

SAINT CLOUD AREA PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY BOARD
Thursday, January 8, 2025 – 4:30 PM

A regular meeting of the Saint Cloud Area Planning Organization Policy Board was held on Thursday, January 8, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. Chair Jared Gapinski presided with the following members present:

Jake Anderson	City of Saint Cloud
Scott Brodeen	City of Saint Cloud
Mike Conway	City of Saint Cloud
Dottie Seamans	City of Sauk Rapids
Frank Theisen	City of Waite Park
Joe Perske	Stearns County
Raeanne Danielowski	Sherburne County
Jeff Westerlund	Le Sauk Township
Ryan Daniel	Metro Bus

Also in attendance were:

Brian Gibson	Saint Cloud APO
Vicki Johnson	Saint Cloud APO
Trina Ness	Saint Cloud APO
Michael Kedrowski	Metro Bus

Absent:

Tim Elness	City of Sartell
Adam Scepaniak	City of Saint Joseph

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. INTRODUCTIONS

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mr. Gibson stated both presenters scheduled for the meeting had to cancel their appearance for personal reasons.

Mr. Theisen motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Ms. Danielowski seconded the motion. Motion carried.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

No members of the public were present.

5. CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

- a. Approve Minutes of December 11, 2025, Policy Board Meeting
- b. Approve December Bills List
- c. Approve Annual Resolution on Investment Procedures

- d. Approve Annual Resolution on Paying Certain Claims
- e. Approve Annual Resolution on Designation of Official Newspaper
- f. Approve Resolution Supporting Passenger Rail
- g. Receive Report on 2025 Policy Board Attendance
- h. Receive Report on 2025 Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Attendance

Mr. Conway motioned to remove ITEM F; Approve Resolution Supporting Passenger Rail from the Consent Agenda. Mr. Brodeen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Anderson motioned to approve Consent Agenda ITEMS A–E and G-H. Ms. Seamans seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Conway stated he feels it's poor timing to support a rail service project between St. Paul and Fargo with the NorthStar Rail project just being shut down. After much discussion everyone agreed that they didn't have enough information on the project to take a definitive position on the passenger rail being proposed.

Mr. Anderson motioned to table ITEM F; Approve Resolution Supporting Passenger Rail, until more information is available. Mr. Perske seconded the motion. Motion carried.

6. ELECT CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIRS FOR 2026

Mr. Gibson presented the History of Officers from 2016-2025. He stated, according to the APO bylaws they state in part "The officers of APO shall be a Chair, a 1st Vice-Chair, a 2nd Vice-Chair, and a 3rd Vice-Chair." "The officers shall serve a one-year term. No officer shall serve more than two consecutive terms in any one office."

Mr. Gibson continued by reviewing the current officers (Jared Gapinski – Chair; Jake Anderson – 1st Vice-Chair; Jeff Westerlund – 2nd Vice-Chair; Adam Scepaniak – 3rd Vice-Chair), how many terms the officer has served in that position, and bylaws for the officer terms.

Mr. Perske motioned that Mr. Gapinski remains Chair, Mr. Anderson remains 1st Vice-Chair, Mr. Scepaniak as 2nd Vice-Chair, and Mr. Westerlund as 3rd Vice-Chair. Mr. Conway seconded the motion. Motion carried.

7. PRESENTATION ON US-10 STATE OF PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

Presentation postponed.

8. RECEIVE PRESENTATION ON STATE OF PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION FOR PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE TO ST. CLOUD REGION

Presentation postponed.

9. OTHER BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Gibson stated that the APO was successful in securing the Corridors of Commerce Project Readiness Advancement funding to be used for planning, engineering, and design of MN-15 from MN-23 to US-10.

Mr. Westerlund asked if there are any funds for 322nd Street. Mr. Anderson stated the City of Saint Cloud is working on it.

Ms. Danielowski stated that Sherburne County worked with MnDOT to implement a 2-year pilot bus route from Big Lake and Elk River into Minneapolis as a possible replacement for the NorthStar Rail Project. Ms. Danielowski stated that she realizes this is out of the APO jurisdiction, but it does assimilate with the NorthStar Rail Project.

Mr. Perske asked about Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) for 322nd Street. Mr. Anderson stated that they're working on it. Turch & Associates, the lobbying firm representing the City of Saint Cloud and Stearns County, will be working toward securing (CDS) to address the issues with 322nd Street.

Mr. Perske spoke about the Wetland Conservation Act and the progress of changing the wetland acreage replacement ratio from 2:1 to 1:1. He stated that there seems to be significant support with representatives from state government and they will be presenting the ratio change federally in February.

Mr. Gapinski stated that Benton County approved an additional \$24,000 toward the APO's lobbying contract with Larkin Hoffman Public Affairs, upon the contract being secured.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Gapinski adjourned the meeting at 4:55 p.m.