

SAINT CLOUD AREA PLANNING ORGANIZATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEETING

Thursday, Feb. 23 @ 10:00 a.m.

A meeting of the Saint Cloud Area Planning Organization’s (APO) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was held at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom on Thursday, Feb. 23, 2023. Senior Transportation Planner Vicki Johnson presided with the following people in attendance:

Voting Members:

Michael Kedrowski	Saint Cloud Metro Bus
Jodi Teich	Stearns County
Matt Glaesman	City of Saint Cloud
Tracy Hodel	City of Saint Cloud
Todd Schultz	City of Sauk Rapids
April Ryan	City of Sartell
Randy Sabart	City of Saint Joseph
Tom Cruikshank	MnDOT District 3

Non-Member Attendees:

Ben Anderson	Stearns County Parks Department
Beth Kallestad	MnDOT Office of Sustainability and Public Health
Cheryl Malikowski	City of Saint Cloud
Kari Theisen	City of Sartell
Jeff Lenz	MnDOT District 3
Angie Tomovic	MnDOT District 3
Joe Klein	MnDOT OTSM
Voni Vegar	MnDOT OTAT
Brian Gibson	APO, Executive Director
Alex McKenzie	APO, Associate Planner
James Stapfer	APO, Planning Technician

Introductions were made.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No members of the public were present.

CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approve minutes of Feb. 2, 2023, TAC meeting
- b. Receive staff report of Feb. 9, 2023, Policy Board meeting

Mr. Teich made a motion to approve Consent Agenda Items. Mr. Glaesman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Minnesota Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure Plan

Ms. Kallestad provided a summary of the Minnesota Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan and the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Formula Program (NEVI). New federal program authorized under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provides funds to states to install DC fast chargers along designated corridors. The Minnesota Plan was approved in September 2022 and allows \$68 million for federal FY 2022–2026. Ms. Kallestad reviewed the plan for potential locations for the charging stations and the cost estimates. Mr. Gibson clarified that MnDOT will not own the charging stations and asked who will own them. Ms. Kallestad said they will accept applications per charging site and use a scoring system to determine who will own them.

Consideration of the 2023-2027 Regional Infrastructure Investment Plan (RIIP)

The RIIP was developed to address the “regionally significant” projects within the APO’s Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The RIIP identifies proposed non-transit transportation improvement projects regardless of funding source and includes projects that have been programmed in the TIP. This document, not subject to FHWA/FTA regulations, is designed to provide jurisdictions and residents with a more complete picture of transportation improvement projects occurring in the planning area over a five-year time frame. The RIIP will also serve as a means to track construction projects that have been completed within the past 12 months.

Mr. Sabart made the motion to recommend approval to publish the RIIP document. Ms. Teich seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration of the City of Sartell’s Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) application

The Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) is a new formula program within the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). The APO receives \$270,000 per year in CRP funds. The Policy Board approved a CRP project for the City of Saint Cloud to install Electric-Vehicle charging stations at five locations throughout the city. That project will expend \$200,000 of our available \$430,000, leaving \$230,000 still available in FY 2024. The city of Sartell has submitted an application requesting \$179,800 in CRP funds to plan and design a shared-use path facility that would connect the bicycle/pedestrian Mississippi River bridge crossing at the old paper mill site with the rest of the active transportation network on the east side of the river.

Ms. Hodel made the motion to recommend approval of the Sartell CRP proposal for planning and design of a shared-use path for \$179,800. Mr. Kedrowski seconded. Motion carried.

Recommendations on typical cross sections to be used in MTP modeling scenarios and cost estimate development

Typical cross-sections for consideration were summarized and noted that this is not what the final design would be. Considerations are to to develop reasonable project cost-estimates based on some general rules-of-thumb. Mr. Sabart shared what estimates for state-aid city's construction needs are based off of. Mr. Gibson is going to speak to the consultants about cost estimates and this discussion will be continued at another time.

Discussion on Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) project prioritization/ scoring methodology

Mr. Gibson is seeking input on how the APO should prioritize the use of CRP dollars and how staff should begin scoring projects. Mr. Gibson presented different alternatives: 1: equality and leaving the decision up to discussion 2: reduce active transportation since there are other programs that fund it 3: increase weight of traffic management 4:increase weight of emerging technology. Ms. Teich and Mr. Glaesman would like to think over the options and discuss at the next TAC meeting. Once the TAC has reviewed they will make a recommendation to the Policy Board. Ms. Johnson asked that any comments be sent to Mr. Gibson by March 17 to include in the next TAC agenda.

Other Business and Announcements

All Annual Listing of Obligated Projects (ALOP) and financial information for the 2024-2027 TIP development should be returned to Ms. Johnson by March 17. Ms. Johnson will send out an email regarding discussions with jurisdictions on mid-term and long-term projects for MTP development. The next round of TIP amendments/modifications is on March 13.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.