
Meeting Minutes

RPA-1 Technical Committee

Thursday, May 21st, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. – Electronic Meeting

This meeting took place via electronic means pursuant to the provisions of the Iowa Open Meetings Law, Section 21.8, Code of Iowa.

As a result of the spread of COVID-19 in the state of Iowa and based on the latest guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, it was impractical for the Technical Committee to meet in person. Therefore, the meeting took place virtually via the Zoom electronic meeting platform. It was open to the public and those in attendance could hear the proceedings and provide comments and questions as appropriate. Public notice of the meeting was issued in accordance with Iowa Code Section 21.4.

Committee Members in attendance: Joel Fantz, Fayette County Engineer; Lee Bjerke, Winneshiek County Engineer; Brian Ridenour, Allamakee County Engineer; Vic Kane, City of Oelwein; Jeremy Bril, City of Decorah; Nick Rissman, Howard County Engineer; Rafe Koopman, Clayton County Engineer.

Others in attendance: Aaron Detter, UERPC Transportation Planning Administrator; Dylan Mulfinger, Oelwein City Administrator; Larry Schellhammer, Allamakee County; Jenna Pollock, Clayton County Conservation Board.

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. Rissman.
2. A motion to appoint Rissman as Chair and Fantz as Vice Chair was made by Koopman, seconded by Bril, and passed unanimously.
3. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Fantz, seconded by Koopman, and passed unanimously.
4. A motion to approve the September 19th, 2019 meeting minutes was made by Fantz, seconded by Koopman, and passed unanimously.
5. Detter initiated a discussion of the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2021 Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP), explaining that it contains all the transportation planning and administrative activities that UERPC will undertake for RPA-1 in the coming state fiscal year, and that there were no major changes from previous years other than the budget being smaller due to less carryover funds.

A motion to recommend approval by the Policy Board was made by Ridenour, seconded by Fantz, and passed unanimously.

6. Committee members discussed STBG/Swap funding for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2024 and went through each application allowing applicants to present or describe their projects of a representative was present. Detter explained that Upper Explorerland had increased their STBG funding request from \$30,000 to \$35,000 to be

used for transportation planning in the region. Committee members found that to be reasonable along with continuing to consider STBG funding for UERPC's transportation planning activities to be taken "off the top" before other projects are awarded.

After hearing from all the applicants present, Committee members discussed which county's turn it was to receive funding and had determined that Winneshiek County was next in line.

A motion, to recommend that the Policy Board award \$35,000 to UERPC for RPA-1 transportation planning and \$2.2 million to Winneshiek County for repaving of W14 from Spillville to Fort Atkinson, was made by Fantz, seconded by Ridenour, and passed unanimously.

7. Detter provided RPA-1 staff updates. He noted that RPA-1's Public Participation Plan (PPP) will be due for an update at the beginning of 2021, adding that the document was last completed in January of 2016 and is updated every five years. He also noted that now that the TPWP is finalized and will be submitted to Iowa DOT, his current focus is preparing the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for federal fiscal years 2021-2024, and that he is coordinating with project sponsors to get updates and ensure accurate information is programmed in the TIP. He informed Committee members that his coworker Micelle Barness is continuing to work on the regional trail economic impact study. He also told the board that the Enhancement Committee has been considering options to begin collecting trail pavement condition data for regional trails and would potentially rent equipment from the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (DMAMPO), something they may request STBG funds for.
8. Committee members discussed the impacts to road-use tax revenue and its impacts on transportation funding due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
9. Members agreed that they would wait to hear Iowa DOT updates at the Policy Board meeting to follow, noting that most of them were staying to attend that meeting.
10. Committee members deferred setting a next meeting date to go with what the Policy Board decides.
11. A motion to adjourn was made by Ridenour, seconded by Fantz, and passed unanimously.