

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

***Thursday, April 27 @ 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, April 27, 2023. Associate Transportation Planner Alex McKenzie presided with the following people in attendance:

Voting Members:

Michael Kedrowski	Saint Cloud Metro Bus
Tracy Hodel	City of Saint Cloud
Kari Theisen	City of Sartell
Chris Byrd	Benton County
Jodi Teich	Stearns County
Matt Glaesman	City of Saint Cloud
Dave Blommel	City of Waite Park
Randy Sabart	City of Saint Joseph

Non-Member Attendees:

Brian Gibson	APO Executive Director
Alex McKenzie	APO, Associate Planner
James Stapfer	APO, Planning Technician
Luke Langer	City of Saint Cloud

Zoom Attendees

Angie Tomovic	MnDOT
Erika Shepard	MnDOT MPO Coordinator
Jeff Lenz	MnDOT District 3
Colin Korst	Federal Transit Administration
Innocent Eyoh	MPCA
Andrew Witter	Sherburne County
Mackenzie Turner-Bargen	MnDOT
Voni Vegar	MnDOT

Introductions were made.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

No members of the public were present.

**CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Approve minutes of the March 30, 2023, TAC meeting.
- b. Receive staff report of April 13, 2023, Policy Board meeting.

- c. Consideration of FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment.

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

**Presentation on FY 2021 Transportation Performance Monitoring Report (TPMR)**

Mr. Stapfer summarized the 2021 Transportation Performance Monitoring Report, which looks at the set of performance measures that will track the region's progress toward achieving transportation goals. The report serves as an annual snapshot of the region to help the APO and its planning partners better understand the current and anticipated performance of the transportation system and how well it is moving towards achieving the goals stated in the MTP. Ms. Teich asked if 2014 was the last year United flew out of the Saint Cloud Regional Airport. Mr. McKenzie answered yes. Mr. Witter disagreed that fatal crashes couldn't be tied to engineering problems in the region. The locations of fatal crashes are scattered across the region, but crashes could be tied to roadway segments or intersection characteristics. Ms. Teich added that some fatal crashes couldn't necessarily be tied to engineering problems but should be looked at. Ms. Teich added even when it is a driver behavior issue, engineers develop engineering solutions. Mr. Gibson asked if there was other data the APO should be collecting. Ms. Teich commented that looking at contributing factors of the crashes can help paint the picture. Mr. Byrd asked if the map from the presentation was in the TPMR. Mr. Stapfer replied that the map in the TPMR is a heat map. Mr. Byrd commented that a heat map portrays a different picture; it can help indicate roadway characteristics. Mr. Witter commented that digging into the causes of crashes would be helpful instead of just location. Mr. Stapfer added that in the TPMR, a section goes into contributing factors and other characteristics. Ms. Teich commented that adding the trends when talking with the policymakers would be helpful.

***Mr. Byrd made a motion to approve the 2021 Transportation Performance Report (TPMR). Ms. Hodel seconded the motion. Motion carried.***

**Presentation on the Minnesota State Highway Investment Plan (MnSHIP)**

Ms. Turner-Bargen stated the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) is in the 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.

***Information Only.***

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

Mr. Gibson explained that the TAC over the past several months has been discussing the new Carbon Reduction Program (CRP), a formula program for which the APO will award funds. In March, the Policy Board indicated a preference for CRP funds not to be used for projects that can be funded through other programs – or at least to de-emphasize the use of CRP funds for such projects. At the March TAC meeting, there appeared to be a consensus to prioritize CRP-eligible projects. Based on that guidance, Mr. Gibson prepared an evaluation rubric for consideration. Ms. Hodel commented that Categories A and B should get the same amount of points because some of the projects in Category B could significantly reduce carbon. Ms. Theisen asked if the amount of carbon reduction will have a scale with assigned points compared to other projects. Mr. Gibson stated that it is a possibility with bands. Ms. Theisen stated that it would be helpful to know how strong of a project is. Ms. Teich commented that bins would also help reduce contention between who gets how many points. Mr. Lenz asked if categories A-D are the only type of projects and then how E-G are related. Mr. Gibson stated that a project would fall into categories A-D and then E-G would apply to all projects. Mr. Glaesman stated he would like category F to be five points higher than G. Ms. Teich argued that categories F and G should be equal since community support is vital for deliverability. Mr. Lenz commented that all projects in the categories should be eligible for the same points. Ms. Teich stated that at the last TAC meeting, the group discussed which projects are the most important to the region. Mr. Gibson asked what the point values of F and G should be? Mr. Glasemen said they would be fine if they were both at 15 points. Mr. Gibson asked if the group still liked the idea of project bins. Mr. Glasemen liked what was being presented with different project bins. Ms. Teich stated that the estimated carbon reduction of Category A will most likely outweigh Categories B through D. Ms. Theisen stated that the rubric should clearly state that projects fall into Categories A-D and that E-G applies to all projects. Ms. Teich commented to make sure categories D-G are broken into tiers. Mr. Gibson stated he would take all the feedback and rework the rubric.

***No action was taken.***

## **Other Business and Announcements**

Ms. Hodel brought up Safe Streets for All grants and asked the group if the APO could apply for a region-wide safety action plan. Ms. Teich said it would be helpful for the region. Mr. Gibson stated he would take this to the Policy Board for further discussion. Mr. Eyoh stated that there is grant money for school districts for electric buses.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

***Ms. Teich made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Theisen seconded the motion. Motion carried.***