
Meeting Minutes

RPA-1 Policy Board

Wednesday, March 17th, 2021 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 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: Larry Schellhammer, Allamakee County; Janell Bradley (Chair), Fayette County; Mark Vick, Winneshiek County; Dylan Mulfinger, City of Oelwein; Lorraine Borowski, City of Decorah; Dean Eastman, Howard County; Lori Egan, EARL Transit Director.

Others in attendance: Krista Billhorn, Iowa DOT District 2 Planner; Aaron Detter, UERPC Transportation Planning Administrator; Rachelle Howe, UERPC Executive Director; Nick Rissman, Howard County Engineer; Brian Ridenour, Allamakee County Engineer; Joel Fantz, Fayette County Engineer; Jenna Pollock, Clayton County Conservation Board; Rod Marlatt, Fayette County Conservation Board; Mallory Hanson, Fayette County Economic Development and Tourism; Jamie Blume, City of Guttenberg.

1. The meeting was called to order by Bradley at 11:12 a.m.
2. A motion to designate Janell Bradley as Chair and Dylan Mulfinger as Vice Chair was made by Schellhammer, seconded by Vick, and passed unanimously.
3. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Mulfinger, seconded by Schellhammer, and passed unanimously.
4. A motion to approve the December 9th, 2020 meeting minutes was made by Vick, seconded by Schellhammer, and passed unanimously.
5. A motion to open the public hearing for the RPA-1 Public Participation Plan (PPP) was made by Schellhammer, seconded by Vick, and passed unanimously.

Detter discussed the role of the 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.

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

6. A motion to approve the RPA-1 Public Participation Plan (PPP) via Resolution 2021-01 was made by Schellhammer and seconded by Mulfinger. Detter conducted a rollcall vote. The resolution passed unanimously.
7. Detter presented a summary of the Iowa's Transportation Alternatives Program (Iowa's TAP) applications that were received for the FFY 2025 funding cycle and explained that the Enhancement Committee had reviewed and scored the applications and voted to recommend Winneshiek County Conservation Board's Dry Run Trail application in the amount of \$180,393.

A motion to approve funding of Winneshiek County Conservation Board's application in the amount of \$180,393, as recommended by the Enhancement Committee, was made by Vick, seconded by Schellhammer, and passed unanimously.

8. 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 that the Technical Committee had reviewed the applications and voted 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. Detter also explained that the Technical Committee's recommendation includes \$35,000 off the top to Upper Explorerland Regional Planning Commission (UERPC) for transportation planning.

A motion to approve funding of Allamakee County's application in the amount of \$2,168,586 and to approve funding to UERPC for transportation planning in the amount of \$35,000, as recommended by the Technical Committee, was made by Borowski, seconded by Mulfinger, and passed unanimously.

9. 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 1.

Detter also noted that he is working with Clayton County, Winneshiek County, Decorah, and Oelwein to make a group purchase of additional trail counters, and that the group purchase was allowing for significant cost savings to the entities participating compared to purchasing the equipment individually.

10. Billhorn provided updates on the next IDOT Commission meeting in Dubuque in April, and she noted that the Commission meeting following that will be in Waterloo. She also provided updates on the IA-9 Lansing bridge project and the environmental assessment that has been in the works for over three years and is nearing completion. Once completed, IDOT will schedule a public hearing, tentatively scheduled for June.

Schellhammer asked Billhorn when the homeowners that will be impacted by this will know. Billhorn explained that the preferred alternative will identify an alignment and there will then be further design, that eventually there will be a public right-of-way meeting, and that after that meeting, individual negotiations can begin. Billhorn noted that the public right-of-way meeting will likely be this fall or winter.

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11. As a floor item Mulfinger provided an update to the group on the Highway 150 Coalition's activities, noting that the effort continues to focus on Independence and improvements in the entire corridor. He said he is planning to present to the IDOT Commission in April, and then likely again in the fall.

Detter also mentioned that the Technical Committee had discussed possibilities for who might host the next 6-County meeting. Schellhammer said that Allamakee likely could host if needed.

12. Board members decided to wait and set the next meeting date for May 2021 and to let Detter get in touch with them to propose dates for the next meeting as that time approached.
13. A motion to adjourn was made by Vick, seconded by Borowski, and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

APPROVED