

SAINT CLOUD AREA PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY BOARD
Thursday, November 9, 2023 – 4:30 PM

A regular meeting of the Saint Cloud Area Planning Organization Policy Board was held on Thursday, November 9, 2023, at 4:30 PM APO Chair Raeanne Danielowski presided with the following members:

Raeanne Danielowski	County of Sherburne
Tim Elness	City of Sartell
Jared Gapinski	County of Benton
Mayor Dave Kleis	City of St. Cloud
Jake Anderson	City of Saint Cloud
Jeff Goerger	City of Saint Cloud
Joe Perske	Stearns County
Mayor Rick Schultz	City of St. Joseph
Mike Kedrowski	Metro Bus
Ryan Daniel	Metro Bus
Frank Theisen	City of Waite Park
Dottie Seamans	City of Sauk Rapids

Also in attendance were:

Brian Gibson	Saint Cloud APO
Vicki Johnson	Saint Cloud APO
Alex McKenzie	Saint Cloud APO
Trina Ness	Saint Cloud APO

Absent:

Mayor Rick Miller	City of Waite Park
Jeff Westerlund	Town of LeSauk

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mayor Schultz 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 October 12, 2023, Policy Board Meeting
- b. Approve Bills Lists
- c. Receive Report regarding the October 5, 2023 meeting of the Area Transportation Partnership (ATP)
- d. Receive report regarding the October 26, 2023, meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

Mr. Goerger motioned to approve the consent agenda items and Mayor Schultz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Consider approval of the FY 2028 Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)

Ms. Johnson presented a review of the HSIP funding program, requirements, and objectives. The HSIP is a federal program designed to reduce fatalities and serious injuries on our roadways. The funding is an unusual 90/10 split with a maximum request of \$750,000 for eligible construction costs. Funding is handled through MnDOT's Office of Traffic Engineering (OTE) and applications are due by Wednesday Nov. 22, 2023. MnDOT did not meet their safety targets for the previous year, therefore they must delegate more of their funding toward safety improvement. District 3 has the largest share of traffic fatalities and serious injury crashes which has resulted in a large number of funds that are available.

Sherburne County applied for funding regarding a proactive project installing transverse rumble strips at various intersections within county. Note, this is part of a larger county-wide project, however we are just looking at the portions within Haven Township, which is within our MPO planning area. The APO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) recommended Policy Board approval of this project for HSIP funding consideration.

Mr. Anderson asked to confirm that they've already done double stop signs and cross traffic does not stop signs in LED, flashing, and now they want to add rumble strips? Ms. Danielowski responded, "Yes."

Mr. Anderson motioned to approve Sherburne County's HSIP application for federal funding, and Mr. Goerger seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Consider Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Goals, Objectives, Strategies, and Performance Measures

Ms. Johnson provided a brief recap of where we are in our long-range plan, and our next steps in moving forward. She also discussed what the MTP is, and the requirements of the APO which are federally regulated. Ms. Johnson then presented the various sections of the MTP that have previously been approved as well as information on the current section regarding 'Goals, Objectives, Strategies, and Performance Measures' used to carry out our six visioning themes previously approved which include:

- System and Environmental Stewardship
- Multimodal Connections
- Congestion Management
- Transportation Safety
- Interregional Connections
- Technological Advancements

These objectives and strategies will assist the APO staff, and jurisdictional/agency partners in creating our desired transportation network. All of which are consistent with the goals outlined by the U.S. Department of Transportation, the State of

Minnesota, as well as policies adopted as part of the Minnesota Department of Transportation's State Multimodal Transportation Plan (SMTP).

There was no discussion.

Jeff Goerger motioned to approve the MTP Project List and Mr. Theisen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Washington DC Recap

Mr. Perski, Mr. Gapinski, and Mr. Gibson traveled to Washington D.C. to meet with our Representatives regarding our MPO's Regional Transportation Priorities. Mr. Perski summarized their activities and conversations noting that many of our Representatives were not available due to House business, however they met with their staff, discussed the items in the handout, and it was very well received. Senator Klobuchar joined them in the Capital during the meeting and stated that she put three or four items in for Congressionally Directed Spending. Congressman Emmer, as well as most Democrats support Congressionally Directed Spending. The group is hopeful that we will receive Congressionally Directed Spending in the next session. Senator Smith's staff member made the comment that she has used our MPO projects as examples of Congressionally Directed Spending. Our area has the most Congressionally Directed Spending of anyone in Minnesota. Mr. Gibson stated that we would never get the funding for some projects if Congressionally Directed Spending wasn't an option as we're competing with so many larger entities. Mr. Perski stated that our MPO has the most projects in transportation, coming out of Minnesota, and that it's encouraging that our Senators are supporting us in this fashion.

Information on Local Safe Routes to School Planning (SRTS)

Mr. McKenzie stated that Safe Routes to School is an effort to improve walking and bicycling conditions for youth, and to encourage more active lifestyles. The goals of the program are to improve safety, reduce traffic, and improve air quality near schools through a multidisciplinary approach structured around the 6 E's:

- Equity
- Engagement
- Engineering
- Education
- Encouragement
- Evaluation

These plans consider many factors, such as student demographics, the community in context, and existing infrastructure to develop recommendations to make walking, biking, and rolling safe and comfortable for all students.

APO staff work with community partners to develop these plans, including school district staff, school principals and administrators, public health officials, Metro Bus, law enforcement, city staff, and MnDOT staff.

In the Spring of 2023, the APO was awarded a planning assistance grant to collaborate with a consultant to create an SRTS Plan for Sauk Rapids-Rice School District ISD 47 for Pleasantview Elementary, Mississippi Heights Elementary, and the

Sauk Rapids-Rice Middle School. The plan is currently in the initial data-gathering phase and is scheduled to be completed by the end of the 2023-2024 school year.

Completed SRTS Plans for all St. Cloud District ISD 742 elementary and middle schools within the planning area (Discovery, Kennedy, Madison, Oak Hill, Talahi, Lincoln, Westwood, and North and South Junior High), along with an overall district plan.

There is also a plan for the Sartell-St. Stephen School District ISD 748 for Pine Meadow Primary and Sartell Middle School.

Some of the factors in producing an SRTS Plan are:

- Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC)
- Low Income Households
- Land Use
- Public Transit
- Crashes
- Student Zones
- Functional Classification
- Active Transportation Facilities
- Active Transportation Pavement Conditions
- Painted Crosswalks
- Detectable Warning Surfaces

Once plans are complete, your agency staff can apply for grants to help build infrastructure projects identified in the plan or incorporate projects into their local Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

Ms. Danielowski asked how often MnDOT likes to have the SRTS plans updated. Mr. McKenzie responded, he has had no guidance, but believes every 10 years. However, we're going to be implementing a rotation where we'll be updating two plans every year.

OTHER BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Kleis asked if there is a December Policy Board meeting, to which Mr. Gibson responded no.

Mr. Gibson stated that we're starting to prepare for the upcoming special joint-session meeting regarding the beltline. There was discussion as to location and whether it will be in-person or hybrid. Nothing has been decided at this time.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Kleis motion to adjourn the meeting and Mayor Schultz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM.