

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

***Thursday, March 30 @ 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. Thursday, March 30, 2023. Associate Transportation Planner Alex McKenzie presided with the following people in attendance:

Voting Members:

|                   |                       |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Michael Kedrowski | Saint Cloud Metro Bus |
| Andrew Witter     | Sherburne County      |
| Kari Theisen      | City of Sartell       |
| Mark Loidolt      | Benton County         |
| Jodi Teich        | Stearns County        |
| Cheryl Malikowski | City of Saint Cloud   |
| Matt Glaesman     | City of Saint Cloud   |
| Todd Schultz      | City of Sauk Rapids   |
| Randy Sabart      | City of Saint Joseph  |

Non-Member Attendees:

|               |                          |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| Brian Gibson  | APO Executive Director   |
| Alex McKenzie | APO, Associate Planner   |
| James Stapfer | APO, Planning Technician |

Zoom Attendees

|                |                                |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Bobbi Retzlaff | Federal Highway Administration |
| Erika Shepard  | MnDOT MPO Coordinator          |
| Jeff Lenz      | MnDOT District 3               |
| Colin Korst    | Federal Transit Administration |
| Anna Gruber    | City of Sartell                |

Introductions were made.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

No members of the public were present.

**CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Approve minutes of the Feb. 23, 2023, TAC meeting.
- b. Receive staff report of March 9, 2023, Policy Board meeting.

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

## **Consideration of the July-December 2022 Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) Report**

Mr. McKenzie summarized the 2022 Stakeholder Engagement Plan Mid-Year Report (SEP), which looks at the various public outreach strategies APO staff utilized between July 2022 and December 2022. The information collected for the SEP includes the number of meetings and events hosted by the APO and discusses the use of online surveys to get people involved. The report also looks at the way APO staff let people know about different events through social media, press releases, email lists, etc. Staff also look at whom they are reaching with some of these efforts by reviewing demographic data collected during online surveying efforts. The report moves to a discussion on recommendations APO staff can make to improve public engagement.

***Ms. Teich made a motion to approve the 2022 Stakeholder Engagement Plan Mid-Year Report. Mr. Glaesman seconded the motion. Motion carried.***

## **Consideration of the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments and Administrative Modifications**

Mr. McKenzie summarized the request for changes from the following entities: City of Sartell, Saint Cloud Metro Bus, Stearns County, City of Saint Cloud, and MnDOT. A public comment period was held from Feb. 15 through March 17, 2023.

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

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

Mr. Gibson explained that CRP could be used for various eligible projects. He then stated that at the March 9th meeting of the Policy Board, the Board members expressed their desire to focus on the use of CRP dollars. Mr. Gibson explained that there appeared to be consensus at the Policy Board that CRP should not be used to pay for things that can be funded through other formula programs such as Transportation Alternatives or the STBGP. Ms. Teich believes projects eligible under CRP funding should not be eliminated from this funding source. Mr. Gibson replied that the goal is to not eliminate projects but to create a methodology that puts more weight on specific projects versus others. Mr. Gibson then asked the group what they think are the most significant needs in the region. Mr. Schultz replied and asked Mr. Gibson what he thinks are the most critical needs. Mr. Gibson responded that he thinks a traffic monitoring program and more connected signals would be helpful for the region. From Policy Board discussions, Mr. Gibson stated that the private market should handle electric vehicle charging stations, but the public sector should have an initial role. Mr. Glasemen thinks the constituents want better

regional traffic operations. Ms. Teich agreed with Mr. Glasemen that traffic management should be rated higher than other projects since that type of project is hard to compete with other funding sources. Mr. Lenz reminded the group that CRP funding could also be used for engineering. Mr. Witter asked if there was a way to measure carbon emissions saved for each project. Ms. Theisen replied that the City of Sartell used a tool to estimate carbon emissions for their CRP project. Mr. Stapfer said there are different tools for different types of projects. Ms. Teich questioned how much certain kinds of projects reduce carbon emissions. The group began talking about public electric charging stations and the roles of the public and private sectors. Mr. Gibson wrapped up the conversation with the goal of not eliminating any projects but assigning more points to projects with the greatest need. Mr. Sabart added that the scoring should consider smaller communities that may not have the same traffic operation problems as larger cities. Mr. Gibson stated that APO would review eligible projects and create a methodology.

***No action was taken.***

### **Other Business and Announcements**

The APO's Senior Transportation Planner, Vicki Johnson, is on maternity leave.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

***Mr. Schultz made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Witter seconded the motion. Motion carried.***