

SAINT CLOUD AREA PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY BOARD
Thursday, September 12, 2024 – 4:30 PM

A regular meeting of the Saint Cloud Area Planning Organization Policy Board was held on Thursday, September 12, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. APO Chair Raeanne Danielowski presided with the following members:

Jake Anderson	City of Saint Cloud
Administrator Matthew Staehling	City of Saint Cloud (Alternate for Mayor Dave Kleis)
Mike Conway	City of Saint Cloud (Alternate for Jeff Goerger)
Rick Schultz	City of Saint Joseph
Dottie Seamans	City of Sauk Rapids
Anna Gruber	City of Sartell (Alternate for Tim Elness)
Ryan Daniel	Metro Bus
Joe Perske	Stearns County
Josh Bently	Le Sauk Township (Alternate for Jeff Westerlund)

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:

Jared Gapinski	Benton County
Rick Miller	City of Waite Park
James Stapfer	Saint Cloud APO

- 1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 2. INTRODUCTIONS**
- 3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Ms. Danielowski motioned that Item number 8 on the agenda (Consider Cost Sharing Agreement for Future Beltline Projects) be tabled until the October 2024 meeting. Mr. Perske seconded the motion. Motion carried with Mr. Staehling opposing.

Mr. Perske asked that 322nd Street be added to Other Business.

Ms. Danielowski motioned to approve the agenda, with the amendment of tabling Item No. 8 to the October meeting and adding 322nd Street to Other Business. Mr. Perske seconded the motion. Motion carried. Mr. Staehling opposed the motion.

- 4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:** There were no members of the public present.

5. CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

- a. Approve Minutes of August 8, 2024, Policy Board Meeting
- b. Approve Bills Lists for August
- c. Receive Staff Reports on Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

Ms. Seamans motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Mr. Daniel seconded the motion. Motion carried.

6. CONSIDER FINAL 2025-2028 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

Ms. Johnson gave an update of the 2025-2028 TIP stating that the public comment period ran from July 17-August 16th, 2024. There was also an in-person open house which one person attended, and a Facebook Live open house with no responses.

Public outreach included 12 online surveys with 52 responses, WJON story, emails to interested persons/stakeholder list, Facebook/Instagram posts, The Oxcart newsletter article, and legal notice in the St. Cloud Times. The final changes to the draft included: Updated Chapter 5 text with information regarding public engagement, and updates to Appendix C- including comment disposition.

Technical Advisory Committee representatives recommended Policy Board approval of the final 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) at the August 29, 2024, meeting.

Mr. Schultz motioned to approve Policy Board approval of the Final 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) as refined and recommended by the TAC. Ms. Seamans seconded the motion. Motion carried.

7. CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES FOR SHARING FUNDING IN THE AREA TRANSPORTATION PARTNERSHIP (ATP)

Ms. Johnson began by giving a brief history of the existing Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STGBP) funding distribution for ATP-3, which was developed in 1999. This formula was developed in response to changes in the state's STBGP funding distribution to each of the eight ATPs.

Ms. Johnson then presented the ATP-3 Managed STBGP Formula Funding: 50% System Size: Bridge area, Federal aid lane miles, Number of Transit vehicles. 50% System Use: Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT), Heavy Commercial Vehicle Miles Traveled (HCVMT), and 2025 population projections.

The state distributes the funding targets to the ATPs through a formula based upon system needs (county-state aid highway and municipal state aid streets) and population.

Ms. Johnson reviewed the current distribution of STBGP Block Grant Program funds by region:

Region	Raw Formula Calculation	Region 7W/Saint Cloud APO Split	Percentage of STBGP Funds Allocated
Region 5	32.65%	-	32.65%
Region 7E	13.82%	-	13.82%
Region 7W	53.53%	61.65%	33.00%
Saint Cloud APO	-	38.35%	20.53%

In 2017 an attempt was made to revisit the formula funding split, however concerns were raised due to several factors including changes to the ways the state was distributing STBGP funds to each of the ATPs as well some of the data being outdated. However, that proposal was declined at the ATP level.

MnDOT Central Office recently updated the data it uses to distribute funding targets to each of the ATPs. Using the 2020 Census and January 2023 CSAH and MSA needs data, ATP-3 experienced a \$500,000 funding cut in STBGP funds (also a \$100,000 cut in TA dollars).

Mr. Schultz motioned for Policy Board approval of asking the ATP to revisit the 1999 formula. Mr. Staehling seconded the motion. Motion carried.

8. CONSIDER COST SHARING AGREEMENT FOR FUTURE BELTLINE PROJECTS

Item tabled until the October 2024 meeting.

9. OTHER BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Perske added 322nd Street discussion. He is aware of the disrepair the road is in. St. Wendel and Le Sauk townships do not have the funds to put toward a major road improvement. Carol Lewis contacted him and asked about making it a county road. Ultimately, we (Policy Board) need to get the classification of the road changed so we can apply for state and federal funding. Mr. Perske would like to have the Board look at 322nd as everybody's problem and would like to help find funding for it. Mr. Gibson stated that the APO staff and the TAC are conducting a study regarding the classification of roads. The Policy Board should have that report by the end of the year.

Mr. Gibson stated that the gentleman that came into the room during the meeting stated that he's a self-proclaimed government advocate and he would like to congratulate the Policy Board on having their meetings at the library, which is an open, accessible location, that anyone can attend should they wish to. He also stated the agenda looked good and it was easy to follow. He would not give his name for the record.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Schultz motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.