

SAINT CLOUD AREA PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY BOARD
Thursday, August 12, 2021 – 4:30 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Saint Cloud Area Planning Organization Policy Board was held on Thursday, August 12 at 4:30 p.m. APO Chair Joe Perske presided with the following members:

Joe Perske	Stearns County
Rick Miller	City of Waite Park
Raeanne Danielowski	Sherburne County
Dottie Seamans	City of Sauk Rapids
Paul Brandmire	City of Saint Cloud
Rick Schultz	City of Saint Joseph
Jeff Westerlund	LeSauk Township
Carol Lewis	City of Saint Cloud

Also in attendance were:

Beth Schlangen	Benton County
Brian Gibson	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:

Ms. Seamans motioned to approve the agenda, and Ms. Danielowski seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

- a. Approve Minutes of June 10, 2021 Policy Board Meeting
- b. Approve Bills Lists
- c. Approve Administrative Modification to the 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program
- d. Approve Amendment to Bylaws of the Technical Advisory Committee
- e. Accept Mid-Year Budget vs. Actual Report
- f. Accept Report from July Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee

Mr. Schultz motioned to approve the consent agenda, and Mr. Brandmire seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Consider 2022-2023 Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Gibson summarized the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) that serves as the APOs annual budget. Mr. Gibson would also like to budget a small amount of funds (\$5,000) to contract with community liaisons to help the APO reach traditionally underserved populations when there are public input opportunities.

The proposed program also budgets funds for Benton County/Sauk Rapids to do an access and safety study for Mayhew Lake Road between TH-23 and 35th Avenue (\$100,000) and for Saint Joseph to do a redevelopment study of the Birch Street (\$25,000).

The total proposed 2022 budget is \$920,000, of which 65% (\$602,000) will be for staff, overhead, and APO office operations. Mr. Gibson summarized the 2017-2022 budget history. 2022 assessments would be an 11.8% increase from 2021. Mr. Brandmire asked what Mr. Gibson thought a reasonable figure for APO financial reserves would be. Mr. Gibson thought \$450,000 (i.e., about six months of budget) is a good place to be but is open to whatever the board suggests. Mr. Gibson summarized the resolutions that would be approved as part of the UPWP. Mr. Schultz asked if Metro Bus assessments are static. Mr. Gibson said that jurisdictional assessments are based on population but because MetroBus does not have a population their assessment amount is set in the bylaws. Mr. Westerlund asked why Sherburne County pays about the same as LeSauk Township. Mr. Gibson said that Sherburne County only has Haven Township in the MPO area, so they pay based only on the population of that single township. Mr. Westerlund hopes to get funding for the Townline Road between CR 4 and St. Stephen. Mr. Perske agreed and said they are working on a plan for that road.

Mr. Miller motioned to approve the Unified Planning Work Program. Ms. Seamans seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Consider Regional Priorities Briefing Booklet

Mr. Gibson summarized the Regional Transpiration Priorities based off a survey the APO Policy Board completed in March. TH-15 Reconstruction, Southwest Beltline, and the Mississippi River Bridge at 33RD Street S were the top three prioritized projects. TAC reviewed and recommended approval conditional upon clarification from FHWA about their willingness to review environmental documents for which construction funds have not yet been identified. Mr. Gibson noted that once you do the environmental review the jurisdiction has about 10 years to complete construction. Mr. Schultz asked for clarification on if there are six or three projects they will be presented. Mr. Gibson clarified it is the three top projects being highlighted. Mr. Perske commented he will mention other projects (North Star and the airport) but not do an official ask for funding as a way to keep those projects "on the radar". Mr. Gibson clarified that APO would have three asks but the end of the document could highlight other projects still on our radar. Mr. Perske said we will keep North Star on the radar. Mr. Schultz agreed it doesn't hurt to add it, so they know it is on the St. Cloud radar and to add regional projects. Mr. Perske

addressed the regional points Mr. Schultz mentioned and thought they could show local roads that are a concern based on the 2025 road condition map.

Mr. Miller motioned to approve the Regional Priorities Briefing Booklet. Ms. Danielowski seconded the motion.

Consider Appointment of Representative to Area Transportation Partnership

Ms. Johnson summarized the Central MN ATP-3 encompassing four planning entities from across MnDOT District 3. Ms. Johnson clarified what areas are included in region 7W. 7W includes some areas outside of the Saint Cloud APOs jurisdiction. In June, it was brought to the attention of both APO and Region 7W staff that Mr. Perske was serving in two capacities at the ATP-3 level, as an appointed member for both the Region 7W Transportation Policy Board and the Saint Cloud APO. Since it is prohibited for Mr. Perske to have his vote count twice at the ATP-3, Mr. Perske was given the option to select which planning entity he would like his vote to count on behalf of. Mr. Perske decided he would like to remain the appointed Region 7W voting representative at the ATP-3 level. As a result, the APO is currently needing to fill the vacancy in the elected official representation to the ATP-3. Mr. Johnson summarized the options the APO has and what the ATP-3 meetings usually consist of.

Ms. Johnson is looking to designate a voting representative for the remainder of 2021 calendar year. Ms. Danielowski noted that all ATP-3 have been virtual. Mr. Brandmire said he could attend the October 2021 meeting. Ms. Johnson said they would discuss at a later meeting who would be the representative for 2022.

Mr. Shultz motioned to approve Mr. Brandmire as the 2021 representative. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Consider Priorities for Legislative Appropriation

Mr. Gibson discussed the language that was passed in the bill. It stipulated one million dollars for US-10. Mr. Gibson received clarification from MnDOT on how the million dollars will be spent. Mr. Brandmire asked if this is independent of what is already on the books. Mr. Gibson clarified this is a different safety study for US-10 from 15th Ave in Saint Cloud to Clearlake. \$400,000 is for the safety study. MnDOT concedes that the APO will be able to direct where the remaining \$600,000 is spent based of a recommendation of the safety study. Mr. Gibson clarified the money can spend it how the Board chooses, but it must be a recommendation of this study.

OTHER BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Gibson mentioned the household travel survey that will be going out this fall. Next week Board members will be able to access the survey instrument. They will be able to download an application called 'Rmove'. Ms. Johnson mentioned the

visioning process coming up, Looking Ahead 2050. The public will be able to share their transportation stories through September 10. Ms. Johnson will send out the MTP announcement to the Policy Board to share. Mr. Perske asked how the board would prefer to meet. Mr. Westerlund and Mr. Brandmire prefer meeting in person when possible. Mr. Gibson discussed the open meeting laws going forward. Mr. Perske noted that all jurisdictions should attend the APO Policy Board meetings and a reminder needs to be sent to send an alternate if the member is unable to attend. Mr. Gibson noted that seven members need to be present for the quorum.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:31 p.m.