

**Saint Cloud Area Planning Organization  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES  
May 28, 2020**

A Zoom meeting of the Saint Cloud Area Planning Organization’s (APO) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was held at 10:03 a.m. on Thursday, May 28, 2020. Senior Transportation Planner Vicki Johnson presided with the following members participating via zoom or telephone access:

Randy Sabart	Saint Joseph
Jeff Lenz	MnDOT Dist #3
Jodi Teich	Stearns County
Ryan Daniel	Metro Bus
Jon Halter	Sartell
Matt Glaesman	Saint Cloud
Chris Byrd	Benton County
Megan Neeck	MnDOT
Voni Vegar	MnDOT Transit & Active Transportation
Vicki Johnson	APO, Sr. Planner
Brian Gibson	APO, Exec Director
Alex McKenzie	APO, Planning Technician
Fred Sandal	APO, Assoc Planner
Dorothy Sweet	APO, Admin Asst

Senior Planner Vicki Johnson reviewed the Electronic Meeting Notification requirements.

Introductions were made.

Public Comment Period: No members of the public participated.

**CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:** (Approval of Apr 30, 2020, TAC Meeting minutes, Staff Report of May 6, 2020, Active Transportation Adv Committee Meeting minutes, Staff Report of May 14, 2020 Policy Board Meeting minutes): ***Ms. Teich motion to approve Consent Agenda Items, and Mr. Byrd seconded the motion. Motion carried. (Roll Call: Sabart-Yes; Lenz-Yes; Teich-Yes; Daniel-Yes; Halter-Yes; Glaesman-Yes; Byrd-Yes).***

**DRAFT FY 2021-2024 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP):** Senior Planner Vicki Johnson reviewed the Draft FY 2021-2024 TIP document for projects to receive federal funding. The new projects in the TIP have been identified/awarded through the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP), Transportation Alternatives (TA), and the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). The new projects include:

- City of Sauk Rapids Mayhew Lake Road Shared Use Path
- City of Saint Cloud’s County Rd 136 TA project
- Stearns County CSAH 4/CSAH 133 roundabout
- MnDOT’s I-94 flyover bridge overlay at CSAH 75

- MnDOT's US 10 guardrails from Saint Cloud to Clear Lake
- Metro Bus 2024 projects
- Benton County's CSAH 1 reclamation
- Stearns County CSAH 133 expansion

Other changes include:

- Some projects were advance constructed
- Project pages will continue to be updated until the projects "fall off" the TIP— they will then be updated as part of the Annual Listing of Obligated Projects until they are completed
- Waite Park's financial plan and fiscal constraint have been included.

Comments have been solicited and incorporated into the Draft TIP from MnDOT Dist #3 and Office of Transportation System Mgmt, Fed Highway and Fed Transit.

MnDOT Dist #3 Engineering Specialist/Program Coordinator Jeff Lenz said MnDOT Central Office is anticipating a \$40 million statewide deficit for fiscal years 2021-2024. He stated it is possible that cuts to various projects could occur within the APO's planning area, but at this time, it is unclear how Central Office is planning on handling this deficit. Mr. Lenz said the timing is less than ideal due to several Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) in Minnesota, including the APO, are nearing the final stages of their TIP development process.

Senior Planner Johnson requested recommendation to the Policy Board that they approve the draft TIP to release for a 30-day public comment period.

***Mr. Sabart motioned, and Ms. Teich second to recommend to the Policy Board that they approve the draft TIP to release for 30-day public comment period. Motion carried. (Roll Call: Sabart-Yes; Lenz-Yes; Teich-Yes; Daniel-Yes; Halter-Yes; Glaesman-Yes; Byrd-Yes).***

**DRAFT FY 2021-2022 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP):**

Executive Director Brian Gibson presented the APO's annual budget and work plan for FY 2021-2022. The UPWP includes a proposed funding level to spend down over \$343,000 in carry-over Federal funds awarded in prior years. It also includes two consultant driven studies: a regional travel demand survey and a southwest beltline corridor planning study. He presented a plan to spend down the carry-over Federal funds for the next few years and the corresponding jurisdictional assessments. Mr. Gibson also provided alternatives that excluded the southwest beltline corridor study. The TAC members discussed the beltline study affordability, the necessity for and value of the southwest beltline study, whether the study could be postponed or whether the study should be done now. They also discussed the development plans for Waite Park and Saint Joseph and how those plans tie in to the southwest belt line. Several members questioned if the southwest beltline project would move forward if the study is done. The members expressed their concern that the assessment increase would have on the cities and counties.

***Mr. Halter motioned to recommend Policy Board approval of the draft 2021-2022 UPWP, and Mr. Sabart seconded the motion. Motion carried by***

***a vote of 5 to 2. (Roll Call: Sabart-Yes; Lenz-Yes; Teich-Yes; Daniel-Yes; Halter-Yes; Glaesman-No; Byrd-No).***

**FREIGHT PROJECT FUNDING:**

At the last MPO Directors' meeting, it was announced there is a potential new solicitation for competitive grants for the MN Highway Freight Program. The minimum award would be \$500,000. Funding potential up to \$14.7M in 2023, \$22.2M in 2024, and \$20M in 2025. Planning, safety, freight mobility, and intermodal connections are eligible activities. Solicitation announcement is expected soon with project selection announcement in October 2020.

**OTHER BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Senior Planner Vicki Johnson said at the last TAC meeting Jon Halter and Steve Foss expressed interest in further discussion with a speed limit working group. Several TAC members supported further discussion of this topic. Mr. Ryan Daniel and Randy Sabart also indicated their interest in joining the group discussion. It was decided to wait for further statewide discussion and to tackle this topic in the fall or winter.

The APO is still working on the Active Transportation Plan. We are still taking public comments. Members were encouraged to share the Survey Monkey and Wikimap with interested parties in their jurisdictions.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 10:56 a.m.