

SAINT CLOUD AREA PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY BOARD
Thursday, February 9, 2023 – 4:30 PM

A regular meeting of the Saint Cloud Area Planning Organization Policy Board was held on Thursday, February 9 at 4:30 PM APO Chair Raeanne Danielowski presided with the following members:

Joe Perske	Stearns County
Jake Anderson	City of Saint Cloud
Michael Kedrowski	Metro Bus
Mark Loidolt	Benton County
Jeff Westerlund	LeSauk Township
Ryan Fitzthum	City of Sartell
Dottie Seamans	City of Sauk Rapids

Also in attendance were:

April Ryan	City of Sartell
Kari Theisen	City of Sartell
Dave Blommel	City of Waite Park
Scott Hedlund	City of Sauk Rapids
Dave Broxmeyer	City of Saint Cloud
Brian Gibson	Saint Cloud APO
Vicki Johnson	Saint Cloud APO
Alex McKenzie	Saint Cloud APO
Amber Blattner	Saint Cloud APO

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mr. Anderson 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 January 12, 2023 Policy Board Meeting
- b. Approve Bills Lists
- c. Approve NOT Waiving Tort Liability Limits
- d. Receive Report Area Transportation Partnership meeting
- e. Receive Staff report on meeting of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee

Mr. Fitzthum motioned to approve the consent agenda items and Ms. Seamans seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Consider Funding Projects for the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP)

Ms. Johnson reviewed the FY 2027 STBGP Prioritizations. Ms. Johnson noted due to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) additional funding has been made available to each of the four planning regions that must be allocated in FY 2026. The APO has \$4,143,774 to allocate, \$1,639,114 must be allocated in 2026. Ms. Johnson summarized the six project applications that the APO has received for: City of Saint Cloud 22nd Street S reconstruction, City of Sauk Rapids Second Ave S reconstruction, City of Sartell's 15th Street N extension right-of-way (ROW), City of Sartell's 15th Street N extension construction, Stearns County CSAH 1 reconstruction, Benton County's CSAH 3 full depth reclamation. Ms. Johnson summarized the APO Staff ranking and TAC recommendations. Ms. Johnson summarized the Technical Advisory Committee's (TACs) rankings as the City of Saint Cloud taking \$1.8 million, City of Sauk Rapids \$1.4 million and the remaining \$943,744 would be left for the City of Sartell right-of-way project. Mr. Fitzthum noted that the Sartell project has been a finalist for the last several years. Mr. Westerlund asked why Sartell is receiving less funding than other projects. Ms. Johnson explained how the projects were ranked with Saint Cloud and Sauk Rapids scoring higher than Sartell. Ms. Johnson explained the reduced funding approach was made to maximize funding.

Ms. Seaman motioned to approve STBGP funding recommendation by the TAC. Mr. Fitzthum seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Fitzthum motioned to approve the rankings for the remaining projects. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Consider Prioritization of Projects for the Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program

Fourteen applications were received district wide to compete for the \$2.5 million available in 2027. Two applications were received from the APO: City of Sartell trail and sidewalk gap project and the City of Waite Park 15th Avenue N Trail.

Mr. Perske motioned to approve awarding 10 priority points to the Waite Park project and 5 priority points to the Sartell project for TA Funding. Mr. Loidolt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Consider Amendment to the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Ms. Johnson summarized the requests for changes from the following entities: City of Sauk Rapids, Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), City of Sartell, Saint Cloud Metro Bus, Stearns County, WACOSA, and Sherburne County. A public comment period was held from Dec. 22, 2022 through Jan. 27, 2023. Three online surveys were completed during that time.

Mr. Anderson motioned to approve amendments to the TIP. Ms. Seamans seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Consider Funding for the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP)

The purpose of the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) is to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from on-road highway sources. The APO annual base allocation is approximately \$270,000. APO has received two project proposals. The first project is for the installation of EV charging stations at five locations throughout the city of Saint Cloud. The second project is for the installation of dynamic lighting control in city of Saint Cloud-owned parking ramps. FHWA has ruled that parking structures are not eligible for CRP funds. Mr. Gibson confirmed there are additional dollars available if others want to submit for CRP.

Mr. Fitzthum motioned to approve the EV charging stations project for CRP funding. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Receive Opportunity Drive Study

The goals of the Opportunity Drive study were to identify existing and future transportation needs, to develop and evaluate potential infrastructure improvements to address issues and to recommend short- and long-term improvements. Mr. Gibson summarized the findings from the study and the cost estimate coming in at about 21 million.

Mr. Fitzthum motioned to receiving the report on the study. Ms. Seamans seconded the motion. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

No other announcements were made.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 5:56 PM.