

**Saint Cloud Area Planning Organization
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
January 3, 2019**

A regular meeting of the Saint Cloud Area Planning Organization's (APO) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was held on Thursday, January 3, 2019 at Stearns County Public Works. Senior Planner, Joseph Mueller, presided with the following members present:

Chris Byrd	Benton County
Bobbi Retzlaff	MnDOT
Bill Schluenz	Waite Park
Andrew Witter	Sherburne County
Jon Halter	Sartell
Jodi Teich	Stearns County
Steve Voss	MnDOT Dist #3
Todd Schultz	Sauk Rapids
Randy Sabart	SEH/St. Joseph
Joseph Mueller	Saint Cloud APO
Brian Gibson	Saint Cloud APO
Alex McKenzie	Saint Cloud APO
Vicki Johnson	Saint Cloud APO
Dorothy Sweet	Saint Cloud APO

CONSIDER MINUTES OF OCTOBER 4, 2018:

Mr. Byrd motioned to approve the October 4, 2018 TAC meeting minutes, and Ms. Teich seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: No Comments

MTP: FUTURE PROJECTS MAPS AND RANKING:

Mr. Mueller reported that the information shown on the projects list and maps was obtained from the jurisdictions. Later on during the spring when the model runs are completed and compared to the project maps, the jurisdictions will be asked to rank the projects. Until then, this is considered informational. Mr. Mueller responded to inquiries regarding the various color coding and schemes. Mr. Halter said he would send an email to Mr. Mueller of some adjustments that need to be made for Sartell. ***The deadline for accepting changes and corrections is the last week of January.*** Much of the information was lifted from the Comp Plans. It will be determined which projects the jurisdictions will be applying for state and federal funds and which projects will be in the Long Range Plan. We are not at the point of determining fiscal constraint in the process. We need to first verify the project to determine that it is still valid. After that is completed, the real projects will be identified, and then prioritization will need to occur. Each jurisdiction will need to pare down their projects before presenting to the TAC. This may require some tiering of decisions.

Mrs. Johnson is currently working on future revenues for the jurisdictions and explained the process she is using to obtain that information.

Mr. Gibson said it is acceptable if the same road project is shown as both preservation and expansion. It is important that we document all needs. It would be helpful, though not required at this point, if the projects could be prioritized.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN (SEP) AMENDMENT:

Mrs. Johnson briefed the members on the need for the SEP amendment. The 45-day Public Comment period was completed on December 17, 2018. Changes included wording changes, addition of several disclaimers, and descriptions, etc. The major change includes how the TIP is amended and modified. We are now proposing to follow the State of Minnesota's rules for amendments vs. modifications.

Mr. Voss motioned to approve the SEP Amendment, and Mr. Halter seconded the motion. Motion carried. The SEP will be presented to the Policy Board for final approval.

FY 2019-2023 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENT:

Mrs. Johnson stated that this is the first of four scheduled TIP Amendments this year, and highlighted the changes to the TIP:

2019 – Sartell is adding on to the scope of a Safe Routes to School infrastructure improvements project. The project has since changed to improvements along Second Ave N, 5th Ave N, and 2½ St N in Sartell, and the total cost of the project has increased to \$2,467,154 with the Federal contribution remaining the same. The local share has increased from \$49,794 to \$2,267,978. Fiscal constraint has been maintained

2020 – Metro Bus has decreased the amount for the purchase of three standard 35-ft replacement CNG fixed route buses. Fiscal constraint has been maintained.

2021 – Metro Bus has increased the number of less than 30 ft replacement CNG DAR replacement buses from one to three. Total project cost increased from \$460,000 to \$690,000. Fiscal constraint has been maintained.

2023 – Metro Bus has made several changes to projects currently programed in FY 2023:

- An increase in total funding for operating assistance, preventative maintenance, paratransit operating, and Northstar Commuter operating
- the deletion of a transit hubs project from the TIP
- an increase in total funding allocated for facility improvements and additions, and
- the addition of the purchase of six less than 30 feet CNG DAR replacement buses.

Fiscal constraint has been maintained for all of these changes.

Mr. Halter motioned to approve the Amendment to the TIP, and Mr. Schluenz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

RING ROAD MODEL LINKS:

Mr. Gibson stated that the Ring Road discussion has been around for quite some time but recently some Board members have raised this issue. Several maps, created by Alex McKenzie, the APO's Transportation Planning Technician, were distributed to the members. The maps showed the location of various portions of the ring road based on

past discussions. In order for the APO to decide if we are going to go ahead with the Ring Road, models need to be done to ultimately decide if it is worth pursuing the Ring Road. Consensus will be needed to decide where to put the links. Some alignments may not be possible anymore. The number of lanes, the speed limit, location of links, and overpasses are some of the things that will need to be determined in this process. Some parts of the ring road could have more cost benefit than others. A consultant will need to look at this jurisdiction-by-jurisdiction, and the final plan should show the benefit or cost benefit for each jurisdiction. Another environmental study and corridor study will eventually need to be done if we decide to move forward. A minimum will need to be decided upon throughout this process to narrow down the variables and should probably be determined by TAC members. The members discussed several options including the number and types of intersections, elevation, grade, signals vs. roundabouts, 3-4 lane urban arterials, 4-lane divided urban sections, external to internal needs and internal to external needs. If it is decided that the lowest cost option is not feasible, we shouldn't go forward.

It was decided the best way to start would be to have small group meetings. Waite Park will start the meeting process and will invite Sartell, Saint Joseph, Stearns County and Saint Cloud to the meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Mr. Gibson announced that Alex McKenzie recently received a Masters Degree in Public Administration from Saint Cloud State University.
- The new Joint Powers Agreement has been approved by nearly all the jurisdictions.
- Mr. Voss commented on the following:
 - ❖ Margaret Anderson Kelliher has been chosen as the new Minnesota Transportation Commissioner.
 - ❖ Reduced funding for 2019 includes TAP, HSIP, ATP and Dist.#3 funds.
 - ❖ 23 Interchange funding will not be affected.
 - ❖ Mr. Voss suggested that when doing our next TIP, we keep in mind that inflation rates seems to be higher than we are used to as projects are coming in higher than they have been estimated.
 - ❖ Mr. Voss distributed two tables for review (FY 2020-23 STIP Funding Guidance and Cost Estimate Inflation Conversion Factor Table)

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:16 a.m.