
Meeting Minutes

RPA-1 Technical Committee

Wednesday, March 17th, 2021 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 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: Nick Rissman (Chair), Howard County Engineer; Jeremy Bril, Decorah City Engineer; Brian Ridenour, Allamakee County Engineer; Joel Fantz, Fayette County Engineer; Rafe Koopman, Clayton County Engineer; Vic Kane, Oelwein Utilities Superintendent.

Others in attendance: Krista Billhorn, Iowa DOT District 2 Planner; Aaron Detter, UERPC Transportation Planning Administrator; Rod Marlatt, Fayette County Conservation Board.

1. The meeting was called to order by Rissman at 10:04 a.m.
2. A motion to designate Nick Rissman as Chair was made by Fantz, seconded by Kane, and passed unanimously.
3. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Bril, seconded by Kane, and passed unanimously.
4. A motion to approve the December 9th, 2020 meeting minutes was made by Kane, seconded by Koopman, and passed unanimously.
5. Detter discussed the RPA-1 Public Participation Plan (PPP) and explained that the Policy Board members as well as 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 45-day review period; and that he had received no public comments on the document. He noted that the Policy Board would hold a public hearing for adoption of the document at their meeting following at 11:00 a.m.
6. Detter presented a summary of the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) and STBG-Swap applications that were received for the FFY 2025 funding cycle and explained. The Technical Committee reviewed and discussed the applications.

A motion to recommend Allamakee County's application for projects on Dorchester Drive (A16) and segments of Pool Hill Drive (A11) in the amount of \$2,168,586, and that \$35,000 be taken off the top and awarded to Upper Explorerland Regional Planning Commission (UERPC) for transportation planning, was made by Fantz, seconded by Koopman, and passed unanimously.

7. Detter provided RPA-1 staff updates on upcoming RPA work products and deadlines, and timelines for the next RPA meetings. He noted that he is currently working on the Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP) for RPA-1 and will submit the draft to IDOT by April 1st.
8. Billhorn provided Iowa DOT updates on construction season and the five-year program, and noted that the next IDOT Commission meeting will be in Dubuque in April. She noted that District 2 will be hosting the Commission meeting in October in Waterloo.
9. As floor items, Committee members discussed federal COVID relief, backfill of state funds, and how entities are handling COVID-relief-assisted projects. Members also discussed possibilities for who might host the next 6-County Meeting.
10. Committee members decided to wait and set the next meeting date for May 2021 and follow what the Policy Board decides to do.
11. A motion to adjourn was made by Kane, seconded by Fantz, and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:42 a.m.