

RPA 1 Transportation Enhancement Committee

MINUTES: October 30, 2014

Present: Rod Marlatt, Elaine Govern, Craig Fencl, Dean Hilgerson, Jim Janett, Robin Bostrom, Tim Engelhardt, Barb Schroeder, Bruce Palmborg, Darla Kelchen, Laura Olson, Jared Nielsen and Karla Organist

1. Meeting was called to order at 8:36 a.m. by chair, Rod Marlatt
2. Motion to approve the agenda was made by Olson, second by Kelchen, all approved
3. Motion to approve the minutes from March 20, 2014 was made by Engelhardt, seconded by Bostrom, all approved.
4. County Updates:
 - a. Allamakee: Interpretive Center funded by Scenic Byways grant is moving along, hope to go out to bid in January with groundbreaking this spring. A fundraising group has been hired to help with matching funds – cost has risen to about 3.2 million.
 - b. Clayton: Motormill Bridge has become a great tourist attraction. Project to connect Motormill to Elkader previously awarded with Statewide Enhancement and State Rec. funds is running into some issues. Hope to use Turkey River Watershed Improvement funds to help.
 - c. Fayette: Working on trail project from Elgin through Gilbertson Park to the county line. Are ending up building a separate bridge for the bike trail.
 - d. Howard: Have made significant progress on the Wapsi Trail – finally have alignment. Committee had to make their case to the CAT board for an extension – tough, but successful – with a new deadline set next spring. The project has been accelerated and they hope to begin construction next season.
 - e. Winneshiek: Opened bids for the Freeport Spur (TIGER project that links to Trout Run Trail) – even on second round, were higher than hoped. TIGER required approval, so the county will be looking for additional funds to put toward the project (1/2 million total). Dry Run Trail is moving forward.
 - f. Scenic Byways: Jared reported on some projects they are working on – overlook at Chicken Ridge with interpretive panels in Clayton County; received an RBEG which will be used to assist small businesses with marketing as a tourist or scenic byway attraction.
5. STP/TAP Funds Status – no change since the TIP process except for a return from Guttenberg's closeout of \$9,767. Balance left after TIP distributions: \$53,146
6. Review and discussion of TAP application and timeline. Committee made a few changes to the documentation and narrative information and scoring directions to make expectations more clear to applicants (see attached). Due date was set for February 27, 2015. Motion and second to make these changes – all approved. Application will be sent to committee for distribution and a press release is also sent to local press.

7. Update on trail counting project: Results of the count were shared with group. The preliminary survey was also shared. Karla will send out the survey and count information to all committee members along with the press release about the survey's availability. Committee will leave the survey up until the end of the calendar year, at which time it will be copied and started over.
8. Trail Impact Study: Still needed. Robin will check with Sam at UNI about our survey questions – will they be helpful to the project (and perhaps reduce the cost?)
9. Additional items from the floor:
 - a. Randy Uhl's spot on the committee will be filled when his position is filled
 - b. Tim Englehardt announced that he is resigning and has taken a new position in Clayton County.
10. The next meeting was set for January 29th at 9:00 a.m.
11. Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.