

Active Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC) Meeting  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom  
Jan. 24, 2023

Attendees

- Alex McKenzie (Chairperson)
- Vicki Johnson
- Dave Broxmeyer
- Jenny Lezer
- Larry Hosch
- Sarah Weed

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 am. Chairperson Alex McKenzie presided. Introductions were made.

**FY 2027 Transportation Alternatives (TA) Prioritization**

Mr. McKenzie began by discussing an overview of how the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) vision guides selecting MTP projects that can then be funded through the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Mr. McKenzie explained that TA funding is used for projects such as creating facilities for pedestrians and bicycles, environmental mitigation or habitat protection related to highway construction or operations, and infrastructure and non-infrastructure related to Safe Routes to School (SRTS) activities.

Mr. McKenzie described how TA federal targets for Minnesota are split between the Twin Cities and Greater Minnesota and how the funding is competitive across the district. Mrs. Johnson clarified that because of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), there is an increase in funding, so the ATP's \$2.5 million target is higher. Mr. McKenzie explained how TA projects are scored and ranked and what role the APO plays in the process. He stated that 10 regional priority points are given to the number one project and five points for the number two project, which will be added to the technical scores.

Mr. McKenzie began to describe the two TA projects within the APO area. The first project was the City of Waite Park's 15th Avenue N Trail. He explained the nature of the project and why it is important in a regional context. Mrs. Johnson said that the TA application scoring is different this year compared to years prior.

Mr. McKenzie described the City of Sartell Trail and sidewalk improvements projects. He explained the Heritage Drive connection and the Riverview Intermediate School sidewalk project and why they are essential. Ms. Weed asked if residential neighborhoods are near the Heritage Drive project, and Mr. McKenzie confirmed that. She also wondered if this project was a sidewalk or shared use path, and Mr. McKenzie commented that it is a shared use path being proposed. Ms. Weed also asked if the Intermediate School project was a sidewalk or shared use path, and Mr. McKenzie commented that it is a sidewalk that connects to a shared use path on 5<sup>th</sup> Street N.

Mr. McKenzie opened up the group to discuss which project should get the regional priority points. Ms. Weed suggested that the Waite Park project receive the 10 regional priority points and the five points to Sartell. Mr. Hosch agreed with that statement and added that Waite Park's River's Edge Park is a regional hub for activity. Mr. Broxmeyer agreed that Waite Park should receive the 10 points since it's a regional trail that aims to close gaps. Ms. Lezer thought Sartell should receive the 10 points since Waite Park's project is

recreational, while Sartell's project provides student access, but she was OK with what the group decided.

Mr. McKenzie explained that he would relay the comments to the TAC.

### **Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP) Active Transportation Review**

Mr. McKenzie explained that the STBGP funding could be used to preserve and improve the conditions and performance of any Federal-aid highway, bridge, and tunnel projects on any public road, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, etc. He then clarified that applications are submitted from member jurisdictions and evaluated based on technical criteria. Mrs. Johnson explained that because of the IIJA, the funding amount for STBGP has gone up.

Mr. McKenzie described how active transportation/multimodal connections are scored in the applications. He explained that the ATAC will review only the multimodal section of six STBGP applications staff reviewed during the FY 2027 solicitation. He asked the ATAC to address how to improve active transportation in the applications.

The first project Mr. McKenzie explained was Benton Counties CSAH 3 full-depth reclamation and bituminous surfacing project. He said the project would pave the gravel shoulder for active transportation users. Ms. Lezer stated she drives this route almost daily and has biked/walked this route before. She expressed that it is not a fun place to walk or bike and that paved shoulders would significantly improve and suffice because of the low residential density. Ms. Weed agreed that anything is better than a gravel shoulder, especially regarding active transportation users and farm equipment. Mr. McKenzie said that a shared use path would be best, but a paved shoulder would be sufficient due to the land use context.

Mr. McKenzie explained the next project for the City of Saint Cloud, 22<sup>nd</sup> Street S. The city, plans to reconstruct 22<sup>nd</sup> Street S from County Road 136/Oak Grove Rd to Cooper Avenue S. This will include 6-foot bike lanes in each direction, new sidewalk, curb ramps, intersection crossing infrastructure, signage, and street lighting. Ms. Weed commented that this corridor is a direct route to Quarry Park, with a high residential density along the route. Mr. Broxmeyer says he avoids this section of 22<sup>nd</sup> Street S because it is narrow, has aggressive drivers, and is unsafe. Ms. Weed agreed with Mr. Broxmeyer, added that people are speeding, and suggested lowering the speed limit. Mr. McKenzie asked the group if anyone had had a car come into the bike lane on a curve. Mr. Broxmeyer commented almost every day by the University Drive bridge. Mr. McKenzie suggested bollards on curves to keep cars out of the bike lanes.

The next project Mr. McKenzie explained was the City of Sartell's 15<sup>th</sup> Street N corridor expansion. The roadway will expand from Pinecone Road N to 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue N. The project will include a shared use path connecting 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue N and Pinecone Road N shared use paths. Ms. Weed commented that the City of Sartell's population is growing. Ms. Lezer asked if the residential developments must drive south to go north on Pinecone Road. Mr. McKenzie confirmed. She then stated that an alternative corridor would help with congestion on Pinecone Road, especially during school arrival and dismissal. Mrs. Johnson noted that this shared use path would connect to the 12<sup>th</sup> Street N sidewalk, which then connects to the River Road, reconstructed last year with bicycle lanes and a shared use path. Mr. Broxmeyer asked if the alignment in the map was the final alignment, and Mrs. Johnson stated no. Mr. Hosch asked if 30<sup>th</sup>/Townline Road would be reconstructed before this

expansion. Mrs. Johnson explained that it hadn't been clarified, but there are discussions on funding the reconstruction of 30<sup>th</sup>/Townline Road. She explained that only phase one of the project is being proposed and phase two from 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue N to 30<sup>th</sup>/Townline Road would come later.

Mr. McKenzie explained the City of Sauk Rapids 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue S project. The city proposes reconstruction from 10<sup>th</sup> Street S to the south city limits, including roadway, sidewalk, lighting, stormwater, sanitary sewer, and water main improvements. Mrs. Johnson stated that the city had concerns about speeding, so they recommended traffic calming strategies. Ms. Weed expressed concern about narrowing the roadway since it would move cyclists closer to drivers. Mrs. Johnson commented that they would not be physically altering the width of the roadway, instead striping the driving lanes narrower.

The next project Mr. McKenzie explained is Stearns County CSAH 1 project from Rice Bridge to Stearns/Morrison County line. They are proposing wider, signed paved shoulders for bicyclists. Mr. Hosch stated he uses this corridor all the time, which would be very nice to have, as he uses this route for trips up to Little Falls. He added that this route is part of the Mississippi River Trail (MRT). Ms. Weed agreed with that statement. Mr. Broxmeyer asked when a decision will be made about STBGP funding. Mrs. Johnson stated that STBGP funding would be discussed at TAC on Feb 2 and at the Feb 9 Policy Board meeting.

### **Other Business and Announcements**

Mr. McKenzie went on to the other business and announcements. He stated that the APO is conducting Safety Town with Saint Boniface Catholic School, Saint Peter & Paul Catholic School, and Richmond Elementary School. The setup will be Friday, May 12, and the event will be on Monday, May 15, and the APO is looking for volunteers. He talked about the Winter Safety Fair at the Whitney Senior Center on Wednesday, February 8, from 10 am -12 pm. He then gave updates about SRTS planning efforts. Mrs. Johnson went over the 2050 MTP updates.

The meeting adjourned at 11:36 am.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Alex McKenzie.*