

SAINT CLOUD AREA PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY BOARD
Thursday, October 8, 2020 – 4:30 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Saint Cloud Area Planning Organization Policy Board was held on Thursday, October 8th at 4:30 p.m. APO Chair Rick Miller presided with the following members participating via the Zoom app or telephone access:

Mayor Rick Miller	Waite Park
Commissioner Raeanne Danielowski	Sherburne County
Ryan Daniel, CEO	Metro Bus
Mayor Rick Schultz	Saint Joseph
Mayor Dave Kleis	Saint Cloud
Council Member Dottie Seamans	Sauk Rapids
Commissioner Joe Perske	Stearns County
Jeff Goerger	Saint Cloud
Mayor Ryan Fitzthum	Sartell
Paul Brandmire	Saint Cloud
Brian Gibson, Exec Director	Saint Cloud APO
Amber Blattner	Saint Cloud APO
Vicki Johnson	Saint Cloud APO
Alex McKenzie	Saint Cloud APO
Fred Sandal	Saint Cloud APO

INTRODUCTIONS/ ROLL CALL: Introductions were made and roll call was taken

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Ms. Seamans motioned to approve the agenda, and Mr. Goerger seconded the motion. Motion carried. Roll Call Vote: Miller-yes; Danielowski-yes; Daniel-yes; Perske- yes; Goerger – yes; Fitzthum – yes; Seamans-yes. Motion Passed.

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

CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

- a. Approve Minutes of September 10, 2020 Policy Board Meeting (Attachment A)
- b. Approve Actual Bills Lists for September and Anticipated Bills for October and November (Attachments B1 – B2)
- c. Approve Roadway Safety Targets for 2021 (Attachments C1 & C2)
- d. Approve Updated Stakeholder Engagement Plan (Attachments D1 & D2)
- e. Receive Progress Report for Active Transportation Plan (Attachment E)
- f. Receive Staff Report of Sept. 24, 2020 Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (Attachment F)

Ms. Danielowski motioned to approve the consent agenda, and Mr. Perske seconded the motion. Motion carried. Roll Call Vote: Miller-yes; Danielowski-yes; Daniel-yes; Perske- yes; Goerger – yes; Fitzthum – yes; Seamans-yes. Motion Passed.

Consider Updated Bylaws for the Technical Advisory Committee (Attachments G1 & G2)

Ms. Johnson provided an overview of the TAC Bylaw revisions. Ms. Johnson highlighted membership, voting representatives, attendance, and quorum. Current bylaws do not have a stipulation for quorum and after hearing thoughts from the Policy Board the TAC committee proposed revising the bylaws to include a 50% quorum. A video and teleconference provision has been added. This is due to the pandemic and the need for meetings to be virtual with it being noted that we strive for in person meetings when possible. Ms. Johnson summarized the timeline for the TAC Bylaws revision process and requested approval of revised TAC Bylaws. Ms. Danielowski asked for clarification on who would have the ability to decide on who sits on the TAC and asked if an organization can appoint a member. Ms. Johnson said that currently a mixture of engineers, planning directors, and community development directors sit on the TAC and under the proposed bylaws each organization would appoint whoever they feel is the best fit. Mr. Perske asked that the entities also select an alternate and supported the ability to take in the virtual attendance. Mr. Perske suggested they be able to take vote if the quorum is not present and note that there was not a quorum with the results of the vote. Ms. Johnson clarified that a member could designate an alternate of their choice and they should provide at least 24 hours advance notice to the APO staff of who the alternate representative is.

Mr. Goerger motioned to approve the TAC Bylaw revisions, and Mr. Fitzthum seconded the motion. Motion carried. Roll Call Vote: Miller-yes; Danielowski-yes; Daniel-yes; Schultz-yes; Kleis-yes; Perske- yes; Goerger-yes; Fitzthum-yes; Seamans-yes. Motion Passed.

Consider Results of Stakeholder Engagement Self-Assessment for 2019

(Attachments H1 & H2)

Mr. Gibson summarized the APO report on stakeholder engagement. The 2020 SEP annual report measured progress toward achieving goals, evaluated effectiveness and engagement of activities, and recommended improvements for public engagement. Mr. Gibson summarized the assessment of the APO's response to recommendations from the 2019 report and included areas that have improved and areas that need improvement and noted that since COVID-19 comments from the public have increased. Mr. Gibson's recommendations for 2020-2021 included exploring hybrid in-person/virtual meetings, exploring targeted and more frequent outreach, soliciting mail addresses as part of online surveys, providing qualitative surveys more frequently, and exploring a more effective use of available social media. Mr. Perske asked if when gathering demographic information from people if they were willing to respond to those questions. Mr. Gibson said demographic information clearly states that it is optional, and most people are willing to provide those details. Mr. Schultz asked for clarification on responses being up. Mr. Gibson said the number of online comments has gone up substantially since COVID-19 even though no in person meetings were held. Mr. Schultz asked what the goal is; 10%, 20% increase, or to reach a certain demographic and how would you know you have reached the goal. Mr. Gibson said they do not have a specific target and it is an acknowledgement that online public input misses some people and APO staff need to reach out further in person.

Mr. Schultz motioned to approve the stakeholder engagement report, and Ms. Seamans seconded the motion. Motion carried. Roll Call Vote: Miller-yes; Danielowski-yes; Daniel-yes; Schultz-yes; Kleis-yes; Perske- yes; Goerger-yes; Fitzthum-yes; Seamans-yes. Motion Passed.

Present Results of Roadway Pavement Condition Assessment (Attachments I1 & I2)

Mr. Gibson presented on Good Point Technologies and the pavement condition report they completed last summer. Mr. Gibson summarized the MPAs pavement conditions and noted that for jurisdictional analysis, the percentages do not include county roads, only city roads. Mr. Gibson also summarized that data was collected on bike route striping. Mr. Gibson asked if there were any questions. There were no questions.

Present Results of Shared-Use Path Condition Assessment (Attachments J1 & J2)

Mr. Gibson reported on the assessment done by the Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota. 210 miles of shared use paths were studied. Mr. Gibson asked if there were any questions. There were no questions.

Discuss Northstar Rail Extension Feasibility Assessment (Attachments K1 & K2)

Mr. Gibson summarized the four Northstar Alternatives that were discussed at the last Policy Board Meeting and the cost of each option.

1. Minimum Service Alternative – One morning peak-period train from St. Cloud to Minneapolis. One afternoon peak-period train from Minneapolis to St. Cloud.
2. Minimum Bi-Directional Service Alternative – The Minimum Bi-Directional Service Alternative provides a trip in each direction between Minneapolis and St. Cloud for both the morning and afternoon peak period.
3. Express Service Alternative – The Express Service Alternative would provide one train in each direction during both the morning and afternoon peak periods. These trains would bypass all intermediate stations to reduce travel time. (One hour and five minutes versus one hour and twenty minutes).
4. Bi-Directional Service Alternative - The Bi-Directional Service Alternative would provide the greatest amount of service of the four alternatives studied and would give St. Cloud residents more opportunities to return home. In the morning two existing Northstar trains would be rescheduled to begin in St. Cloud rather than Big Lake and one new Northstar train would be scheduled to begin at Minneapolis and travel to St. Cloud. In the afternoon three Northstar trains would operate from Minneapolis to St. Cloud and two new Northstar trains would operate from St. Cloud to Minneapolis. The project team also added one North bound trip in the late evening.

Ms. Danielowski asked if there are no stops along the route. Mr. Gibson clarified that is true only in option 3, the express service. Mr. Gibson reviewed the next steps for planning and implementation. Mr. Gibson asked the Policy Board if they wanted to pursue any of the four options and asked what they would like APO's next steps to be. Ms. Danielowski asked for clarification on who would be engaged moving on to the next steps and if all the counties are included on this. Mr. Gibson said that decision still needs to be made and mentioned a committee that there was in the past. Ms. Danielowki said the committee did recently meet to discuss costs and would probably be willing to meet on this topic again soon. Mr. Perske asked who will carry this project moving forward. Mr. Gibson did not think the APO, but APO would play a supporting role.

Mr. Perske's opinion was that it is up to Metro Transit and thought we should start this discussion next year to get momentum. Ms. Danielowski said at the last meeting with stakeholders a lot of things came up such a drop in 98% ridership due to COVID-19 and there will be tough decisions on how to proceed. Mr. Shultz thought the role of the APO would be to lobby for this jurisdiction to start the conversation. Mr. Perske said a large transportation bill may be forthcoming from Washington and we should have something in position. Ms.

Danielowski would like to include all stakeholders in the conversations (all the counties). Mr. Daniel said in 2021 he can partner with Mr. Gibson starting the conversation of Northstar coming to Saint Cloud. Ms. Danielowski would like to remind everyone to keep the big picture in mind, the future is not only traveling in cars.

OTHER BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ms. Johnson discussed Solicitations for Federally Funded Projects. Letters of intent for transportation alternatives are due October 30th and the full applications for those projects are due January 8, 2021. Mr. Fitzthum thanked Mr. McKenzie and Mr. Gibson for their assistance with the Sartell zoning project traffic study. Mr. Perske noted 77 bill grants were awarded and Minnesota received two for rural projects.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:29 p.m.