

RPA 1 Transportation Enhancement Committee

MINUTES: October 13, 2016

Present: Sheryl Struthers, Elaine Govern, Barb Schroeder, Harlan Satrom, James Janett, Jenna Pollock, Bruce Palmborg, Chad Bird, Michelle Barness and Rachelle Howe

1. Meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by standing chair, Barb Schroeder.
2. Motion to approve the agenda was made by Struthers, second by Satrom, all approved.
3. Motion to approve the minutes from the May 19th regular meeting was made by Struthers, seconded by Govern, all approved.
4. County Updates:
 - a. Allamakee County: Jim reported on a scenic byway grant for the Driftless Visitor Center, and provided an update on center construction, fundraising, interpretation plans, and opening schedule. The Village Creek Boat Landing improvements and MRT trail paving were also reviewed.
 - b. Clayton County: Jenna Pollock reported on difficulties with flooding in the county following summer/fall storms. Also, Pollock reviewed the planning process for the countywide Active Transportation Plan, explaining that the county and individual jurisdictions would have the opportunity to adopt the plan.
 - c. Fayette County: Struthers reported on a \$1,500 grant received to create a fix-it station for bike repairs at the Riceville trailhead. She went on to explain damage to trail sections from recent flooding, and reported on funding received for the Gilbertson section of the TRRC.
 - d. Howard County: Govern reported on a trail bridge construction project for the Wapsi-Great Western Line Trail, which is projected to be completed in 2016. A trail paving project for the trail is planned to begin in 2017.
 - e. Winneshiek County: Schroeder reported that bike fix-it stations had also been implemented on the Freeport trail and at the Decorah Bike Shop. She went on to review damage to the Trout Run Trail resulting from recent flooding. Repairs have already been completed on the bridges. Bird reviewed flooding damage on Doug Road. Approximately 430 ft. of the hillside adjacent to the trail was lost and the trail was damaged as a result. Consultants came to review the damage and suggested potential stabilization options for the city. The cost estimate started at around \$750,000. FEMA is suggesting minimal repair options, but Decorah would like to do what is necessary to support long term use of the trail.
5. Committee reviewed the current fund balances.
6. Howe reviewed the new TAP application process. The existing TAP application is created and implemented by the region. The DOT will create the TAP application in the future, and will complete final application review. The regional selection process will be completed first, and locally preferred projects will generally be prioritized by the DOT. The TAP application process may be delayed this year as a result of this change.
7. TIP project discussions:
 - a. Pollock explained that the Policy Board will be considering an amendment to incorporate planning engineering funds for the Motor Mill Alternate Route Project in the FFY 2017 TIP (TAP-R-Co22(086)--8T-22). Ultimately the project will use portions of Highway 13, and will include paying for 2 ft. of right-of-way. Schroeder reviewed a Winneshiek County project that will be moved back a year to 2018 (STP-E-Co96(--8V-96)), to be able to re-demonstrate fiscal constraint to incorporate the Motor

Mill Trail project in FFY 2017. A motion was made by Bird, seconded by Satrom, to endorse/recommend the project amendment to the Policy Board, all approved.

8. Results of the 2016 fall trail count were shared by Schroeder. She explained that the trail count numbers can be used to estimate economic impact.
9. Floor items
 - a. Pollock shared information on the Mississippi River Parkway Commission and the Great River Road, reminding the committee of an upcoming 10-State National MRPC in October.
10. Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Schroeder, meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.