

SAINT CLOUD AREA PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY BOARD
Thursday, Sept 8, 2022 – 4:30 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Saint Cloud Area Planning Organization Policy Board was held on Thursday, September 8 at 4:30 p.m. APO Chair Joe Perske presided with the following members:

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| Raeanne Danielowski | Sherburne County |
| Ryan Daniel | Metro Bus |
| Jared Gapinski | Benton County |
| Paul Brandmire | City of Saint Cloud |
| Rick Schultz | Saint Joseph |
| Rick Miller | Waite Park |
| Jeff Westerlund | LeSauk Township |

Also in attendance were:

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| Brian Gibson | Saint Cloud APO |
| Vicki Johnson | Saint Cloud APO |
| Alex McKenzie | Saint Cloud APO |
| James Stapfer | Saint Cloud APO |

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Ms. Miller motioned to approve the agenda, and Mr. Schultz 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 Aug. 11, 2022 Policy Board Meeting
- b. Approve Bills Lists for August, September & October
- c. Receive Staff Report of Aug 25th Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee

Mr. Miller motioned to approve the consent agenda items and Mr. Schultz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Consider 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Ms. Johnson summarized the TIP that included all the roadway projects occurring in the area between 2023 and 2026. The TIP reports how the various agencies and jurisdictions within the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) have prioritized their use of limited Federal highway and transit funding. The projects included in each year's TIP ultimately are derived from the APO's Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and are aimed at meeting the long-range needs of the area's transportation system. The public comment period for the TIP document began on July 13, 2022

and ran through August 12, 2022. During that time staff held two open houses. Ms. Johnson summarized the results of the public comment period, including the information from the nine surveys that were available. APO staff received 14 responses to the nine online surveys. Comments can be found in chapter five of the TIP.

Mr. Miller motioned to approve the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Mr. Gapinski seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Consider 2022 Regional Active Transportation Plan (ATP)

Mr. McKenzie summarized the ATP. The ATP identifies needs, resources, and strategies to enhance the safe and convenient use of non-motorized modes of transportation. Mr. McKenzie noted this is the first non-motorized plan that the APO has completed. Public input for the ATP took place from June 15, 2022, to July 15, 2022. During that time Mr. McKenzie held two open houses. There was no public feedback from the open houses. There was a total of nine responses and ten comments from the online survey. Mr. McKenzie will forward the responses to each jurisdiction. Appendix F of the ATP summarizes the public input process and results. Mr. Schultz noted that Saint Joseph has three active transportation plans that they are still working on, and they will eventually be combined into one. He said city staff would be providing APO staff with Saint Joseph's priorities when they were done.

Mr. Schultz motioned to approve the 2022 Regional Active Transportation Plan (ATP) as is EXCEPT for Saint Joseph, and Saint Joseph will come back when their own plans are completed. Mr. Brandmire seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Consider 2023 Greater Minnesota Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Special Project Solicitation

Ms. Johnson provided an update on the Greater Minnesota Highway Safety Improvement Program. This is a special solicitation that launched in July. MnDOT District 3 targeted approximately \$1.6 million in funding for District 3. Applications are due to the Office of Traffic Engineering by Sept. 9, 2022 and will be awarded around late September. Ms. Johnson has reached out to all the APO jurisdictions and asked if there were any projects they would like to submit. Sherburne County and Stearns County both applied for this solicitation. Ms. Danielowski asked what was meant by signal hardware upgrades. Ms. Johnson said it was for pedestrian signal upgrades. Mr. Brandmire asked if these projects total \$1.6 million dollars. Ms. Johnson said they do not, and the rest of the money can be spent throughout District 3. Mr. Westerlund asked if the Townline Road project would qualify. Ms. Johnson said the entire project would not qualify because they are looking for non-

earth-moving projects but instead are seeking simpler projects such as adding line striping or rumble strips could receive HSIP funding.

Mr. Miller motioned to approve all the proposed Sherburne and Stearns County projects and Mr. Schultz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Westerlund asked when Mr. Perske and Mr. Gibson were going to Washington. Mr. Perske said they are going in October. Mr. Gapinski is reaching out for letters of support on the CSAH 29 extension, which is part of the beltline roadway in Benton County. Mr. Gapinski would like letters by September 14, 2022. Mr. Westerlund asked if Benton County has a lobbyist. Mr. Gapinski is not aware of them having a lobbyist. Mr. Westerlund asked if paying David Turch and Associates \$48,000 per year is worth the cost to the APO. Mr. Gibson noted when they go to Washington, they will present CSAH 29 as a regional priority, and it will benefit Benton County. Mr. Perske said the board can have continued discussions to review the need for a lobbyist. Mr. Perske noted 322nd street and asked when the project will be complete. Mr. Brandmire did not know any information. Mr. Gibson said when census releases their final 2020 data, MnDOT will begin a review and update to the roadway functional classification. It is possible that 322nd could be reclassified as a Collector roadway, thus becoming eligible for Federal funds.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Present Results of Executive Director Performance Evaluation

Mr. Perske summarized Mr. Gibson's annual performance review for the Board. Mr. Gibson was awarded a one-step increase in his salary.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 5:19 p.m.