
MEETING MINUTES: RPA 1 Transportation Policy Board Thursday,
July 7, 2016, 11:00 a.m. - Upper Explorerland RPC, Postville

Board members in attendance: Jan McGovern, Howard County; Larry Schellhammer, Allamakee County; Vicki Rowland, Fayette County; Don Arendt, City of Decorah; Ron McCartney, Clayton County; Mark Kuhn, Winneshiek County.

Others in attendance: Krista Rostad, IDOT (via – phone); Rachele Howe, UERPC; Michelle Barness, UERPC

1. Meeting was called to order at 11:05 p.m. by Schellhammer
2. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Rowland, seconded by McGovern, approved unanimously.
3. A motion to approve the 5-19-16 minutes was made by McGovern, seconded by McCartney, approved unanimously.
4. Motion to open the Public Hearing to review and receive comment on the 2017-2020 RPA-1 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) was made by Arendt and seconded by Rowland at 11:10 a.m. Motion approved unanimously.
5. Public hearing was held to discuss FFY2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Howe explained the public comment process for the TIP and indicated that UERPC had not received any comments. Rostad indicated that she had not received any public comments either.

Howe stated that the Iowa DOT had requested a few minor changes to the draft TIP submitted last month, which were incorporated in the final document under consideration by the Board.

TPMS 35699 in Fayette County (BROS-0220(601)-8J-33) was considered for incorporation in the final TIP. The public had no comments.

Howe indicated that a public hearing would need to be held at the October meeting to consider amending the Guttenberg bridge project (BRM-3167(604)-8N-22) in the TIP. Rostad explained that because the cost of the project increased significantly an amendment to the TIP is required. Further, she explained that no TIP amendment can occur prior to the October meeting due to the review of the TIP by the Federal Highway Administration (FHA).

Hearing no additional public comment, a motion to close the public hearing was made by Kuhn, seconded by Arendt, and was approved unanimously. Public hearing was closed at 11:20 a.m.

6. Howe presented Resolution 2016 - 03 for adoption of the FFY 2017-2020 RPA 1 Transportation Improvement Program. Kuhn read the resolution out loud for the Board. At the request of the Board, Howe reviewed the total federal aid programmed in the TIP for each year covered by the plan.

A motion to adopt Resolution 2016 - 03 to approve the FFY 2017-2020 RPA 1 Transportation Improvement

Program was made by Rowland, seconded by McGovern, on roll call, all unanimously approved.

7. DOT updates (Rostad):

- The 2017 Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP) was approved by the DOT in June.
- The DOT will change its carryover funds policy. Unused carryover funds will be dissolved and taken away from RPAs if not used on a timely basis, to be reallocated.
- The DOT forwarded an email regarding Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. Howe will forward the email to Board members. The email requests input on FAST Act's processes for allocating federal surface transportation funding. Rostad drew attention to a variety of issues raised in the email, such as spending on freight, TAP programming, the allocation of STBG versus dedicated bridge funds, and funding for SRTS projects. Kuhn inquired as to the limits on dedicated bridge funding. Rostad reviewed the information provided in the DOT email and addressed the importance of updating bridges for safety and access. Kuhn inquired as to how the region's engineers should review and respond to the FAST Act email. Howe indicated that the 6-County engineers would meet and formulate a collective response to the email. Rostad requested that the Board review the DOT email regarding the FAST Act and respond with comments by the end of July.
- The DOT is completing an update to the Iowa Long-Range Transportation Plan. The plan focuses on maintenance and stewardship of the existing road system, and on how to improve safety. The DOT will present the plan for public feedback in the coming months.
- At the request of Arendt, Rostad addressed the status of the Highway 52 project in Decorah.

8. An update to the Transportation Policy Board by-laws was addressed by Howe. Howe indicated that the by-laws should be updated every three years. Howe explained that in October the Board would consider changing the by-laws to incorporate a voting member representing transit issues. Rostad suggested that it is common for transit representatives to serve as voting members on transportation policy boards.

There was discussion regarding ex-officio versus voting members of the board, and which transit representatives could serve on the Board. Curt McNew of Northeast Iowa Community Action Corporation (NEICAC) – Transit has expressed interest in becoming a board member, and there was general agreement that he would be an appropriate representative for transit. Kuhn inquired as to whether the transit agency's budget is impacted by the TIP, and Howe indicated that it is. Arendt suggested that the by-laws be amended to add a transit seat to the Transportation Policy Board. Howe will amend the by-laws and forward them to the Board for review prior to the October meeting.

9. Rowland reminded the Board to put discussion of the DOT's FAST Act email on their county board agendas, and to forward the FAST Act letter to the county engineers with the request that they draft a response to the DOT.
10. Next Policy Board meeting was set for October 13th at 11:00 a.m. in Postville (tentative time based on length of enhancement and technical committee meetings).
11. A motion was made by Arendt, seconded by Kuhn to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.