

**Saint Cloud Area Planning Organization
EXECUTIVE BOARD COMMITTEE MINUTES
March 8, 2018**

A regular meeting of the Saint Cloud Area Planning Organization's (APO) Executive Board Meeting was held on Thursday, March 8, 2018 in the Array Room of the Great River Regional Library in Saint Cloud. Chair Jeff Goerger presided with the following members present:

Mayor Dave Kleis	Saint Cloud
Council member John Libert	Saint Cloud
Council member Jeff Goerger	Saint Cloud
Mayor Rick Schultz	Saint Joseph
Council member Nick Sauer	Sauk Rapids
Mayor Rick Miller	Waite Park
Township Supervisor Jeff Westerlund	LeSauk Township
Commissioner Joe Perske	Stearns County
Commissioner A. Jake Bauerly	Benton County

Also Present:

Brian Gibson	Executive Director, APO
Stacy Morse	Congressman Emmer's Office
Vicki Ikeogu	APO
Joseph Mueller	APO
Dorothy Sweet	APO

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mr. Gibson added two changes or corrections to the Agenda: Under Consent Agenda Items, the minutes are from the January 18, 2018 meeting and not in September, and the Accounting Services Contract should be removed from the Consent Agenda items and placed under the regular agenda. Mr. Perske requested the Beltway discussion be moved to earlier in the agenda.

Mr. Westerlund motioned to approve the revised Agenda, and Mr. Bauerly seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

No public comments were made.

CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

Consent agenda items were:

- January 18, 2018 meeting minutes,
- Bills list

Mayor Schultz motioned to approve the Consent Agenda Items and Mr. Sauer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTING SERVICES CONTRACT:

Mr. Gibson reported that five quotes for Accounting Services were received. Two quotes were very close. One of the two close quotes has a local branch. Mr. Goerger reviewed the background information for the process and for requesting bids at this time. Because the APO staff is satisfied with the service provided by the current Accountant and the value of keeping their service, it was suggested that we stay with our current (Your CFO, Inc.). **Mayor Schultz motioned to approve a 5-year contract with Your CFO, Inc., and Mr. Sauer seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

CONSIDERATION OF REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PRIORITIES BRIEFING BOOKLET:

Mr. Gibson stated that the purpose of the transportation priorities booklet is to educate our Congressional members, both state and federal, about our transportation priorities. The booklet will be used when the APO Executive Director and Board members travel to Washington to meet with our Congressional members. The trip is still being coordinated and a final date should be chosen soon. Mr. Bauerly noted that the Paynesville to Richmond corridor is included in the booklet, even though it is not in the APO's planning area, but the APO recognizes the importance of improving safety and free-flow speeds. Similarly, Mr. Bauerly felt that the Foley to Milaca 169 corridor should also be included in the priorities booklet, even though Milaca is not in the APO's planning area. **Mayor Miller motioned to approve the Transportation Priorities booklet with the addition of the Foley to Milaca 169 corridor. Mayor Schultz seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

UPDATE ON STATUS OF REGIONAL BELTWAY:

Mr. Gibson reported that during public input sessions for the Long Range Transportation Plan, several public comments were received about a beltway around St. Cloud. Mr. Gibson and Mr. Mueller researched past documentation for the beltway. Documentation regarding the beltway ranged from 2001 to 2008 and reference to the beltway was found in an Alignment Study, two Comprehensive Plans, two Scoping Documents, and a Transportation Plan. In the previous documentation, thirty alternatives were narrowed to three possible alignments. A map which showcased all the various existing and proposed routes extracted from documentation of 2001 through 2008 was included in the agenda packet and was reviewed. No final decisions were made during the timeframe of 2001 to 2008. Mr. Gibson also reviewed research from 2006 and 2007 done by a previous Executive Director. Questions pertaining to several issues were raised by the board members. Some of the issues raised and discussed included:

- Is there still support for this concept?
- Do we build new or use existing roads as part of the beltway?
- What about a river crossing at 33rd? Will it go out to Highway 10?

- Westwood Parkway
- How and why did this project go from #1 priority to no longer on the list?
- Are we doing a North/South or an East/West corridor?
- We need a 30-year vision for the APO Planning area so that the jurisdictions can plan accordingly
- Avoid beltway traffic downtown
- Waite Park has a considerable amount of farming land that could be located in a beltline but with no beltway plan in place, the land will probably be sold off
- St. Joseph has turned away federal funding in the past because of possible ringroad plans
- Avoid roundabouts in any beltway
- We should be incorporating flying and driverless cars into our future plans
- Should the APO oppose MnDOT's plan to install a low impact intersection near Rollie's as this could impact a beltway? It was acknowledged that our opposition would probably not stop MnDOT's plans.
- The importance of getting setbacks for buildings was noted

Suggestions made during this discussion included:

- Local City/County Councils should be made aware of the APO's conversations about a beltway
- Agreement that we should be looking forward and planning for 30 years out
- As we continue to develop the LRTP, the APO will deal with projects and forecasts, and then at that point we need to decide our next priority
- Stearns County, Waite Park and St. Cloud should be discussing this at their local meetings.
- Look at MnDOT's plans
- More information from past discussions needs to be located and reviewed.
- Should next year's UPWP program fund for a study of the beltway
- Continue discussion

PRESENTATION OF DRAFT METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN EXISTING CONDITIONS AND GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

Mr. Gibson summarized the Metropolitan Transportation Plan's (also known as Long Range Transportation Plan) Existing Conditions and Goals, Objectives, Strategies, and Performance Measures. The main topics covered included: Demographics & Socio-Economics, Roadways, Urban Public Transit, Bike & Pedestrian Network, Other Transportation Modes & Services, Area

Transportation Connections to the State and Nation, General Public Comments and Regional Goals, Objectives and Performance Measures. Mr. Gibson asked that he be contacted about any changes as this document will be taken to the Policy Board in May for final approval. Mr. Westerlund, Mr. Goerger and others complimented Mr. Gibson and the APO staff for creating this comprehensive document and for all their work that went into this document.

OTHER BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Gibson announced that with Doug Diedrichsen's departure, Vicki Ikeogu has been promoted to the Associate Planner's position and that a search has begun to fill the Transportation Planner position.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Miller motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Mayor Kleis seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

John Libert
Secretary, APO

Date