

SAINT CLOUD AREA PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY BOARD
Thursday, April 14, 2022 – 4:30 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Saint Cloud Area Planning Organization Policy Board was held on Thursday, April 14 at 4:30 p.m. APO Chair Joe Perske presided with the following members:

Raeanne Danielowski	Sherburne County
Dottie Seamans	City of Sauk Rapids
Kevin Kluesner	City of Saint Joseph
Jeff Westerlund	LeSauk Township
Ed Popp	Benton County
Ryan Daniel	Metro Bus
Rick Miller	City of Waite Park
Carol Lewis	City of St. Cloud
Jeff Goerger	City of St. Cloud

Also in attendance were:

Kari Steinbeisser	Conway, Deuth, Schmiesing (CDS)
Leigh Lenzmeier	Stearns County
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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mr. Goerger motioned to approve the agenda, and Ms. Seamans 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 March 10, 2022 Policy Board Meeting (Attachment A)
- b. Approve Bills Lists for March and April (Attachments B1 & B2)
- c. Approve FY 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program Modifications and Amendments (Attachments C1-C2)
- d. Approve Not Waiving Tort Liability Limits for 2022 (Attachment D)
- e. Approve Contract for Travel Demand Model Calibration & 2050 Socioeconomic Forecast (Attachment E)
- f. Approve Contract for Accountant (Attachment F)
- g. Approve Contract for Auditor (Attachment G)
- h. Approve Time Extension for Mississippi River Bridge Planning Contract (Attachment H)
- i. Receive Staff Report of March

Mr. Miller motioned to approve the consent agenda items a-g and item i, and Mr. Goerger seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Perske wanted to discuss where the APO was at with item h. Mr. Gibson said the project consultant had approached the DNR to have them review the Mississippi River Bridge study information. The DNR has had the information for six months and have not yet responded with any comments, so the APO is going to move forward in the planning process.

Mr. Perske motioned to approve item h. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Consider Results of FY 2021 Audit of Financial Statements

Ms. Steinbeisser thanked the board for CDS being able to provide the audit review. Ms. Steinbeisser said the financial statements are presented fairly in CDS's opinion. The audit was conducted in accordance with the Generally Accepted Auditing Standards and Government Auditing Standards. Financial statements are the responsibility of the APO's management. Ms. Steinbeisser provided the statement on the net position and reviewed the APOs revenue and expenses. Mr. Kluesner asked who is monitoring the cash and investments. Mr. Gibson said the APO has accounts with Liberty Bank and two investments with US Bancorp and RBC. Mr. Perske noted you can look at the monthly accounts in the agenda of each Policy Board meeting to review the APO finances. Ms. Steinbeisser compared the 2021 and 2020 revenue and expenses. Ms. Steinbeisser also summarized the APO cash flows. Mr. Kluesner asked why employee salary was lower in 2020 than in 2021. Mr. Gibson explained the employees leaving and being hired were at different pay rates. Ms. Steinbeisser said there were no difficulties encountered and no disagreements with management. Mr. Perske asked if there were any weaknesses for misuse of funds. Ms. Steinbeisser said she did not see any and the board reviews and approves the bills every month.

Mr. Goerger motioned to approve FY 2021 Audit Financial Statements. Mr. Daniel seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2021 Household Travel Survey Results

Mr. Gibson summarized the purpose and the needs of the household travel survey. The survey ran from October 6 to November 24, 2021. Smartphone participants completed a seven-day travel diary and online and call center participants completed a one-day travel diary. The survey was available in English, Spanish, and Somali. Mr. Gibson summarized the survey results. The college age population (18-24) had the lowest percent response and 65 and older accounted for nearly 30 percent of the results. All results were weighted to account for any over or under participation of a certain group. The City of Saint Cloud had the highest response of 441 (49% of responders). Mr. Kluesner asked if this is the first year the survey was completed. Mr. Gibson said this is the first year this survey was completed, and the survey was \$300,000, so it will not be completed annually. Mr. Popp asked if the APO compared their results to other communities of similar size. Mr. Gibson said that Mr. Stapfer would investigate that. Mr. Perske asked if any results from this survey will change the way APO staff works. Mr. Gibson said he thought the most interesting information came from the low-income households and that they are walking and biking in greater numbers. Ms. Johnson said the survey did ask a visioning question on where the APO wants to go as a region and what does the public want to see in terms of transportation for the future. The visioning survey

had 2,000 comments and there was a surprising number of comments regarding electronic vehicles. Mr. Perske asked Mr. Daniel asked if the information affects anything that MetroBus does. Mr. Daniel said most of the ridership is minorities. Mr. Daniel said they are trying to make sure everyone who needs bus services has access and are looking toward moving out by Waite Park and Saint Joseph. Ms. Seamans noted that there are not many people walking to K-12 school because there are not many safe routes to school. Mr. Daniel said they will start working with 742 school district and allow kids to use the MetroBus service for school, visiting friends, etc.

OTHER BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ms. Johnson wished Mr. Gibson a happy birthday. Mr. Kluesner asked about congressional directed spendings. Mr. Gibson said every year the board identifies regional priorities, and this year David Turch is submitting on the APOs behalf two congressionally directed spending requests. Mr. Perske noted information from the Transportation Alliance Minnesota meeting that took place this month in St. Paul. Ms. Johnson added the ATIP development committee could note what criteria they were looking for the Central Minnesota Region. Mr. Perske noted that Highway 23 collision had its meeting this month and over 100 people were in attendance. Mr. Perske noted Northstar and not being able to ride anymore for the Twin's games. Anoka County has pulled out funding on Northstar. Ms. Danielowski noted that during Highway 10 having improvements done would have been a time that the Northstar would be used. Mr. Perske noted the region 7 survey concluded last week if you want to review comments and data. Mr. Perske noted Town Line Road may get improvements and we are waiting on information on funding. Ms. Lewis noted Jim Flaaen from the City of Saint Cloud is moving to MnDOT if you need a person to contact.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:34 p.m.