

SAINT CLOUD AREA PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY BOARD
Thursday, March 10, 2022 – 4:30 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Saint Cloud Area Planning Organization Policy Board was held on Thursday, March 10 at 4:30 p.m. APO Chair Joe Perske presided with the following members:

Raeanne Danielowski	Sherburne County
Dottie Seamans	City of Sauk Rapids
Rick Schultz	City of Saint Joseph
Jeff Westerlund	LeSauk Township
Paul Brandmire	City of Saint Cloud
Jared Gapinski	Benton County
Michael Kedrowski	Metro Bus (Alternate)
Rick Miller	City of Waite Park

Also in attendance were:

Brian Gibson	Saint Cloud APO
Vicki Johnson	Saint Cloud APO
James Stapfer	Saint Cloud APO
Alex McKenzie	Saint Cloud APO
Amber Blattner	Saint Cloud APO
Kevin Kluesner	City of Saint Joseph (Alternate)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mr. Schultz motioned to approve the agenda, and Mr. Miller 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 January 13, 2022 Policy Board Meeting (Attachment A)
- b. Approve Bills Lists for January, February, and March (Attachments B1 – B3)
- c. Approve Amendments and Administrative Modifications to the 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) (Attachments C1 – C3)
- d. Approve FY 2026 Transportation Alternatives Program Prioritization (Attachments D1 & D2)
- e. Approve Contract for Mayhew Lake Road Corridor Study (Attachment E)
- f. Approve Contract for Opportunity Drive Corridor Study (Attachment F)
- g. Approve Publication of 2022-2026 Regional Infrastructure Investment Plan (Attachment G)
- h. Receive Staff Report on Area Transportation Partnership Meeting (Attachment H)
- i. Receive Staff Reports on Technical Advisory Committee Meetings (Attachments I1 & I2)

Mr. Miller motioned to approve the consent agenda, and Mr. Gapinski seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Consider FY 2026 Surface Transportation Block Grant Program Prioritization

Ms. Johnson reviewed the STBGP prioritization process, transportation alternatives process and how they get into the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The APO is part of the Central Minnesota Area Transportation Partnership (ATP). Ms. Johnson summarized the FY 2026 funding. To determine how this funding will be spent in the APO, a project solicitation process is initiated. APO member jurisdictions complete an application for specific surface transportation projects they feel would be the best use of the limited Federal funds. Applicants are given scoring guidelines (access and mobility, safety, system condition, etc.) to assist in writing the application. These scoring guidelines were developed by APO staff in conjunction with APO Technical Advisory Committee members, and were approved by the APO Board. APO received three applications: City of Sartell (15th Street Corridor Extension), Stearns County (CSAH 75 Bridge), Benton County (CSAH 3 Repaving). Mr. Kluesner asked when the Stearns County bridge would be replaced. Ms. Johnson said the work would begin in 2023 and the County would be reimbursed in 2026. Mr. Perske noted the Stearns County bridge is in not in good shape. The APO staff met and discussed the projects based off the scoring and presented to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The TAC recommended that the Stearns County project be funded. Ms. Johnson noted the bridge would be widened to accommodate bicyclists. Ms. Johnson noted funding for this starts in October for those who would like to submit a project for next year. Ms. Johnson requested approval to provide the \$2,135,120 in Federal funding to Stearns County's CSAH 75 project.

Mr. Miller motioned to approve providing the \$2,135,120 in Federal funding to Stearns County's CSAH 75 project. Ms. Seamans seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Hear Presentation on Potential Impacts of Federal Transportation Authorization

Mr. Gibson summarized the Infrastructure Investment & Job Act (IIJA) (also sometimes called the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law or BIL). It was signed into law on Nov. 15, 2021. To leverage the federal money, more local money will be required. Mr. Gibson noted the APO's 2023 workplan may have some increases to leverage the federal money. Ms. Danielowski noted a study is in process regarding the existing NorthStar. Mr. Gibson summarized the new programs including: carbon reduction, PROTECT/Resiliency, Bridge, Bridge Investment, EV Charging, Public Transportation, INFRA, Local and Regional Project Assistance, national infrastructure project assistance, safe streets for all users. Mr. Gibson summarized new planning requirements. Housing is now a planning factor for large MPOs and may be integrated into transportation plans. Mr. Gibson noted overall the IIJA focused a lot on nonmotorized transportation. Mr. Brandmire noted 94 as being a corridor for EV charging stations and asked if EV charging stations were at Clear Water Travel Plaza. Mr. Perske noted when he was in DC they mentioned a large amount of money for EV charging stations. Mr. Brandmire asked who owns the EV

charging stations. Mr. Perske said it was being encouraged that it be a private public cooperative.

OTHER BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Perske noted the attendance of the meeting and wanted to encourage all jurisdictions to attend every board meeting or send an alternate if they are unable to attend so that quorum may be reached. Mr. Perske noted the Highway 23 coalition is having their annual meeting March 25 in Waite Park and he will send an invitation out with details for those who are interested.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.