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MEETING MINUTES: RPA-1 Transportation Technical Committee

Thursday, March 29, 2018, 10:00 a.m. – Upper Explorerland RPC, Postville

**Committee members in attendance:** Brian Ridenour, Allamakee County; Lee Bjerke, Winneshiek County; Nick Rissman, Howard County; Vic Kane, Oelwein; Rafe Koopman, Clayton County; Joel Fantz, Fayette County.

**Others in attendance:** Michelle Barness, UERPC; Aaron Detter, UERPC; Rod Marlatt, Fayette County Conservation Board; Ron McCartney, Clayton County.

1. Meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Rissman.
2. Items of the agenda were rearranged, taking items eight, nine, and 10 and inserting them beginning at position four, with the other agenda items shifted down accordingly. The agenda was approved without objection.
3. A motion to approve the December 14, 2017 meeting minutes was made by Koopman, seconded by Fantz, and approved unanimously.
4. Barness presented background on the draft RPA-1 Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP) for FY 2019 and discussed the work elements and the budget for RPA-1 transportation planning activities during the period from July 2018 to June 2019.
5. Barness presented background on the draft RPA-1 Passenger Transportation Plan (PTP) and explained that the Policy Board approved the draft for submittal to IDOT at its January meeting; that IDOT provided some feedback; and that staff have addressed IDOT's comments in the current, final PTP which was ready for consideration and approval by the Policy Board for submission to IDOT.
6. Barness began a discussion of the RPA-1 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), explaining that it is updated every five years and the next update will need to be completed by March of 2019. She added that Detter would be the project manager and that she would be assisting. Detter proceeded to give an overview of the project process and timeline and the plan's 20-year planning horizon.

Detter asked the committee members for any questions or comments.

Koopman commented that he feels sometimes the people who attend the public meetings aren't always representative of the county, giving the specific example of recent comprehensive plan meetings in Clayton County. He said that maybe there should be additional outreach to agricultural groups like the Farm Bureau and other people from the farming community. Barness added that people from the farming community, including representatives from the Farm Bureau, did attend the agriculture focus group meetings for that planning effort, but that we appreciate board and committee members' outreach efforts and helping us connect with different groups.

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7. Barness initiated a discussion of STBG/Swap funding targets and balances. She explained that the target for STBG/Swap for FY 2022 was \$2,245,000, along with 80% of the STBG-TAP-Flex (\$72,800) for FY 2021 and FY 2022, for a total of \$2,390,600, not including any balances.

Barness also brought to the discussion the comments provided by IDOT with regards to the project selection process—that there needs to be a way for cities to have eligible Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG)/Swap projects considered by the Policy Board even if the County Board of Supervisors and/or the County Engineer are not supportive, as well as the need to consider the regional priorities of the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) in selecting projects.

Committee members then discussed previous IDOT guidance saying that they would like the RPAs to not sub-allocate funds. Committee members questioned whether this is a recommendation or regulatory, and there was general agreement that it is the prior and also that the Policy Board decides how to allocate funding.

Committee members then discussed ways to alter the application to allow cities to apply but to still show a County review for eligibility and support. Barness said she would work on making these modifications to the application for future review by the Technical Committee and Policy Board.

Committee members raised further concern about not having IDOT representation at RPA meetings. Barness indicated that she would work with the IDOT planner to coordinate meetings as much as possible.

8. Barness explained that applications for Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG)/Swap for the 2019-2022 TIP were received from Fayette County, Upper Explorerland Regional Planning Commission (UERPC), Allamakee County, Winneshiek County, and Howard County. She added that the amount requested by UERPC is the amount that's been approved in previous years—\$30,000. She explained that the other applications received were two projects in Fayette County: W14 Reconstruction and B66 Reconstruction; Maud Road paving in Allamakee County; W14 Repaving in Winneshiek County; and B10 Paving in Howard County.

Fantz noted that Fayette County is anticipating a balance of about \$300,000 from a FY 2019 project. Committee members discussed and decided not to consider that balance in the available funding at this time, but rather when the actual balance is known after close-out.

A motion to recommend the Fayette County project for W14 Reconstruction for inclusion in the TIP was made by Koopman, seconded by Bjerke, and approved unanimously.

A motion to recommend awarding the planning funding to UERPC was made by Koopman, seconded by Bjerke, and approved unanimously.

9. Committee members discussed the Enhancements Committee's recommendation to fund Winneshiek County's TAP application.

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A motion to recommend the Winneshiek County TAP project for inclusion in the TIP was made by Koopman, Seconded by Bjerke, and approved unanimously.

10. Committee members decided to hear IDOT updates at the Policy Board meeting immediately following.
11. Committee members decided that the next meeting date would be based on when the next Policy Board meeting will be.
12. A motion to adjourn was made by Bjerke, seconded by Koopman, and approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

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