

SAINT CLOUD AREA PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY BOARD
Thursday, October 13, 2022 – 4:30 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Saint Cloud Area Planning Organization Policy Board was held on Thursday, October 13 at 4:30 p.m. APO Chair Joe Perske presided with the following members:

Raeanne Danielowski	Sherburne County
Michael Kedrowski	Metro Bus
Steve Heinen	Benton County
Paul Brandmire	City of Saint Cloud
Kevin Klusner	City of Saint Joseph
Rick Miller	City of Waite Park
Jeff Westerlund	LeSauk Township
Mike Conway	City of Saint Cloud
Dave Kleis	City of Saint Cloud
Jeff Goerger	City of Saint Cloud
Anna Gruber	City of Sartell
Dottie Seamans	City of Sauk Rapids

Also in attendance were:

Chris Byrd	Benton County
Mark Loidolt	Benton County
Brian Gibson	Saint Cloud APO
Vicki Johnson	Saint Cloud APO
Alex McKenzie	Saint Cloud APO
James Stapfer	Saint Cloud APO
Amber Blattner	Saint Cloud APO

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Ms. 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 Sept. 8, 2022 Policy Board Meeting
- b. Approve Bills Lists for September & October
- c. Approve Local Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan
- d. Approve Amendment to the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)
- e. Receive Staff Report of Sept. 29th Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee

Mr. Goerger motioned to approve the consent agenda items and Mr. Conway seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Consider Transportation Performance Targets

Mr. Stapfer summarized the performance measurement targets. These targets are federally required and included in the MTP and TIP. At the State level, if targets are not met, MnDOT must transfer funds to help accomplish the goal(s). For MPOs there is no such requirement. PM1: Transportation Safety applies to all public roads and is reviewed every year. PM2: Infrastructure refers to pavement condition and it is reviewed every four years. PM3: System Performance, includes travel time reliability. Mr. Klusner asked who does the measuring for this data. Mr. Stapfer said he received this information from MnDOT.

Goerger motioned to approve the PM1, PM2, PM3 targets as well as resolutions and Mr. Heinen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Consider Recommendations of SEP Annual Review

This document is reviewed annually and looks at the effectiveness of reviewing procedures and strategies contained in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) to ensure a full and open participation process. Mr. McKenzie summarized the APOs public engagement efforts over the last year. Facebook is the APOs primary form of social media/advertising. Recommendations include hiring a community liaison for hard- to-reach populations, joining a community organization, and attempt to reach a younger audience. Mr. Goerger noted that it is difficult to get the public involved. Mr. Conway asked about the distinction between viewership. Ms. Johnson summarized the social media viewership distinctions. Mr. Conway asked if APO is getting results from interest or from APO going to a specific group for comments. Ms. Johnson said that APO did receive a response from a Somali resident that may not have been reached if APO were to have only used their general mail out surveys and it is important to reach out to specific groups for comments. Mr. Goerger noted that the overall goal should be to have more diverse involvement. Mr. Kleis noted that reaching out to younger groups and using different platforms is a great step the APO takes. Mr. Gibson wants to make sure that all people know there is an opportunity to provide input.

Mr. Goerger recommended approval of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. Mr. Kleis seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Consider 2024-2027 Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Projects

HSIP projects are designed to reduce traffic fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads. This is a federal program that seeks out low cost, high benefit solutions. Funding is typically split 90/10. The 2024-2027 HSIP solicitation kicked off on Monday, Sept. 12 by the Minnesota Department of Transportation's Office of Traffic Engineering (OTE). Ms. Johnson provided a summary on the HSIP projects

submitted. Solicitation is handled through MnDOTs Office of Traffic Engineering (OTE). All HSIP projects within the APOs planning area must be brought before the TAC and Policy Board for considerations and prioritization/ranking for funding consideration. The City of Sartell and Benton County have applied for this solicitation. Ms. Gruber summarized the City of Sartell's proactive driven project on Pinecone Road and Seventh Street for a traffic signal installation. Mr. Byrd summarized the reactive project request from Benton County for a roundabout construction at CSAH 1/Mayhew Lake Road and CSAH 29/35th Street in Sauk Rapids. Mr. Goerger noted that he thinks there are probably more issues than these two projects. Ms. Johnson noted the projects often don't have enough time to submit and need to plan well in advance to receive HSIP funding.

Ms. Seamans recommends these two projects for HSIP funding consideration and Mr. Conway seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Consider Corridor of Commerce Application for MN-15

Mr. Gibson summarized the history of MN-15 corridor and the minor improvement suggestions that came from the 2020 corridor study and the cost of each. The project committee felt median U-turn intersections (MUT) on MN-15 would provide the greatest benefit for the least amount of cost. Mr. Conway was concerned there would not be enough room in the area suggested. Mr. Goerger asked if there are others in the state. Mr. Gibson thought they have this layout in Michigan but not in Minnesota.

Mr. Goerger motions to approve the application for adaptive signal controls and MUT intersections on MN-15. Mr. Heinen Seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Gibson asked if there is interest in starting a regional roadways fund. Mr. Kleis noted that the roads mentioned should be the responsibility of the state, they are a state highway that go through many communities. Mr. Goerger agreed that starting a fund would not be beneficial. Mr. Perske noted the lobbying efforts being done. Mr. Conway asked for the total project cost to fully grade-separate MN-15. Mr. Gibson confirmed the cost was \$107 million to fully turn MN-15 into an expressway.

Consider Reimbursement of Travel Expenses for Benton County Officials

Benton County Staff asked if APO has money to help reimburse elected officials joining the APO on the DC trip. Mr. Miller noted that if you give the funds to Benton County, all jurisdictions will want that same amount of funding. Mr. Kleis agrees with Mr. Miller and suggested bringing APO staff if there are extra dollars.

Consider Convening Regularly in November Starting in 2023

Historically the APO board has not met in November or December. Due to HSIP process the staff would like to start meeting in November. Mr. Kleis suggested letting APO staff pick a date that works best for them at the time it is needed and let the Policy Board know. Everyone agreed.

OTHER BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Westerlund noted Townline Road. Mr. Perske agrees he will work to get funding for Townline Road. Ms. Seamans wishes everyone luck in the upcoming election. Mr. Perske noted the concerns on the IIJA money. MnDOT is going to take the funding for other projects, so money will not be lost, money will be borrowed from other projects.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 5:58 p.m.