

**Saint Cloud Area Planning Organization
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
January 30, 2020**

A regular meeting of the Saint Cloud Area Planning Organization's (APO) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was held at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020, at Stearns County Public Works. Senior Planner Vicki Johnson presided with the following members present:

Chris Byrd	Benton County
Jodi Teich	Stearns County
Andrew Witter	Sherburne County
Bobbi Retzlaff	MnDOT
Steve Voss	MnDOT, Dist #3
Bobbi Retzlaff	MnDOT
Jon Noerenberg	Waite Park
Steve Foss	Saint Cloud
Matt Glaesman	Saint Cloud
Todd Schultz	Sauk Rapids
Terry Thene	Saint Joseph
Mary Degiovanni	Sartell (via telephone)
Vicki Johnson	Saint Cloud APO
Brian Gibson	Saint Cloud APO
Alex McKenzie	Saint Cloud APO
Fred Sandal	Saint Cloud APO
Dorothy Sweet	Saint Cloud APO

Introductions were made.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: No members of the public were in attendance.

CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (Minutes of Oct 29, 2019, TAC meeting minutes; Staff report on Jan 9, 2020, Policy Board meeting; Staff report on Jan. 16, 2020, ATP meeting): *Ms. Teich motioned and Mr. Byrd seconded to approve the Consent Agenda Items. Motion carried.*

FY 2020-2023 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENTS:

Mrs. Johnson said that the APO is amending the TIP four times a year. Stearns County, WACOSA, Metro Bus, and MnDOT have proposed changes. Fiscal constraint has been maintained for all proposed changes.

Stearns County:

2020: Project funding source changed from STBGP to NHPP and project cost increased.

2022: a) Advance Construction Payback increased

b) Project number and description assigned. Project undergoing a funding swap. Local funds have increased to account for the funding difference. Overall project costs remains the same.

2023: Project number and description updated.

WACOSA:

2020: Added purchase of one replacement bus.

Metro Bus:

2020: a) Project funding source (STBGP to FTA) and project number changed.

b) Project funding source (STBGP to FTA) and project number changed.

c) Project description changed and project cost decreased.

d) Reduced number of buses to be purchased from three to one, and project cost dropped.

e) Project funding source (STBGP to FTA) and project number changed.

2021: Project funding source changed from local funds to FTA/LF split.

2023: Changed work type status from transit vehicle purchase to facility improvements.

MnDOT:

2021: Adding project to TIP per MnDOT District #3.

Mrs. Johnson reviewed feedback received from survey monkey and the open house. Mr. Voss raised the issue about dealing with set aside transfers. Mrs. Johnson also said that because the changes are not more than 50 percent increase or decrease in the projects, public comment periods are not required. Mr. Gibson recommended that the TAC recommend approval contingent upon confirmation that we are not violating APO policy. **Ms. Teich motioned and Mr. Schultz seconded to approve the amendments contingent on the fact that we are not violating APO policy. Motion carried.**

FY 2024 ATP-MANAGED SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM (STBGP) PRIORITIZATION:

Mrs. Johnson summarized the background history of the STBGP program and the previously TAC approved process used to initially rank the projects by the APO staff. The APO has received 20.53% of the STBGP allocation within the Central Minnesota ATP, which is approximately \$2,135,120. Five applications in our area for these funds were received.

- ❖ Sauk Rapids: a) Benton CSAH 1 (Mayhew Lake Road) Trail
b) 2nd Avenue South from Benton Drive to 10th Street South Reconstruction
- ❖ Benton Co: Mayhew Lake Rd (Pavement preservation) CSAH 1 from CSAH 29 to CR 78
- ❖ Stearns Co: a) CSAH 133 – Expansion
b) CSAH 81 – Roadway Reclamation, Reconditioning and Resurfacing

Todd Schultz, Chris Byrd and Jodi Teich presented information regarding their projects.

The APO staff's suggested ranking of the projects were as follows:

- 1) Stearns County's CSAH 133 project from CSAH 75 to 19th Ave in Saint Joseph: Expand to 4 lanes and intersection improvements at Elm Street, Dual Left Turn Lanes from EB CSAH 75 to NB CSAH 133 be funded in full \$1,440,000.
- 2) Benton County CSAH 1: Full depth reclamation and resurfacing funded in the amount of \$695,120.

Ms. Teich motioned to approve the projects as recommended by the APO staff, and Mr. Witter seconded the motion.

Mr. Schultz asked the TAC to consider a scenario were the money was spread around a bit more. Ms. Teich talked about MnDOT's process, and Mrs. Johnson reminded everyone that federal funding needs to be a minimum of 30% of the project. Ms. Degiovanni expressed concerns about overlay projects outranking street projects. Mr. Byrd said he felt the Benton County project was more than just overlay. Paving of shoulder can help bicyclists and alleviates safety concerns with trucks using that roadway. Mr. Glaesman said he was surprised about the CSAH 81 project ranking by the APO and advocated from an urban perspective that projects ranked 2 (Benton County) and 3 (Stearns County CSAH 81) be reversed or ranked equally. Ms. Teich said that Stearns County will be doing CSAH 81 whether they receive STBGP funding or not. Mr. Witter asked Mr. Byrd if he (Benton County) would be okay with receiving less than their funding request amount (receiving \$695,120 instead of their requested \$720,000). Mr. Byrd responded that this would be acceptable.

The motion on the table (accepting the APO's suggesting ranking and funding amounts) was passed with one opposed (T. Schultz) and one abstaining (S. Voss).

FY 2024 TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM PRIORITIZATION:

Mrs. Johnson reported that 13 projects were received for consideration by the Central Minnesota ATP. Two of the projects were from the APO area. The TAC members were asked to assign 10 points to one project and 5 points to the other project.

Mr. Foss reviewed the Saint Cloud project: County Road 136 Reconstruction from 22nd Street South to 33rd Street South. This project involves reconstructing 1.6 miles of multimodal roadway (CR 136) including 6 foot wide sidewalk and 6 foot wide bike lanes curb and gutter from 22nd Street S to Oak Hill Elementary, and reconstructing the rural section to include 10 foot widened shoulders from Oak Hill Elementary to 33rd St South.

Mr. Schultz reviewed the Sauk Rapids project: CSAH 1 Trail Improvements. The project involves constructing a 10 ft. wide bituminous trail from the existing trail at CSAH 3, along CSAH 1 to the existing trail at Osauka Road (High School entrance). Their main concern is how to get people safely across CSAH 1. Mr. Byrd support Mr. Schultz's safety concerns.

Mr. Glaesman motioned to assign 10 points to the Saint Cloud project and five points to the Sauk Rapids project, and Ms. Teich seconded the motion. Motion approved with one opposed (T. Schultz) and one abstaining from voting (S. Voss).

DISCUSS REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PRIORITIES FOR 2020:

Mr. Gibson reviewed the priorities in the booklet and gave a brief background history on each project. The priorities booklet is needed for the annual APO trip to Washington DC to meet with the congressional members and/or staff. Ms. Teich suggested breaking down the beltline projects into sections that have been completed, what needs to be done, and list what the top priority is for the beltline. Most TAC members agreed the bridge would be the top priority for the beltline. The alignment has not been determined, but for now we have modeled the beltline as shown in the handout. Some pieces of alignment need to be determined by the corresponding jurisdictions. Other suggestions included changing the language on some of the project pages, add something about ongoing studies, and MnDOT and other efforts supporting the APO's priorities. Mr. Gibson asked that suggestions be sent to him as the Policy Board agenda will be sent out around Feb. 3.

OTHER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Feb. 13 is the next Policy Board meeting. TAC members were encouraged to attend to present their STBGP and TA projects.
- The deadline for the next TIP amendment is Feb. 3. One amendment from Sherburne County has already been received.
- Mr. Fred Sandal, Associate Planner at the APO, was welcomed.
- Mr. Voss announced that a Northstar Commuter Rail Planning initiative was scheduled at the St. Cloud Library that evening at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Frank Loetterle, MnDOT Passenger Rail Office would be speaking to provide further updates on Northstar.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:03 a.m.