
Meeting Minutes

RPA-1 Policy Board

Tuesday, July 7th, 2020 at 11:00 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 Policy Board to meet in person. Therefore, the meeting will take place virtually via the Zoom electronic meeting platform. It is open to the public and those in attendance can 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: Jerry Steven, Howard County; Lorraine Borowski, City of Decorah; Larry Schellhammer, Allamakee County; Dylan Mulfinger, City of Oelwein; Janell Bradley (Chair), Fayette County; Dean Thompson, Winneshiek County.

Others in attendance: Aaron Detter, UERPC Transportation Planning Administrator; Diana Johnson, UERPC; Mallory Hanson, NEIRCD; Rod Marlatt, Fayette County Conservation Board; Valerie Reinke, Allamakee County Economic Development.

1. The meeting was called to order by Bradley at 11:01 a.m.
2. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Borowski, seconded by Thompson, and passed unanimously.
3. A motion to approve the May 21, 2020 meeting minutes was made by Mulfinger, seconded by Borowski, and passed unanimously.
4. A motion to open the public hearing for the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for federal fiscal years (FFY) 2021-2024 was made by Thompson, seconded by Mulfinger, and passed unanimously.

Detter explained that the TIP is an annually developed and approved document that describes the projects and activities that are programmed for state and federal funding in the RPA-1 region in the next four years, noting that it is a fiscally constrained plan that identifies funding for highway, bridge, walking, bicycling, and transit projects. He added that Iowa DOT and members of the Enhancement and Technical Committees had had a chance to review the draft TIP to ensure the accuracy of project information, and that the document had been posted for public review and comment for at least 15 days, per the RPA-1 Public Participation Plan (PPP). He told board members that he did not receive any comments from the public.

Bradley noted that Fayette County Engineer Joel Fantz had reviewed the document and that he had no concerns and was fine with the way it was presented.

Hearing no comments from the public, a motion to close the public hearing was made by Borowski, seconded by Thompson, and passed unanimously.

5. A motion to pass a resolution to approve the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for federal fiscal years (FFY) 2021-2024 was made by Thompson and seconded by Mulfinger. Detter took a roll-call vote and the resolution passed unanimously.
6. Detter provided RPA-1 staff updates. He let the board know that he had attended the quarterly Iowa DOT meeting for MPOs and RPAs and provided updates on federal transportation legislation as well as noted that the next DOT Commission meetings were scheduled for August in Oskaloosa and October in Davenport. He noted that RPA-1's Public Participation Plan (PPP) will be due for an update at the beginning of 2021 and that he will create a draft update for the Policy Board to consider at their meeting in November or December meeting. Detter also updated the Board on the regional trail economic impact study.
7. Detter gave the board updates from Iowa DOT provided by District 2 Planner Krista Rostad.
8. Floor Items:

Thompson, who was not able to attend the previous meeting at which regional TAP and STBG funding was awarded, noted the comments made by a representative from the City of Guttenberg regarding the selection process used by the RPA where committee members are able to vote on their own projects. There was discussion by the Board and consensus that the issue should continue to be a topic for discussion and should be re-examined from time to time.

Bradley noted that perhaps the Board can revisit the issue in the future once meetings are able to be held in person again as that might be more conducive for discussion.

Enhancement Committee Chair Marlatt commented that the Enhancement Committee should consider any possible changes to the selection process before the Policy Board considers changes.

9. Board members decided to wait and set the next meeting date for September as that time approached.
10. A motion to adjourn was made by Borowski, seconded by Thompson, and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:28 a.m.