

**SAINT CLOUD AREA PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY BOARD**  
**Thursday, March 9, 2023 – 4:30 p.m.**

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

Joe Perske	Stearns County
Ryan Daniel	Metro Bus
Dave Kleis	City of Saint Cloud
Jared Gapinski	Benton County
Rick Miller	City of Waite Park
Jeff Westerlund	LeSauk Township
Tim Elness	City of Sartell
Kevin Kluesner	City of Saint Joseph
Jake Anderson	City of Saint Cloud

Also in attendance were:

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. Kleis motioned to approve the agenda, but deleting item 6 – a presentation by MnDOT staff on the Minnesota State Highway Investment Plan - and Mr. Gapinski 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 February 9, 2023 Policy Board Meeting
- b. Approve Bills Lists
- c. Approve Resolution Accepting Safe Routes to School Planning Grant from MnDOT
- d. Receive Staff Report on February 23 Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee

***Mr. Gapinski motioned to approve the consent agenda items and Mr. Kluesner seconded the motion. Motion carried.***

**Consider 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. TAC representatives reviewed the RIIP at the Feb. 23 meeting and recommended Policy Board approval.

***Mr. Kleis motioned to approve the 2023-2027 RIIP be published. Mr. Gapinski seconded the motion. Motion carried.***

### **Consider 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. In February, 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 applied 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. Mr. Kluesner asked for clarification on what a shared use path is. Mr. Gibson said it is for pedestrians, bicycles (none motorized). Ms. Johnson will look for clarification if buses would apply for CRP and notes the region will need to decide what to prioritize. Mr. Perske asked how the next round of projects will be solicited. Mr. Gibson this will become a regular solicitation. Mr. Kleis would like the TAC to provide more guidance to the Policy Board as to how best to distribute funds.

***Mr. Kluesner motioned to accept Sartell's CRP application for a new trail for \$179,000. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion. Motion carries.***

### **OTHER BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Mr. Gapinski asked for more clarification on where the Saint Cloud APO utilized David Turch and Associates to lobby for area projects. Mr. Gibson confirmed that the lobbyist agreed to support the Benton County project to extend CSAH 29 to Golden Spike Road. Mr. Gapinski would like to see more representatives from the APO be able to go to lobby to get more projects. Mr. Kleis noted that the City of Saint Cloud does go separately to D.C. to lobby for the city and independently hires David Turch and Associates. Mr. Gibson noted that they have asked for the top three regional priorities to be presented in D.C. Ms. Danielowski suggested Mr. Gibson present on the role of the APO.

Mr. Perske noted he would like to see the Northstar train go to the Twins games. Ms. Danielowski had a meeting last week regarding a study that is being done on the Northstar. Mr. Daniel said later this year the study will be completed where they can reach a decision on future services. There are two bills in the legislature that would allow EV charging stations to have a surcharge.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:26 p.m.