

**SAINT CLOUD AREA PLANNING ORGANIZATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY
COMMITTEE (TAC) MEETING
Thursday, July 31, 2025 @ 10 a.m.**

A meeting of the Saint Cloud Area Planning Organization's (APO's) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was held at 10 a.m. Thursday, July 31, 2025. Senior Transportation Planner Vicki Johnson presided with the following people in attendance:

Voting Members:

Zac Borgerding	City of Saint Cloud
Matt Glaesman	City of Saint Cloud
Randy Sabart	City of Saint Joseph
April Ryan	City of Sartell (alternate for Kari Haakonson)
Todd Schultz	City of Sauk Rapids
Jon Noerenberg	City of Waite Park
Chris Byrd	Benton County
Jodi Teich	Stearns County
Steve Voss	MnDOT District 3
Michael Kedrowski	Metro Bus

Non-Member Attendees:

Vicki Johnson	APO, Senior Planner
Alex McKenzie	APO, Associate Planner
Trina Ness	APO, Administrative Specialist
Brett Gunderson	Member of Public

Online Attendees:

David Roedel	Sherburne County
James Stapfer	APO, Planning Technician

1. Introductions were made.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Brett Gunderson with Houston Engineering was in attendance but had no comment.

3. CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

- a. Approve minutes of the June 26, 2025, TAC meeting

Ms. Teich made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Ms. Ryan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

4. CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT 2026-2027 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)

Ms. Johnson stated the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is both the APO's budget and work plan. It identifies funding sources, revenues, expenditures, and the tasks we expect to accomplish each calendar year. The approved UPWP needs to be provided to MnDOT by Sept. 1 of each year to ensure our funding is properly obligated prior to Jan. 1 of the following year.

For 2026, the APO is expecting \$692,988 from our USDOT planning grant, also called our Consolidated Planning Grant (CPG). These are formula funds and require a 20% local match.

The APO's consultant-lead projects proposed for 2026 include:

- Continuing our Community Liaisons program to better reach and include people who have been traditionally underserved in the planning process. (\$5,000).
- Regional Traffic Management Study (\$105,000), which will gather information on existing conditions, operational performance, and technological capabilities for managing traffic flow on existing arterial and collector roadways. Then, it will develop a set of prioritized recommendations for short-term (1-5 years) and long-term (5-20 years) improvements, including but not limited to operational strategies, ITS deployment, signal system enhancements, data management, interagency coordination, and staffing and training needs.

Overall local assessments are assessed about 19% higher than in 2025. This was due to the fact that in 2025 the APO issued a credit to jurisdictions on assessments because of the Safe Streets & Roads for All (SS4A) match provided in 2024. In 2024, the APO assessed jurisdictions for the local match component needed to leverage the federal funding for the program. Once the APO secured that federal grant, staff applied to the state to seek out grant funds to provide the local match (instead of having the locals pay the match). The APO was successful in receiving the local match from the state grant and opted to have the funds that were assessed in 2024 become a credit on the jurisdictional assessments for 2025. Note that despite the increase from 2025 to 2026, the 2026 request is still lower than the 2024 and 2023 request. More information can be reviewed at <https://stcloudapo.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/2026-27-UPWP-DRAFT.pdf>.

Mr. Glaesman made a motion to recommend Policy Board approval of the Draft 2026-2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Mr. Noerenberg seconded the motion. Motion carried.

5. CONSIDERATION OF REVISIONS TO THE APO'S ATP-MANAGED SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM (STBGP) SCORING CRITERIA

Ms. Johnson reviewed the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP) by explaining the program's role in funding the region's roads and bridges and that it is managed by the Central Minnesota Area Transportation Partnership (ATP-3).

The current process for evaluating the APO's STBGP projects was formally adopted in September 2019. As of October 2024, the APO has a new Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) "Looking Ahead 2050." At the June TAC meeting, Ms. Johnson presented proposed changes to the current scoring criteria to address current political changes at the national level, as well as to better align the STBGP funding with the goals of the 2050 MTP. TAC members gave feedback during that meeting and had the opportunity to contact Ms. Johnson with questions or suggestions through July 21. Ms. Johnson incorporated the suggestions into the draft document found in the agenda packet.

Ms. Johnson provided an in-depth review of the proposed scoring rubric changes and revisions. TAC members had no changes or amendments to the proposed scoring rubric that was presented.

Mr. Byrd made a motion to recommend Policy Board approval of the revisions to the APO's ATP-managed Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP) scoring criteria. Mr. Schultz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

6. OTHER BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Johnson stated that the APO's FY 2026-2029 TIP is out for public comment through Aug. 15, 2025.

Mr. McKenzie stated that he's working on the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) and asked members to please do the survey that was sent out via email.

Mr. Voss stated that PROTECT solicitation is open through Aug. 8, 2025. Mr. Voss also stated there is a Resiliency Improvement Plan (RIP) that identifies vulnerable areas around the state. You can use the information from that plan to support your infrastructure project proposals. Ms. Johnson reminded TAC reps that if they are successful in being awarded PROTECT funds that they could reach out to the state to amend the project into the RIP and reduce the local match needed to leverage the federal funding from 20% to 13%.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:57 a.m.