

SAINT CLOUD AREA PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY BOARD
Thursday, September 19, 2019 – 5:00 p.m.
Waite Park City Hall

A regular meeting of the Saint Cloud Area Planning Organization Policy Board was held on Thursday, September 19, 2019 at 5 p.m. at the Waite Park City Hall. Chair Jeff Westerlund presided with the following members present:

Council Member Paul Brandmire	Saint Cloud
Matt Glaesman (Alt)	Saint Cloud
Council Member Jeff Goerger	Saint Cloud
Mayor Rick Schultz	Saint Joseph
Council Member Dottie Seamans	Sauk Rapids
Mayor Rick Miller	Waite Park
Supervisor Jeff Westerlund	LeSauk Township
Commissioner A. Jake Bauerly	Benton County
Commissioner Joe Perske	Stearns County
Commissioner Barbara Burandt (Alt)	Sherburne County
Doug Diedrichsen (Alt)	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
Chris Byrd	Benton Co. Engineer & TAC member
Jodi Teich	Stearns Co. Engineer & TAC member

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mr. Brandmire motioned to approve the agenda, and Mr. Goerger seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (APPROVE MINUTES OF AUG 8 2019 POLICY BOARD MEETING, APPROVE BILLS LIST FOR AUG, SEPT, AND OCT, APPROVE RENEWAL OF LICENSE FOR STREETLIGHT DATA, APPROVE TRAVEL TO WASH DC FOR EXEC DIRECTOR AND POLICY BOARD CHAIR, APPROVE TRAVEL TO WASH DC FOR EXEC DIRECTOR TO ATTEND TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD ANNUAL CONFERENCE):

Mayor Miller motioned to approve the consent agenda items, and Mr. Goerger seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CONSIDER DRAFT 2045 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN:

As a result of discussions at the August Policy Board meeting, the APO staff has worked closely with engineers and the jurisdictions to revise their project lists for the 2045 MTP. Because the changes are significant, another round of public comment period is required and will start on September 23, 2019 if the board approves the revised project list. Mr. Gibson presented the changes in the Project List for the board. **Stearns County**: Delete CSAH 136 (Oak Grove Road) project; Add 3 projects to widen roadways (CSAH 1/Riverside Avenue, CR 134, and CSAH 4/8th St N). **Benton County**: Delete widening of CSAH 8/35th Ave NE); Add Construct new

roadway on CSAH 29. **Sherburne County:** Add 3 Reconstruct Roadways (CR 62, CSAH 20, and CR 65). **Saint Joseph:** New Alignment on Westwood Parkway. All the projects are eligible for federal funding. If the new changes are approved, we will be spending the same amount of money, but will receive a better set of projects.

The Illustrative Project list was briefly discussed. This list includes projects that are desired in the jurisdictions but no funding has been identified. Projects on the Illustrative List include the ring road, bridge, projects in Saint Joseph, I-94 interchange, and extension of Clearwater Road.

Commissioner Perske asked about the Town Line Road, which is considered a minor collector, on the Illustrative List. He expressed concern that with the new Sartell High School, added traffic will be on a township road. Mr. Gibson agreed that the Town Line issue needs to be solved, but no funds have been identified.

Mr. Gibson said that of the over 200 comments received during the public input, there were five main areas of comment. Most comments centered around Active Transportation, Environment, Metro Bus, NorthStar and Highway 15. The comments were available for review at the meeting. Mr. Brandmire commented that he thought at one time it was agreed that Highway 15 was supposed to be elevated. Mayor Miller agreed with his recollection. Mr. Gibson stated that the APO will be doing a Corridor Study looking at Highway 15 next year, and it hoped that possible solutions to the problems will be proposed.

Mayor Miller motioned to approve the revised Project List for inclusion in the 2045 MTP and the Restart of the Public Input Period. Commissioner Bauerly seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CONSIDER SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM (STBGP) PROJECT SCORING PROCESS:

Ms. Johnson reported that the STBGP provides flexible funding that may be used by the states and localities for projects to preserve and improve the conditions and performance on any Federal-aid highway, bridge, and tunnel projects on any public road, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, and transit capital projects, including intercity bus terminals. States and localities are responsible for a minimum 20 percent share of project. The APO will be notified of the amount of funding assigned to us once MnDOT determines that. Jurisdictions in the APO planning area will receive 20.53% of the funding assigned to Minnesota.

Solicitation for these funds for 2024 will begin in October, 2019. The applications for these funds, which will come from ATP, will have several qualifications (access and mobility, system connectivity, multimodal, system condition, safety, economic vitality, and equity), but each planning area can make additional requirements. The APO has added two additional categories identified in our Long Range Plan (Energy & Environmental Conservation and Public Engagement, Plan Identification & Project Readiness). Ms. Johnson explained the application and ranking process. The TAC members changed the ranking system from high/medium/low to a more subjective system using a numbering system or points.

The TAC felt that the Equity factor was less of a technical issue and more of a political one, and plan to use it only as a tie-breaker when ranking projects. The TAC's goal is to put forth the best project that would benefit the region based on their technical review, but ultimately the Policy Board will decide which projects are approved for submission. Both Commissioners Bauerly and Perske disagreed with the equity issue, and felt that equity is the only way some of the jurisdictions can get funding. Ms. Johnson responded that equity would be more for the Policy Board to consider, and that the scoresheet will present the best technical scoring project. Mr. Gibson added that the TAC is not comfortable with the issue of considering which jurisdiction last

received funding. The TAC makes a technical recommendation based on the factors in the score sheet, and it hopes that equity is not the only factor in determining projects. In response to Commissioner Bauerly's request to have past funding history, Ms. Johnson said that she will provide past funding information. Commissioner Perske expressed his concern about sufficient time for discussion and to make these decisions. Ms. Johnson stated that solicitation will start in October and encouraged members to start conversations now within their jurisdictions and the APO as this is a very competitive process in our region. Although the final amount has not yet been released, it is estimated the funding will be similar to the previous year, which was approximately \$1.9 million. Mr. Goerger agreed that the Policy Board is the appropriate forum to discuss these issues.

Mr. Goerger motioned to approve the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program Project Scoring Process, and Mayor Schultz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CONSIDER TRADEMARKING OF NEW APO LOGO:

Mayor Miller motioned, and Mayor Schultz seconded to not have the new APO logo trademarked. Motion Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Gibson announced that the next Policy Board meeting would be the end of October due to the fact that we will be starting the 2nd round of public input on September 23rd. Possible dates for the Policy Board meeting include October 28, 29, 30, and 31. Mr. Westerlund asked to avoid a meeting on Halloween/Oct. 31. ***Once the TAC meeting date is determined, the Admin Asst will contact members regarding rescheduling the October Policy Board meeting.***

Commissioner Perske asked Mr. Brandmire what the biggest problem on Highway 15 was for truckers. Mr. Brandmire responded that it was the constant starts and stops and changing of gears. His suggestions included synchronizing lights so that if you are going the speed limit, you could go through the lights without stopping. Another suggestion was making the traffic lights motion activated, especially during the late night hours.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Goerger motioned to adjourn, and Mr. Brandmire seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:51 p.m.