

**SAINT CLOUD AREA PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEETING
Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025 @ 10 a.m.**

A meeting of the Saint Cloud Area Planning Organization's (APO's) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was called to order at 10 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025. Senior Transportation Planner Vicki Johnson presided with the following people in attendance:

Voting Members:

Zac Borgerding	City of Saint Cloud
Randy Sabart	City of Saint Joseph
Hunter Lund	City of Sartell (alternate for Kari Haakonson)
Todd Schultz	City of Sauk Rapids
Dave Blommel	City of Waite Park
Chris Byrd	Benton County
Jodi Teich	Stearns County
Mike Decker	Stearns County (non-voting)
Steve Voss	MnDOT District 3
Michael Kedrowski	Metro Bus

Non-Member Attendees:

Brian Gibson	APO, Executive Director
Vicki Johnson	APO, Senior Planner
Alex McKenzie	APO, Associate Planner
Trina Ness	APO, Administrative Specialist
Angie Stenson	Bolton & Menk

Online Attendees:

David Roedel	Sherburne County
Jason Gottfried	MnDOT MPO Coordinator
Jeff Lenz	MnDOT District 3
Innocent Eyoh	MPCA
James Stapfer	APO, Planning Technician
Ian Jacobson	Bolton & Menk
Raveena Bandaru	Bolton & Menk

1. Introductions were made.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No members of the public were in attendance.

3. CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

- a. Approve minutes of Aug. 28, 2025, TAC meeting.
- b. Receive staff report of Sept. 4, 2025, Policy Board meeting.

- c. Approve 2026 Regular Meeting Schedule for the Saint Cloud APO's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

Mr. Borgerding made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Byrd seconded the motion. Motion carried.

4. PRESENTATION OF THE SAFE STREETS AND ROADS FOR ALL (SS4A) COMPREHENSIVE SAFETY ACTION PLAN

Ms. Stenson gave an overview of the draft SS4A plan's content, appendices, and updates. She went on to discuss the efforts to gain public input and summarized key themes from the survey responses.

Ms. Stenson discussed the SS4A Self-Certification Eligibility Worksheet, Regional Safety Policy Commitment, Policy Guidance Statements, and next steps for the APO and local agencies. She asked that final feedback be given to the consultant team before Oct. 3, 2025.

APO staff intend to present the plan at the November Policy Board.

5. CONSIDERATION OF THE STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN (SEP) UPDATE

Mr. McKenzie gave an overview of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP). He stated the SEP ensures the public is given ample opportunity to access, review, and comment on plans, studies, and other documents as they are being developed. The SEP also helps members of the public and community organizations understand how to participate effectively in the APO's planning process and satisfies federal requirements for MPOs.

Mr. McKenzie went on to explain the SEP is updated every three years to ensure the data meets APO, state, and federal guidelines, laws, executive orders, and updated demographics. He went on to review the efforts made toward public input:

- 45-day public input from Aug. 11 – Sept. 24, 2025
- Advertisements in St. Cloud Live, the APO's website, social media, and emailed to interested stakeholders.
- An in-person open house was held on Aug. 26 at the Great River Regional Library

No public comments were received on the draft SEP.

Ms. Teich made a motion to recommend Policy Board approval of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) Update. Mr. Schultz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

6. CONSIDERATION OF THE REGIONAL EVALUATION OF COUNTS FOR ACTIVE PLANNING (RECAP) REPORT

Mr. McKenzie reviewed the purpose of the RECAP. He discussed the permanent counter location and data; trends and COVID-19 impacts; pedestrian versus bicyclist stats; and portable counter locations and data. Regionally, active

transportation trends follow the weather and seasons. Mr. McKenzie noted the data indicates active transportation activities have not recovered to 2021 activity levels. That said, in 2021 we were in the midst of Covid-19, and many people were working from home, gyms were closed, and utilizing these trails was a way to get outdoors and exercise. He discussed the need for APO staff to continue monitoring active transportation trends long-term to gain a better understanding of usage patterns.

Mr. McKenzie went on to explain how the data can be utilized:

- to support funding applications
- to use when designing for safer crossings, and to fill trail gaps
- to guide maintenance, school planning, park access, comprehensive plans, and transit connections

Mr. Schultz made a motion to recommend Policy Board acceptance and approval to publish the Regional Evaluation of Counts for Active Planning Report (RECAP) Update. Mr. Byrd seconded the motion. Motion carried.

7. APPOINTMENT OF AN ENGINEERING REPRESENTATIVE TO SERVE ON THE CENTRAL MINNESOTA AREA TRANSPORTATION PARTNERSHIP'S (ATP-3'S) TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES SCORING COMMITTEE AND AREA TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (ATIP) DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Ms. Johnson explained that with Ms. Teich leaving Stearns County the APO is in need of an engineering representative to serve on the ATP-3 Transportation Alternatives Committee and ATIP Development Committee. She explained what the duties for this position would be and asked for volunteers. Mr. Borgerding volunteered.

Ms. Teich made a motion to recommend Mr. Borgerding to serve on the Central Minnesota Area Transportation Partnership's (ATP-3's) Transportation Alternatives scoring committee and the Area Transportation Improvement Program (ATIP) Development Committee. Mr. Byrd seconded the motion. Motion carried.

8. CONSIDERATION OF REVISIONS TO THE APO'S FY 2027-2030 CARBON REDUCTION PROGRAM (CRP) SOLICITATION CO-BENEFITS

Ms. Johnson stated that CRP was developed under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) which expires in FY 2026. Due to the change in leadership at the national level, it is unsure if/how specific activities, and the use of certain language will be eligible for funding at the federal level. Therefore, MnDOT's Office of Chief Counsel reviewed the CRP solicitation forms and provided legal guidance on the application. The proposed APO response would be to adjust specific words within the application. She stated an additional ATP-3 recommendation is to remove the Letter of Intent process. This is because it was very labor intensive and redundant of the information within the application. She went on to present the Saint Cloud APO CRP Funding Targets for FY 2027-2030 stating that FY 2030 is currently not fully committed. For projects that are outside the APO's metropolitan

area, but within the planning area, the applications go to Jeff Lenz. Mr. Lenz shared changes the ATP is making to the application.

Mr. Voss made a motion to recommend Policy Board approval of the APO's FY 2027-2030 Carbon Reduction Program Solicitation Co-Benefits. Ms. Teich seconded the motion. Motion carried.

9. OTHER BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Ms. Johnson shared that today was Ms. Teich's last TAC meeting as she is moving into a new position.
- Ms. Johnson stated that HSIP applications are underway and if a jurisdiction is applying for HSIP funds within the APO area, for either a reactive or proactive project, the application needs to be completed and to her by noon on Oct. 20, 2025. Upcoming solicitations will be going out:
 - CRP – October
 - PROTECT - October
 - STBGP – October
- Mr. Gibson stated that at the national MPO conference it was stated that there is a second round of SMART Grants that will be available.
- Mr. Lenz stated that Oct. 13, 2025, will be the kickoff for CRP funding, and Oct. 23, 2025, he will be hosting CRP and PROTECT workshops which will be mandatory outside of the APO.
- Mr. Lenz reminded TAC reps that if a proposed project encroaches on another jurisdiction's roadway or right-of-way, he must be notified by Nov. 14, 2025, that conversations are occurring. A letter of support from the impacted roadway authority (other than the applicant) MUST accompany any application.
- Mr. Lenz stated that he will be conducting webinars on CRP, PROTECT, and TA.
- Mr. Eyoh stated there are two RFPs that are out right now from the MPCA:
 - A freight switcher locomotive grant to partially fund freight switcher locomotive repower or replacement with cleaner diesel engines or zero-emission motors. Applications are due by 4 p.m. on Oct. 22, 2025.
 - An electric vehicle direct current fast charging station grant. MPCA is providing up to \$150,000 (or 80% of eligible project costs) to install charging stations. Applications are due by 4 p.m. Dec. 9, 2025.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:11 a.m