

SAINT CLOUD AREA PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY BOARD

Thursday, August 8, 2019 – 5:00 p.m.
Great River Regional Library, Saint Cloud

A regular meeting of the Saint Cloud Area Planning Organization Policy Board was held on Thursday, August 8, 2019 at 5 p.m. at the Great River Regional Library. Chair Jeff Westerlund presided with the following members present:

Council Member Paul Brandmire	Saint Cloud
Matt Glaesman (Alt)	Saint Cloud
Council Member Nick Sauer (Alt)	Sauk Rapids
Mayor Rick Schultz	Saint Joseph
Council Member Frank Theisen (Alt)	Waite Park
Supervisor Jeff Westerlund	LeSauk Township
Commissioner A. Jake Bauerly	Benton County
Commissioner Joe Perske	Stearns County
Commissioner Raeanne Danielowski	Sherburne County
Ryan Daniel, Exec Director	Metro Bus
Brian Gibson, Exec Director	Saint Cloud APO
Dorothy Sweet	Saint Cloud APO
Vicki Johnson	Saint Cloud APO
Alex McKenzie	Saint Cloud APO
Alison Voigt	Saint Cloud APO

The Meeting was called to order by Chair Jeff Westerlund. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Introductions were made.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Commissioner Perske requested to have a discussion of "Operations of the APO" added to the agenda under "Other Business." ***Commissioner Bauerly motioned to approve the agenda with the addition, and Commissioner Perske seconded the motion. Motion carried.***

CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS: (Approval of June 13, 2019 Policy Board Meeting Minutes, Approval of Bills for June, July, and August, and Acceptance of Benton County's Americans with Disabilities Act Transition Plan):

Council Member Brandmire motioned to approve the Consent Agenda Items, and Council Member Sauer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CONSIDER DRAFT 2045 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN (MTP):

Mr. Gibson presented the draft 2045 MTP to the members for approval to start the 30-day public comment period. The MTP is the single biggest and most important product that the APO produces. The plan summarizes the existing transportation environment, identifies needs, establishes regional transportation goals and objectives, and identifies a fiscally constrained list of transportation projects for arterial and collector roadways in our planning area. By federal regulation, the MTP must be updated at least every five years, and the previous plan was approved in October 2014. Projects must be in this plan to be eligible for federal funds. The APO has been working with the jurisdictions' TAC members to develop elements and projects contained within this plan.

Mr. Gibson's review of the Draft 2045 MTP included:

- Existing Conditions (travel time and distance, jobs, vehicle miles traveled, road & bridge conditions, injuries & fatalities, crashes, fixed route transit annual ridership, walking/ biking)

- Goals & Objectives (develop and maintain a transportation system that is safe for all users, increase the accessibility and mobility options for people and freight, develop a transportation system that is cost-feasible, maintains a state of good repair and satisfies public transportation priorities, support the economic vitality of the APO area, support transportation improvements)
- Reconstruction Projects (identified by TAC members from the jurisdictions)
- Expansion Projects (identified by TAC members from the jurisdictions)
- Year 2045 Congestion (under/approaching/over-capacity total lane miles)
- MTP = Ring Road
- 2045 MTP – Non-Project Tasks (regional travel survey, develop a plan for more affordable transportation options, measure the impact of ride-hailing services, understand/monitor the transportation needs of immigrants/refugees/older residents/students, study critical crash rate intersections, explore ways to better understand active transportation behavior, identify & prioritize gaps in active transportation network, better define/understand interactions between the natural environment and transportation in region and economic development, define “transportation security” locally, evaluate potential for APO programs to support attainment of specific goals, improve connections between the APO region and the Twin Cities metro, explore opportunities to improve the worst performing regional roadway corridors, continue monitoring and adjusting to the development of CAVs, estimate the transportation impacts of long-distance commuters & understanding the economics of their choice, estimate the net environmental impacts of transportation options, coordinate development of the urban area ring road)

Mrs. Danielowski asked why we aren't studying more about the airport? Mr. Gibson responded that the federal grant that we are funded through limits us to surface transportation. Mr. Perske said he would have issues about supporting this plan because he was not sure his people have seen this. He also noted the absence of several mayors from this meeting. Mr. Perske commented that Townline Road project was missing. Mr. Gibson stated the Sartell piece of Townline Road was included in the projects list, but that this plan primarily looks at formula funding and we cannot predict grants or reasonably expect to be awarded future funding through these grants. Mr. Gibson said that all the projects contained within the MTP come from the TAC members of each jurisdiction. Mr. Perske said in the next five years we should be making decisions about the belt line. Mr. Bauerly said that Benton 29 toward Rollie's was previously on the list, but it is no longer. He also stated that projects that were on the list in 2013 are no longer on the list. Mr. Gibson said the list has to be fiscally constrained. Mrs. Johnson, Senior Planner, added that the APO receives a project list from all the jurisdictions' engineers and planners. The APO then meets with the Finance Directors of the jurisdictions, and a final list is created which is fiscally constrained. Some members wanted the illustrative list of projects included in the project list and more discussion about these projects. Mr. Gibson reminded the members that even though this is a 2045 plan, we update it every five years. Several members noted that there was no communication between all the jurisdictions and within the jurisdictions about their projects. Suggestions made included having a joint Policy Board meeting and TAC meeting in addition to getting an extension on the deadline for the MTP. Mr. Gibson responded that in the past when an extension was requested, no projects were allowed to take place until final approval was given. Mr. Gibson reviewed the scheduled timelines for public comment (starting August 12 x 30 days, incorporating comments/feedback, determining if simple changes can be made to the MTP, or if significant changes would be required, and another round of public comment required, before getting final approval by the Policy Board and submission to MnDOT in October).

In response to committee members wanting more time to review and discuss the project list within their jurisdictions and as well as more discussion among the jurisdictions, it was decided to delay/change the date of the next scheduled Policy

Board meeting from September 12 to September 19. Mr. Perske asked how would we go about placing the Benton 29 project back onto the list. It was noted that if the Benton 29 project would be added to the list, Benton County would have to remove all other projects from the list. Mr. Bauerly said he anticipates that project happening in ten years, and not five. Mr. Gibson offered the possibility of immediately starting an amendment to the MTP which would require a considerable amount of work on the part of the APO, but it could be done. **Mayor Schultz motioned to approve the Draft MTP for public comment, and Mr. Daniel seconded the motion. Motion carried with one opposed (Perske).**

CONSIDER 2020-2023 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP):

Senior Planner Johnson reviewed the 2020-2023 TIP, which is a federally mandated, annually prepared document that contains highway, transit, and other transportation projects that are being recommended for Federal funding during the next four years in the APO planning area. The public comment period produced three comments, which were incorporated into the TIP. Two DEMO funded projects for FY 2020 that were programmed into the APO's UPWP were added. (Stearns County's CSAH 133 Alignment Study and Saint Cloud's 33rd Street S bridge study). Mayor Schultz asked if projects can be added to this list. Mrs. Johnson responded that we will start the solicitation process for 2024 projects in November. We build in three or four amendments to the TIP each year, with January 2020 being the first scheduled amendment. Mrs. Johnson encouraged the members to speak with their planners and engineers to consider which projects should be added for the next TIP solicitation. Mrs. Johnson clarified that if the jurisdictions have sufficient funding to cover all costs for a project, the project does not need to go into the TIP. **Mr. R. Daniel motioned to approve the 2020-2023 TIP, and Commissioner Bauerly seconded the motion. Motion carried with one opposed (Perske).**

CONSIDER 2020-2021 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM(UPWP):

Mr. Gibson presented the 2020 UPWP for approval. The 2020 UPWP represents the annual budget and programs funding for planning studies. The 2020 budget includes one APO staff vacancy at the present time and the continuation of jurisdictional assessment rate of \$0.68 per capita. Two proposed projects planned with left-over Demonstration funds for corridor preservation studies include Stearns County CSAH 133 Alignment Study and Saint Cloud 33rd Street South Mississippi River bridge and corridor alignment study. In addition, a TH 15 Operational Improvement Study and Travel Demand Model Updates and Improvements are planned. Mr. Gibson reviewed other planning tasks to be completed which include:

- o Developing a post-mortem report following the completion of the 2019 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and developing a schedule for the completion of the next MTP.
- o Continued development of a regional Active Transportation Plan
- o Continued development of Safe Routes to School plans
- o Continued investigation and development of descriptors and performance measures for the relationship between transportation and economic development and between transportation and the natural environment.
- o Developing a regional consensus as to what "Transportation Security" means and what role, if any the APO can and should play in achieving it

Mr. Gibson highlighted the various Work Activity Categories as well as Federal Funding, State Funding, Local Match/State Grant, and Other Local Funds for the categories as well as the APO Budget History from 2015 to 2020. It was noted that the 2020 Budget Grand Total of \$1,038,800 reflects a decrease from the 2015 budget of \$1,090,383. **Mayor Schultz motioned to approve the 2020-2021 UPWP, and Commissioner Bauerly seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

CONSIDER WEBSITE LOGO DESIGNS:

Mr. Gibson presented the final logo design created by Gaslight Creative of Saint Cloud for approval. He reviewed the process of getting to the final design. The Policy Board members preferred the logo which included "Saint Cloud" being located under the logo. Mr. Gibson said he planned to get a local college student to work with the colors for the design and to create the design for letterhead. It was suggested that we should copyright the design. ***Commissioner Bauerly motioned to approve the logo design, and Council Member Brandmire seconded the motion. Motion carried with one opposed (Theisen).***

OTHER BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Schultz motioned to change the September Policy Board meeting to September 19. Council Member Theisen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Commissioner Bauerly complimented the APO on the great job they did on the MTP.

On behalf of the APO, Mr. Gibson presented a plaque to Mr. Theisen thanking the City of Waite Park for allowing the APO to hold their Policy Board meetings in their Council Chambers.

Commissioner Perske expressed concern that not enough communication is taking place between the decision makers within jurisdictions and the APO because we are making multimillion dollar decisions here at the Policy Board. It was clarified that the comments made at this meeting were a reflection of jurisdiction staff and not the APO staff. He also asked where we are headed with Northstar.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Jeff Westerlund
Chair, APO

Date