

SAINT CLOUD AREA PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY BOARD
Thursday, May 13, 2021 – 4:30 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Saint Cloud Area Planning Organization Policy Board was held on Thursday, May 13 at 4:30 p.m. APO Chair Joe Perske presided with the following members participating via the Zoom app or telephone access:

Commissioner Joe Perske	Stearns County
Mayor Rick Miller	City of Waite Park
Commissioner Raeanne Danielowski	Sherburne County
Dave Green, COO	Metro Bus
Jeff Goerger	City of Saint Cloud
Jared Gapinski	Benton County
Kevin Kluesner	City of Saint Joseph
Mayor Ryan Fitzthum	City of Sartell
Dottie Seamans	City of Sauk Rapids
Paul Brandmire	City of Saint Cloud
Jeff Westerlund	LeSauk Township

Also in attendance were:

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mr. Brandmire motioned to approve the agenda, and Mr. Goerger seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Miller-yes; Danielowski-yes; Green-yes; Westerlund – yes; Goerger – yes; Kluesner – yes; Perske-yes; Fitzthum – yes; Seamans – yes; Brandmire – yes; Gapinski - yes; Motion Passed.

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

CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

- a. Approve Minutes of April 8, 2021 Policy Board Meeting
- b. Approve Bills Lists
- c. Receive Staff Report of April 29th Meeting of Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
- d. Receive Staff Report for Area Transportation Partnership Meeting April 8th Meeting

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

Consider 2019 Transportation Performance Monitoring Report

Ms. Gibson presented the 2019 Transportation Performance Monitoring Report. The report is based on the last available data, in this case it is from 2019. Federal regulations require that APO tracks and reports certain performance measures (PMs) across the region. The goal is to help inform decision making to ensure resources are being put to their best use. Mr. Gibson summarized the transportation data for 2019. Mr. Gibson noted it is hard to get accurate data on distracted driving because people may not be clear on why an accident happened. Non-motorized fatalities have increased over the last few years and those accidents happen most often in the downtown area. Transit ridership continues to decline while Dial a Ride has increased ridership. The NHS system is in good condition and performing well. Bridges overall are in good condition. Air quality continues to improve. Ms. Danielowski asked if the age of the bridge correlates with how it rates. Mr. Gibson was not sure if there is a correlation.

Mr. Fitzthum motioned to approve the Transportation Performance Monitoring Report, and Mr. Brandmire seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Miller-yes; Danielowski-yes; Green-yes; Westerlund – yes; Goerger – yes; Kluesner – yes; Perske-yes; Fitzthum – yes; Seamans – yes; Brandmire – yes; Gapinski - yes; Motion Passed.

Consider FY 2020 Work Program Annual Report

Mr. Gibson summarized the 2020 budget, revenue, and expenditures. The largest expenditure was the TH15 Operational Improvement Study (27%). Mr. Kluesner said the financial report was very well put together and asked for more information on the Saint Cloud APO investments. Mr. Gibson said the APO works with RSG and US Bank. Mr. Kluesner asked who has contact with David (David Turch and Associates). Mr. Gibson said he is in contact with David and David is willing to provide an update any time if anyone is interested in meeting with him. David Turch and Associates have been contracted with APO since at least 2016 that Mr. Gibson knows of. Mr. Perske said David Turch and Associates would lobby for anything the jurisdictions have interest in.

Mr. Kluesner motioned to approve the Work Program Annual Report, and Ms. Seamans seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Miller-yes; Danielowski-yes; Green-yes; Westerlund – yes; Goerger – yes; Kluesner – yes; Perske-yes; Fitzthum – yes; Seamans – yes; Brandmire – yes; Gapinski - yes; Motion Passed.

Discuss Regional Transportation Priorities

Ms. Gibson summarized the information from survey monkey that was received from eight participants. The priority was reconstructing TH15, followed by the construction of the Southwest Regional Beltway Corridor and the Southern portion of the Beltline. Mr. Gibson asked if the board agrees on how projects were prioritized. Mr. Kluesner does not agree with extending the North Star Train from Big Lake to St. Cloud. Mr. Gapinski agrees with Mr. Kluesner that number four is too high of ranking for that project. Mr. Brandmire agrees but says the poll is already complete. Mr. Perske said North Star has always been on the radar and if

dollars for commuter rail become available then he would support the North Star Train route. Ms. Seamans wondered which projects would most likely be funded in the coming years and thinks the regional beltway, that includes the Mississippi bridge, will never get funded if we do not get this special money for the project. Mr. Kluesner asked if survey monkey is the best way to decide on projects. Mr. Gibson clarified that the poll is to give an initial starting point for discussion. Mr. Brandmire confirms that the top votes for TH15 and the Beltway are projects everyone can agree upon. Mr. Miller agrees the South-West Beltway is very important and without Federal money Waite Park cannot afford the project. Mr. Perkse added that a decision needs to be made on where the Beltway will come through so that buildings do not need to be moved in the future. Mr. Fitzthum agrees with Mr. Miller, it would take too long to fund the project through city funds and Federal money is needed. Mr. Gapinski suggested combining the Beltline projects into one project when asking for Federal funds. Mr. Gibson confirmed the top three projects are agreed on by the board and he will update the briefing booklet. Mr. Goerger agrees that we need to look at the bridge and southern part of the Beltway because they will be difficult to fund in the future. Mr. Perske added funding would have to come from the Federal level. Mr. Gibson asked if anyone would object to submitting the Southern and Southwest Beltway pieces together as one project for about \$170 million. There were no objections. Mr. Perske noted to Metro Bus that if there are dollars for transit for Metro Bus that they will work to get those funds as well.

OTHER BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

No other announcements were shared.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:32 p.m.