

SAINT CLOUD AREA PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY BOARD
Thursday, April 13, 2023 – 4:30 p.m.

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

Joe Perske	Stearns County
Michael Kedrowski	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
Nick Sauer	City of Sauk Rapids

Also in attendance were:

Brian Gibson	Saint Cloud APO
James Stapfer	Saint Cloud APO
Alex McKenzie	Saint Cloud APO
Elizabeth Croteau-Kallestad	MnDOT
Bradley Utecht	MnDOT
Stacy Morse	Rep. Tom Emmer's Office

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mr. Kleis motioned to approve the agenda, 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 March 9, 2023, Policy Board Meeting
- b. Approve Bills Lists
- c. Approve Transportation Improvement Program Amendments and Modifications
- d. Approve Stakeholder Engagement Plan Annual Review and Recommendations
- e. Receive Staff Report of the March 30th Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee

Mr. Gapinski motioned to approve the consent agenda items, and Mr. Elness seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Presentation on Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure

Ms. Croteau-Kallestad presented the Minnesota Department of Transportation's (MnDOT's) electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure plan. The plan reveals that EV charging stations will be built at least every 50 miles along I-94 and I-35 throughout the state.

Mr. Gibson asked if MnDOT would evaluate all four potential sites for EV charging stations in the Saint Cloud area. Ms. Croteau-Kallestad answered yes, there will be a competitive site solicitation process in the summer/fall of 2023. Mr. Perske added that the Loves Corporation had contacted him and is very interested in applying for the grant. This location would be on both major corridors (I-94 and MN Highway 23), with the Love's site operating 24 hours daily.

Ms. Danielowski asked how businesses along these corridors are informed of this effort and how they are incentivized. Ms. Croteau-Kallestad said host sites could collect reasonable revenue from the charging stations.

Mr. Perske asked if there would be an app that tells the users where charging stations are located and if they are occupied. Ms. Croteau-Kallestad answered that it's still unclear, but there are talks about creating standardized databases, such as the Alternative Fuels Corridor website.

Mr. Gibson asked how MnDOT goes from four potential sites and narrowed it down to one. Ms. Croteau-Kallestad answered that going to be the site application process. Specific criteria must be met in the applications to be considered for selection. MnDOT will also add criteria and create a methodology.

Ms. Danielowski stated that the first round of applicants would likely be larger corporations because of the complicated application process. Ms. Croteau-Kallestad asserted that they are trying to make it as easy as possible, but federal requirements must be met.

Mr. Kleis asked about the funding source for a vendor. Ms. Croteau-Kallestad said the money is federal highway dollars, with a 20% match of the site host, but there are discussions at the legislature to provide dollars to cover the match.

Mr. Elness questioned why MnDOT wouldn't use rest stops for the EV charging infrastructure. Ms. Croteau-Kallestad replied that there are limited amenities at rest stops, and federal and state regulatory language around charging fuel fees at rest stops is not allowed.

Mr. Klies asked if any entity, such as a municipality, could apply. Ms. Croteau-Kallestad replied yes.

Mr. Miller asked if there are regulations on the price the vendor can charge. Ms. Croteau-Kallestad answered yes, within a reasonable revenue.

Ms. Danielowski asked who determines what is within a reasonable revenue. Ms. Croteau-Kallestad said the state would need to decide that.

Mr. Perske brought up the proposed language that utility companies are requesting to charge all customers for EV charging. Ms. Croteau-Kallestad replied that Xcel Energy has a proposed plan to own and operate EV charging stations.

Mr. Kleis asked how EVs would be taxed. Ms. Croteau-Kallestad said some are gas tax, sales tax, and extra registration tax. Mr. Gapinski added that the government is giving away money to the private industry now is the time to dictate the app. Ms. Croteau-Kallestad said that there is language in the NEVI rule about data accessibility, but it doesn't say specifics.

Ms. Morse commented that DC Fast charging stations take 20-30 minutes; what about level two chargers? Ms. Croteau-Kallestad replied that they could take two to three hours.

Discussion item only.

Presentation on the Minnesota State Highway Investment Plan (MnSHIP)

Mr. Utecht presented on the MnDOT's process of updating its State Highway Investment Plan (MnSHIP). MnSHIP does not identify specific projects but instead identifies investment priorities. It helps establish the level of investment and resources that should go into the various aspects of maintaining the state highway system.

Ms. Danieloski commented that many of the state revenues in terms of transportation are going down. Mr. Utecht responded with not all of them; the motor sale tax is doing well since it keeps up with inflation along with the registration tax, but the gas tax is flattening out.

Mr. Gapinski asked what MnDOTs plan with more EVs coming into the market and the gas tax potentially declining. Mr. Utecht responded that MnDOT had run various scenarios, but it didn't make a massive difference with the \$75 fee on EVs registration tax.

Mr. Gibson asked how MnDOT accounts for funding sources such as grants. Mr. Utecht stated that it is extra money not included in the revenue projections.

Mr. Gapinski asked if MnDOT is allocating additional funds to match federal grants. Mr. Utecht said MnDOT only sets aside some money to match funds for MnDOT roadways.

Mr. Persky asked about the geographic distribution of funding. Mr. Utecht said MnDOT doesn't specifically look at projects geographically, just what the needs across the state will be and how much they will cost.

Discussion item only.

Introduction to Metropolitan Planning Organization & 2022 Year-End Budget Review:

Item was tabled.

OTHER BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

No other business or announcements.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 5:32 p.m.