



MEETING NOTES: RPA 1 Transportation Technical Committee

Tuesday, October 9, 2012, 12:00 p.m.

Upper Explorerland RPC, Postville

Committee members in attendance: Nick Rissman, Howard County; Lee Bjerke, Winneshiek County; JD King, Fayette County; Brian Ridenour, Allamakee County; Rafe Koopman, Clayton County, Tom Stewart, Oelwein

Others in attendance: Larry Gibbs, Clayton County; Jan McGovern, Howard County; Don Arendt, City of Decorah, Rachelle Howe, UERPC, Krista Rostad, IDOT, Karla Organist, UERPC

1. Meeting called to order by Ridenour at 12:00 p.m.
2. Motion to approve the 7-9-12 minutes was made by Koopman, seconded by Bjerke, approved unanimously
3. Review of proposed TIP amendments:
 - a. City of Marquette: **Add** Marquette Overlook Project, received National Scenic Byways Grant. Total project cost: \$416,000, FA: \$332,800, with match coming from city.
 - b. Allamakee County Conservation: **Add** Driftless Area Education and Visitor Center Project, received National Scenic Byways Grant. Total project cost: \$2,724,037, FA: \$1,361,400, match from REAP, donations and foundation.
 - c. Clayton County: **Add** Bridge Replacement project on Blackberry Road, total cost \$300,000, FA portion \$240,000.
 - d. Winneshiek County: **Add** BROS-C096(117)--8J-96, Countywide Bridge Inspection project, total cost \$145,000 over two years, FA portion is \$116,000.
 - e. Howard County Conservation: **Change** STP-E-C045()-8V-45 to FY14. Still working on acquisitions.
 - f. Howard County Conservation: **Change** EDP-C045(065)--7Y-45 to FY14 and project total to \$328,000. Follows acquisitions, project was joint project with Mitchell County so the change in project total is to correct the original distributions in the TIPs.
 - g. Winneshiek County: **Change** BRS-C096(111)--60-96 project total to \$355,000, FA portion to \$284,000. Needed to correct per FHWA.
 - h. Clayton County: **Change** BRS-C022(60)--60-22 to FY14. Moved to following year to remain fiscally constrained in FY13.
4. Motion was made by Bjerke, seconded by King to recommend that the Policy Board approve the TIP amendments as presented with the project amount changes to BRS-C096(111).
5. Floor items –

Bridge inspection discussion: In discussing the addition of the Winneshiek County Bridge Inspection project to the TIP, the group felt that there may be some efficiencies in contracting or completing this work as a region. Comments included:

- With the new federal requirements, bridge inspections have been nearly three times higher than previously quoted. If element level inspections are required, this will increase the cost even further.
- Can the counties work together to hire a consultant to do the region, and if so, would it be less expensive? Can we hire the DOT to do it?
- Would it be better to share a person (structural engineer on staff) or share a snooper truck?
- Could the TA funds that can be used anywhere be used to pay for this? Or - are they limited to STP's 15% off-system rules.



- Conducting inspections every two years is optimal.
- Discuss again at 5-county meeting.

Krista's updates:

- Commission holding last input meeting until next year on the 9th.
- 5-year program now has an interactive map.
- DOT reorganization - have some new divisions to comply with new legislation, have moved staff to new responsibilities. There is a link online at the DOT.

Karla asked about a regional sign inventory project and whether it would be valuable to the communities as an organization had sent some information about doing this for a region. Engineers didn't need, but there was discussion about the value of a regional sign management or asset management person and whether it would be worthwhile to bid this type of project as a region.

6. Motion to adjourn was made by Rissman, seconded by Koopman, all approved, meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.