell.

Ms. Johnson also reviewed the public comment opportunities that were made available which consisted of nine completed online surveys; in person and virtual public meetings; posts on Facebook, Instagram, and Nextdoor; posting on the Central Minnesota ATP-3 website; posting on the APO's website; as well as a legal notice in the St. Cloud Times. Ms. Johnson noted that as of Jan. 9, 2025, St. Cloud Live will be our newspaper of record for this year.

*Ms. Teich motioned to recommend Policy Board approval of the Amendments and Administrative Modifications to the FY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mr. Sabart seconded the motion. Motion carried.*

#### **6. CONSIDERATION OF FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION CHANGE REQUEST FOR HEATHERWOOD ROAD**

Ms. Johnson presented a request from the City of Saint Cloud to change the designation for Heatherwood Road from a local roadway to an urban minor collector. This request is contingent upon the city receiving Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP) funding to complete the Heatherwood Road corridor extension.

The APO cannot award STBGP funds to a non-functionally classified roadway. Therefore, this change request is contingent upon STBGP funds being assigned to Heatherwood Road. If there are no STBGP funds assigned to Heatherwood Road the City of Saint Cloud will withdraw this request. Based off guidance from the Federal

Highway Administration (FHWA), this change is within the guidelines for our MPO. Mr. Gibson noted that as currently outlined in your packet, the area to reclassify ends at two local roads. The concern is if we send this to MnDOT they will reject it because it ends with two local roads. He suggested that the request be amended to extend to Roosevelt Road/County Road 75 on the north end and to the Eighth Avenue S (the ramps to the I-94/Opportunity Drive interchange) on the southern end. Therefore, Heatherwood Road will end at two arterial roadways.

Mr. Glaesman and Mr. Borgerding recommended altering the termini that was originally presented to the termini Mr. Gibson presented.

Mr. Glaesman *motioned to recommend Policy Board approval of the Functional Classification Change request as amended by the City of Saint Cloud for Heatherwood Road. Mr. Byrd seconded the motion. Motion carried.*

Ms. Johnson asked Mr. Glaesman and Mr. Borgerding to submit the amended map and memo to her as soon as possible to be incorporated into the Policy Board agenda packet.

## **7. CONSIDERATION OF THE FY 2029 SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM (STBGP) APPLICATIONS**

Ms. Johnson reviewed the FY 2029 STBGP regional funding prioritization. She reviewed the two applications in the order they were received:

- Stearns County's CSAH 133 roundabout construction at Fourth Avenue S in Sartell
- City of Saint Cloud's Heatherwood Road extension.

Ms. Teich stated that Niron Magnetics is building a location in the City of Sartell. The goal of the county and the city is to keep that traffic from going down County Road 1 and keep freight traffic on the major corridors meant for handling freight traffic. There have also been a lot of pedestrian complaints in this area as well. Niron Magnetics has committed to using this route if built. The city and the county will be splitting local share of the eligible construction costs 50/50.

Mr. Borgerding stated that there was an EAW done in 2017 on Heatherwood Road, and this has been identified as a project by the city for a while. This connection would also include replacing the bridge over Johnson Creek. The Heatherwood Road connection would provide a connection to the commercial/business/industrial area that has room to grow. Mr. Glaesman stated the city has received many inquiries for warehousing and distribution centers, however, the lack of access to urban services is preventing businesses from coming into the area. This has been on the city's comprehensive plan for over 20 years.

Ms. Johnson then reviewed the APO staff's preliminary scores and rankings.

Ms. Teich recommended that since Ms. Kallestad has arrived, she should do her presentation without having to listen to TAC's discussions on the STBGP funding.

Ms. Johnson stated that we will table the STBGP discussions until later in the meeting.

#### **4. PRESENTATION ON THE ELECTRIC VEHICLE INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

Ms. Kallestad gave a presentation on the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Needs Assessment (EVINA) work MnDOT's Office of Sustainability and Public Health has been working on. She provided a brief recap on the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) formula program to expand EV charging infrastructure along key corridors (Alternative Fuel Corridors (AFCs)) such as I-94, I-35, and I-90. A second round of NEVI charging station grants is out right now and includes one location within the APO's planning area.

Ms. Kallestad informed TAC representatives about the EVINA work being done in conjunction with HDR Consulting statewide. This planning effort includes:

- A current outlook on EVs and EV charging progress statewide.
- A comprehensive vision for EV and EV charging that will include some recommendations for community level charging.
- A guide for optimal EV charging locations and cost estimates.
- An interactive EV charging map tool for long distance charging.

So far, work on the existing conditions/locations of EV charging stations statewide has been completed. Future forecasting efforts on EV adoption has been developed. Focus groups statewide have also provided input on charging station scenarios including long distance charging stations, destination charging stations, and amenity charging stations. Ms. Kallestad said the planning effort should be rolling out for public engagement by mid-February with the hopes of having a final document by mid-May.

#### **7. CONSIDERATION OF THE FY 2029 SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM (STBGP) APPLICATIONS - RESUMED**

Ms. Johnson stated that we have \$2.4 million dollars to allocate. APO staff preliminarily ranked Stearns County first and the City of Saint Cloud second. Stearns County has requested 80% of eligible construction costs in federal funds. The City of Saint Cloud requested 40% of eligible construction costs in federal funds. The APO cannot award all \$2,402,010 to Stearns County because the federal award would be greater than the 80% maximum amount allowed for federal funding. City of Saint Cloud could be eligible to receive the entire allocation.

After much discussion, number crunching, and working through many scenarios it was decided that the TAC will recommend the funds be split, giving each project \$1,201,005 in federal funding.

*Mr. Glaesman motioned to recommend the funding distribution to be \$1,201,005 for Stearns County and the City of Saint Cloud to fund their STBGP projects. Ms. Ms. Teich seconded the motion. Motion carried. Mr. Voss abstained from voting.*

*Ms. Teich motioned to recommend APO staff's final ranking/proposed prioritization of the FY 2029 Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP) for Policy Board approval with Stearns County's project the region's top priority and the City*

*of Saint Cloud's project the second priority. Mr. Byrd seconded the motion. Motion carried. Mr. Voss abstained.*

## **8. CONSIDERATION OF THE FY 2027-2029 CARBON REDUCTION PROGRAM (CRP) APPLICATIONS**

Ms. Johnson presented the FY 2027-2029 CRP Prioritization. The APO urbanized area has been targeted \$270,000 in federal CRP money for each fiscal year. She then presented the one CRP application that was received which is the City of Saint Cloud's 22nd Street S installation of multimodal infrastructure.

Mr. Borgerding stated that 22nd Street S has no multimodal connections within the proposed project location (between Oak Grove Road SW/CR 136 and Cooper Avenue S). Receiving the funding would help fill in the gap in the multimodal network, creating a continuous east-west multimodal corridor within this area of Saint Cloud. The city has received \$1.8 million in STBGP funds for the roadway reconstruction portion of the project and is hopeful to receive the CRP funding to assist with the multimodal construction aspect of the project.

Ms. Johnson presented APO staff preliminary ranking and scoring stating that if awarded in full, the APO will carry over \$4,000 in CRP funding for FY 2028 and will need to allocate \$270,000 for FY 2029.

TAC representatives discussed the possibility of the City of Saint Cloud utilizing the \$4,000 in FY 2028 rather than carrying over that balance.

Mr. Glaesman agreed to amended the application to request the \$540,000 in CRP funding – using all of the \$270,000 available in FY 2027 and FY 2028.

*Mr. Glaesman motioned to recommend proposed ranking and funding for the FY 2027-2029 Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) application as amended for Policy Board approval. Mr. Norenberg seconded the motion. Motion carried. Mr. Voss abstained.*

## **9. CONSIDERATION OF THE FY 2029 TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES (TA) APPLICATIONS**

Ms. Johnson stated that twelve applications were received districtwide to compete for the approximately \$2.4 million available in 2029.

She reviewed the two applications from the APO in the order they were received:

- City of Saint Cloud's 22nd Street S. This project would include the installation of multimodal infrastructure along 22nd Street S to connect the existing multimodal networks at Cooper Avenue S and Oak Grove Road SW with a request of \$536,000 which is 49% of the total cost. She noted this was the same project that was presented and recommended for CRP funding under the previous agenda item. Mr. Glaesman stated that this will be a completion of a system, especially near an elementary school and major recreational facilities. He stated there is a lack of spacing east to west on the whole southside of town. This project has great value for pedestrians and bikers in

that area.

- City of Sauk Rapids Mayhew Lake Road Trail extension. This project would include the construction of grade separated 10-foot-wide trail along the east side of Mayhew Lake Road NE/CSAH 1 from Osauka Road NE to water tower road and from water tower road to Mayhew Creek Park entrance with a request of \$346,223 which is 80% of the total cost. Mr. Hedlund discussed that there are planned improvements to Mayhew Lake Road by the county. Primarily this project will be on school district property. This is a dangerous high-speed corridor, and the goal is to keep pedestrians off of the main road. There will be a new baseball complex and other active fields in the area with the city partnering with the school district in 2026. This will create a continuous connection to the city of Sauk Rapids.

Ms. Johnson went on to present the ATAC preliminary scores and rankings.

ATAC's preliminary scores and rankings were the City of Saint Cloud as number one with 10 priority points and the City of Sauk Rapids as number two with 5 priority points.

*Mr. Glaesman made the motion to prioritize the ranking and priority point distribution as the ATAC recommended. The City of Saint Cloud's 22nd Street S project as number one and the City of Sauk Rapids project as number two. Mr. Borgerding seconded the motion. After discussion Ms. Johnson conducted a roll call vote.*

***In support of the motion:*** Kedrowski, Roedel, Norenberg, Borgerding, and Glaesman.

***In opposition of the motion:*** Hedlund, Teich, Sabart, Ryan, and Byrd.

***Abstention:*** Voss.

*The motion failed.*

A discussion was had regarding the award of the 10 regional priority points to the City of Saint Cloud. Given the fact the city had been recommended to receive CRP funding for the same project, several TAC representatives felt that it would be best to award the City of Sauk Rapids the 10 priority points. The thought was that by doing so it would ideally maximize the funding the region would be eligible to receive – already recommending CRP dollars to Saint Cloud and making Sauk Rapids more competitive in the TA evaluations.

*Mr. Hedlund made a motion to reverse ATACs recommendations and prioritize the city of Sauk Rapids project as number one with ten regional priority points. The city of Saint Cloud as number two with five regional priority points. Mr. Byrd seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted.*

***In support of the motion:*** Kedrowski, Hedlund, Roedel, Norenberg, Teich, Sabart, Ryan, and Byrd.

***In opposition of the motion:*** Borgerding and Glaseman.

***Abstention:*** Voss

*Motion carried.*

## **OTHER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Ms. Johnson reminded TAC representatives of the upcoming Policy Board meeting on Feb. 13 at the Sauk Rapids Government Center. She encouraged jurisdictions who are requesting funding to attend.
- Ms. Johnson stated the next round of TIP amendments/modifications would be due on Monday, Feb. 10.
- Ms. Johnson indicated TIP financial spreadsheets and ALOP forms will be sent out by next week for the FY 2026-2029 TIP and would be due mid-March.
- Bolton & Menk will be presenting at the Feb. 27, 2025, TAC meeting on the SS4A planning effort.
- Ms. Teich stated she had a concerned Commissioner asking questions regarding the potential gravel pit/mining operation being proposed by Holcim US Aggregates in Sherburne County in the vicinity of the Sherburne County location for the Mississippi Bridge crossing. Mr. Roedel stated that it is 700 acres, and Holcim is seeking a CUP to reclaim gravel on the northern property line.
- Ms. Teich stated the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) Legislative Conference is Feb. 26-27, 2024.
- Mr. Borgerding stated that the City of Saint Cloud is looking at Urban SDK for software regarding speed tracking and ADT tracking and asked if any of the other entities had looked into using the company or any other software, and recommendations and reviews if they had.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.