

Active Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC) Meeting
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
Jan. 27, 2022

Attendees

- Alex McKenzie (Chairperson)
- Todd Holman
- Vicki Johnson
- James Stapfer
- Jon Noerenberg
- Dave Broxmeyer
- Jason Bernick
- Brian Gibson
- Eric Brown
- Jenny Lezer
- Larry Hosch
- Michael Petesch
- Nate Keller
- Sarah Weed
- Kurt Franke
- Chelle Benson

Meeting was called to order at 2:34 p.m. Chairperson Alex McKenzie presided. Introductions were made.

FY 2026 Transportation Alternatives (TA) Prioritization

Ms. Johnson provided background information on the Transportation Alternatives (TA) solicitation. She began with a presentation of how the projects get selected for the APO's long range transportation plan (the Metropolitan Transportation Plan or MTP) and how those projects ultimately get programmed to be completed in the short term through the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Ms. Johnson explained how projects can receive funding through various Federal grant programs including the Transportation Alternatives (TA) program. She explained that TA funding is the primary bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure grant program.

Ms. Johnson walked through how TA funding is allocated in Minnesota including to the Central Minnesota Area Transportation Partnership (ATP-3) – which includes the APO. She said there is approximately \$1.6 million available in fiscal year 2026 for TA projects across the ATP-3 region. Ten applicants from across the ATP-3 applied for fiscal year 2026 funding. Ms. Johnson explained that each planning region within the ATP-3 (Region 5, Region 7E, Region 7W, and the APO) can assign regional priority points to their top two ranking projects to assist in boosting technical scoring of their projects in the hopes of receiving funding.

Of the 10 applicants from across the district, one applicant (the City of Waite Park) was from the APO.

City of Waite Park Community Development Director Jon Noerenberg presented on the city's TA application to construct a shared use path along 15th Avenue N from River's Edge Park to Parkwood Cinema. Mr. Noerenberg said this facility would be considered Phase I of a long-term project to connect the Lake Wobegon Trail (which has a trailhead at River's Edge Park) to the Glacial Lake Trail which currently terminates in Rockville. The city is requesting \$315,961 in Federal funding to complete this project.

Questions were asked about the other phases of the overall project and the impact this would have on the granite outcropping near this location. It was stated that this project will ultimately connect to the ROCORI Trail, however, an ultimate alignment for that facility between Rockville and Waite Park has not been finalized.

Ms. Benson made a motion to make a recommendation to the APO's Technical Advisory Committee to assign the 10 regional priority points to the City of Waite Park's Transportation Alternatives project. Mr. Brown seconded the motion.

Motion carried. Holman – YES; Noerenberg – YES; Brown – YES; Hosch – YES; Petesch – YES; Keller – YES; Franke – YES; Benson – YES; Bernick – YES; Weed – YES; Lezer – YES; Franke – YES; Broxmeyer – YES.

Draft Active Transportation Plan

Mr. McKenzie provided an overview of the APO's draft Active Transportation Plan chapter by chapter.

Chapter One details information about the importance of active transportation planning as well as outlining the public outreach component of the plan. Mr. McKenzie summarized the various types of active transportation infrastructure and their location and condition within the APO's planning area as found in Chapter Two of the document. Chapter Two also contains a review of various regional planning documents pertaining to active transportation.

Chapter Three of draft Active Transportation Plan focuses on system usage and includes demographic information from the region as well as count data from the APO's bicycle and pedestrian counting program.

Mr. McKenzie discussed the document's vision and the goals and walked through the methodology APO staff developed and utilized to identify priority areas and projects within each of the five major cities (Saint Cloud, Saint Joseph, Sartell, Sauk Rapids, and Waite Park) as found in Chapter Four.

The vision statement for the Active Transportation Plan reads:

"The Saint Cloud MPA strives to provide a regionally-coordinated and well-maintained active transportation network allowing for safe, efficient, convenient, and comfortable walking and bicycling access to local and regional destinations for all users of all abilities."

The final chapter of the Active Transportation Plan (Chapter Five) includes information about policies and procedures communities can replicate to aid in becoming more active transportation friendly.

Mr. McKenzie then discussed each of the city profiles and provided a review of all the identified focus areas and project recommendations. He stated the projects found within the Active Transportation Plan are not fiscally constrained and there is no identified time frame for completion.

Mr. Franke asked if the plan identified the need to lower speed limits. Mr. McKenzie said the plan addresses this concern in a general sense but does not directly advocate for or against it.

Mr. Holman asked if the plan considers priorities already identified in each city's Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Mr. McKenzie stated that it does, and the plan also includes additional projects for consideration.

Mr. Holman made a motion to recommend Policy Board approval to release the draft ATP out for a 30-day public comment period. Ms. Benson seconded the motion.

Motion carried. Holman – YES; Benson – YES; Broxmeyer – YES; Bernick – YES; Noerenberg – YES; Keller – YES.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Vicki Johnson.