
Meeting Minutes

RPA-1 Enhancement Committee

Wednesday, May 19th, 2021 at 9:00 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 COVID-19 pandemic, it was impractical for the Transportation Enhancement Committee to meet in person. This meeting was open to the public and those in attendance were able to 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: Jenna Pollock, Clayton County Conservation; Sheryl Struthers, Fayette County resident; Rod Marlatt (Chair), Fayette County Conservation; Mallory Hanson, Fayette County Economic Development and Tourism; Brian Fuhrmann, Decorah Park-Rec Board; Barbara Schroeder, Winneshiek County Conservation; Val Reinke, Allamakee County Economic Development and Tourism; Darla Kelchen, Clayton County Development; James Janett, Allamakee County Conservation; Elaine Govern, Howard County resident; Jeff Korsmo, Howard County Conservation.

Others in attendance: Aaron Detter, UERPC Transportation Planning Administrator.

1. The meeting was called to order by Marlatt at 9:06 a.m.
2. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Struthers, seconded by Reinke, and passed unanimously.
3. A motion to approve the March 17th, 2021 meeting minutes was made by Kelchen, seconded by Struthers, and passed unanimously.
4. Detter discussed the role of the Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP) and explained that the Board and Committee members had had the chance to review and provide comments; that the document had been out for public review for longer than the minimum 15-day review period; and that he had received no public comments on the document. He explained that the Policy Board would hold a public hearing and presumably adopt the TPWP at their meeting to follow.

Detter also noted that this TPWP had received positive and complimentary feedback from the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), noting that the Iowa DOT called it a best-practice example for other planning organizations in the state.

5. Detter provided RPA-1 staff updates on upcoming RPA work products and deadlines, and timelines for the next RPA meetings. He noted that he will submit the approved TPWP to the Iowa DOT by the June 1 deadline. He also noted that he is currently working on the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for RPA-1 and will submit the draft to the Iowa DOT by the June 15th deadline. He noted that he is in contact with all project

sponsors who have projects in the current federal fiscal year (FFY) as well as projects programmed in FFY 2022-2025.

Detter informed Committee members of a survey that has been put out by the Iowa Pavement Management Program regarding the Road Use Tax Fund and the asset management needs of entities that oversee the maintenance of roads and bridges, which may pertain to Committee members' activities. Detter noted that the deadline for completing the survey is June 4th, 2021.

Detter noted that the group order of new trail counters for Winneshiek and Clayton county conservation boards as well as the cities of Oelwein and Decorah had been completed and that the equipment was delivered and he has distributed it to the stakeholders.

Detter provided an update on the Highway 150 Coalition efforts, noting that the Iowa DOT had committed funding in the amount of \$100,000 to match regional STBG funding in the same amount from RPA-7/INRCOG to go toward a Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) study of the corridor from I-380 to the southern border of Oelwein/Fayette County.

6. Detter provided Iowa DOT updates, noting that the draft five-year program is available for public review and comment and the Iowa DOT Commission would adopt that in June.

Detter noted that there will be a live, online public hearing on June 15th at 5:30 for the IA-9/Black Hawk Bridge project in Lansing. He added that there will be a PowerPoint presentation followed by a live question and answer session, and that questions and comments can be entered online during the meeting or later, or can be mailed or emailed to Iowa DOT District 2 Planner Krista Billhorn. He informed Committee members that all comments must be received by June 30th to be included into the public hearing documentation.

Detter informed Committee members that comments are being collected for the Iowa DOT's ADA sidewalks and pedestrian ramp projects along US-52 in Ossian and Castalia.

7. As a floor item, Janett discussed the article written by Pollack that appeared in the Iowa County Magazine. He noted that there was an ISAC meeting for later the same day and that they would be discussing the Iowa County Magazine article.

Members also discussed having one of the members do a presentation on their trail counter equipment and trail count data analysis, noting that Pollack and/or Hanson would be good candidates to present to the group at a future meeting.

8. Committee members decided to wait and set the next meeting date for July 2021 and to let Detter get in touch with them to propose dates for the next meeting as that time approached.
9. A motion to adjourn was made by Kelchen, seconded by Janett, and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:36 a.m.