

SAINT CLOUD AREA PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY BOARD

Thursday, March 14, 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, March 14, 2019 at 5 p.m. at the Great River Regional Library. Chair Jeff Westerlund presided with the following members present:

Council Member Jeff Goerger	Saint Cloud
Council Member Paul Brandmire	Saint Cloud
Mayor Dave Kleis	Saint Cloud
Council Member Nick Sauer	Sauk Rapids
Mayor Rick Miller	Waite Park
Supervisor Jeff Westerlund	LeSauk Township
Commissioner A. Jake Bauerly	Benton County
Commissioner Joe Perske	Stearns County
Ryan Daniel, Exec Director	Metro Bus

Also Present:

Brian Gibson	Exec Director, Saint Cloud APO
Joseph Miller	Saint Cloud APO
Vicki Johnson	Saint Cloud APO
Alex McKenzie	Saint Cloud APO
Alison Henning	Saint Cloud APO
Dorothy Sweet	Saint Cloud APO
Kim Pettman	Community Member
Nate Keller	Sartell

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mr. Goerger motioned to approve and Mayor Miller seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

Ms. Kim Pettman, community member, requested and was granted five minutes to make comments. She expressed her concerns over the Saint Cloud APO hosting the staff of the RTCC. She was concerned that people do not understand what the RTCC does. She found errors in the RTCC document. Transit coordination involves many organizations. Transit dependent population includes people of varying disabilities and people of color. Ms. Pettman stated she has tried to get the APO to understand people of disability. She felt that it is very important that the Policy Board and APO change to improve reaching out to the public in an equitable manner. She said 7E was an excellent example of providing outreach to the public. She felt the RTCC is in big trouble and felt people needed to better understand transit. She encouraged the Board to learn more about the Minnesota Council on Transportation Access (MCOTA) and their goals. She felt there was a big need to include more of the public in the RTCC. She offered to speak more about this to members after the meeting. **Mr. Goerger asked if the Board members could receive a response, via e-mail, from the Executive Director about Ms. Pettman's comments and concerns.**

CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

Mayor Miller motioned to approve the Consent Agenda items, and Mr. Goerger seconded the motion. Motion carried. The consent agenda items include the Approval of January 2019 Policy Board meeting minutes, Approval of Bills List for Jan, Feb and March, Approval of Contract for Metropolitan Transportation Plan Support and Assistance, Approval of Contract for Pavement Condition Data Update, Approval of

Intelligent Transportation System Resolution, Approval of Not Waiving Tort Liability Limits for Property and Casualty Insurance and Approval of 2019-23 Transportation Improvement Pgm Administrative Modification.

CONSIDERATION OF 2019 TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES (TA) PROJECT RANKING:

Mrs. Johnson reviewed the TA project ranking process where MnDOT solicits TA projects every year. Once the projects are solicited and submitted, they go to the TA subcommittee for awarding of funds. District #3 has received \$1.6 million which will be divided among eight projects. Two projects were submitted from the APO and will be awarded an additional 10 or 5 bonus points, depending upon their priority ranking. The TAC met on February 7 and listened to the presentations from Sartell and Saint Cloud. The TAC recommended awarding 10 bonus points to the City of Sartell's Heritage Drive Connection and 5 bonus points to the City of Saint Cloud's County Road 136 Reconstruction from 22nd Street South to 33rd Street South. Because of the delay and eventual cancellation of the February Policy Board meeting, our final awarding decision was delayed. ***Mr. Goerger agreed with the TAC recommendation and motioned to award Sartell the 10 bonus points and Saint Cloud 5 bonus points. Mr. Bauerly seconded the motion. Motion carried.***

CONSIDERATION OF 2019-2023 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENT

Mrs. Johnson reported that we have received two amendments to the 2019-23 TIP. WACOSA was granted funding for a replacement bus. The cost is \$81,000, with federal funds comprising \$64,800 and local funds completing the remaining \$16,200. Fiscal constraint has been maintained.

The second Amendment is for increased costs on a Stearns County project to cover increases not originally considered in the first cost estimate. The original cost estimate was for \$528,742, but has since increased to \$1,186,277. The increased dollar amount is being covered by a combination of state aid construction and local levy funding. Fiscal constraint is maintained. The TAC has recommended approval of both amendments. ***Mayor Miller motioned to approve the TIP Amendments as recommended by the TAC, and Mr. Goerger seconded the motion. Motion carried.***

CONSIDERATION OF HOSTING ARRANGEMENTS FOR REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COUNCIL:

Mr. Gibson reported that the APO staff has been working with stakeholders across a six-county region to help develop a Regional Transportation Coordinating Council (RTCC). The six county area includes Stearns, Benton, Sherburne, Wright, Morrison, and Mille Lacs. Several transportation providers operating within the six county area are among the providers. RTCC's, as envisioned by MnDOT, would provide a forum for transportation service providers to meet, discuss common issues and opportunities, and better coordinate their services. The goal of the RTCC's is to 1) coordinate volunteer drivers across providers; 2) explore and develop a vehicle sharing program for providers, and 3) provide a one-call/one-click ride-scheduling center for the public. One possible solution for our region is for the RTCC staff to be housed at the APO Office. WSB has been hired to oversee the formation of this project. Tom Cruikshank is the Project Manager.

Mr. Gibson presented a PowerPoint presentation which provided information on the several aspects of the RTCC

- Definition of a RTCC
- Goals of an RTCC
- Participants involved in setting this up: Participants in RTCC's in other areas of MN and other states in US

- Where
- Costs/Budget:
- Where will Local Match come from:
- Who would take this project on
- What "Hosting" means if the APO takes this on
- Who runs the RTCC

Although we are still in the development and outreach phase, the name of **Central Minnesota Transportation Council (CMTC)** has been chosen. MnDOT requires participation of four contiguous counties in order for this to project to exist. MnDOT will provide 80 percent of the funding for the first two years. Local match will be required and may come from membership fees paid by transportation providers, grants and other independent sources. County Boards will need to provide resolutions. Seed money will be requested from participating counties based on their population. A Mobility Manager will need to be hired initially, with two additional staff members later on once the seed money is in place. The APO has one empty office which could hold up to three people. The APO and CMTC would share resources such as heat, electricity, phones, and office supplies. The CMTC staff will not be APO employees. The APO would act as the CMTC's Fiscal Agent and would receive and oversee grants to the CMTC. The funds would be kept separate from the APO. Our Accountant is willing to take on the accounting work of the CMTC. Mr. Gibson said he felt he would be able to take on the additional responsibilities of Fiscal Agent for the CMTC in addition to his Executive Director duties.

Once established, the CMTC will need to show results quickly in order to continue financial support. The CMTC board would direct the expenditure of funds. There is the possibility of our local jurisdiction assessments being reduced. Since the APO is considered a regional body, it would make the most sense for the APO to house the CMTC staff for two years or until the CMTC outgrows the space. Several Board members were concerned that the APO could be liable for anything related to the CMTC. Mr. Gibson responded that he would meet with the APO lawyer to respond to this concern. An agreement between the CMTC and the APO would need to be done should the APO end up hosting the CMTC.

Mayor Kleis motioned to put this forward to the public process, and Mayor Miller seconded the motion. Motion carried.

REPORT ON WASHINGTON DC TRIP AND DISCUSSION OF LOBBYIST CONTRACT:

Chair Jeff Westerlund reported on the annual Washington DC trip he and the Executive Director had to meet with various legislators and/or staff. The three main topics covered in their meetings were the extension of Northstar to Saint Cloud and possibly up to Camp Ripley, I-94 projects, and the Airport. Mr. Westerlund raised the question if we could possibly arrange the annual trip coordination and meetings with various staff and legislators without our lobbyist, and was the yearly cost of the lobbyist worth what we get. Board members responded that you have more power when you go in a group. They questioned if would we be able to see the legislators and/or their staff without a lobbyist. Several members said the "follow-up" Turch provides is invaluable. Mayor Kleis felt that we have received more federal funding for our projects because of our lobbyist. Mr. Turch, who is from this area, seems to be well connected and knows many people in Washington. Mr. Westerlund expressed his appreciation and gratitude to Mr. Gibson, and said Brian is a great asset to the APO.

OTHER BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Mr. Gibson shared and distributed a list of frequently used acronyms by the APO staff. Thanks was given to Ms. Henning, our Transportation Planner, for creating the list.
- Kodiak Hill-Davis, a staff member from Turch & Associates, has left the firm.


- Mr. Perske announced that Minnesota Transportation Commissioner Kelliher will be in St. Cloud next Friday.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Policy Board meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.



Jeff Westerlund
APO Chair



Date