
MEETING NOTES: RPA 1 Transportation Technical Committee

Monday, July 9, 2012, 12:30 p.m.

Upper Explorerland RPC, Postville

Committee members in attendance: Nick Rissman, Howard County; Lee Bjerke, Winneshiek County; JD King, Fayette County; Brian Ridenour, Allamakee County; Rafe Koopman, Clayton County

Others in attendance: Larry Schellhammer, Allamakee County; Jan McGovern, Howard County; Larry Murphy, City of Oelwein (phone); Karla Organist, UERPC

1. Meeting called to order by Ridenour at 12:35 p.m.
2. Motion to approve the 3-6-12 minutes was made by Koopman, seconded by Bjerke, approved unanimously
3. DOT updates -
 - Transportation bill was signed into law on July 6th. Krista sent an email with some highlights:
 - Reauthorizes funds through Sept. 30, 2014
 - In general, maintains current transportation investment levels
 - Maintains the 80/20 split between highway and transit funding
 - Focuses highway funding on the Interstate System and the expanded National Highway System
 - Eliminates or consolidates approximately 60 programs
 - Eliminates dedicated funding for Transportation Enhancements, Safe Routes to School and National Scenic Byways (although those projects are eligible under a new Transportation Alternatives program)
 - Streamlines the environmental review process
 - Includes \$500 million in general funds for Projects of National and Regional Significance
 - Adds many performance measure requirements
 - Requires states to develop Asset Management Plans (this is already in place in Iowa)
 - Retains the threshold for Metropolitan Planning Organizations at 50,000 but recognizes a new category, "Regional Transportation Planning Organizations," similar to RPAs in Iowa
 - Allows time for implementation (most provisions do not take effect until Oct. 1, 2012)
 - Will leave a \$4 billion balance in the Highway Trust Fund at the end of FY 2014
 - TSIP (formerly TSF) applications are due August 15th. Lee shared his experience with the program. Karla will forward the notice to the cities.
 - There is a DOT Commission Meeting on the 10th – anyone can listen to the audio stream – will be discussing a little from the new bill.
4. TIP Review: Engineers reviewed the TIP carefully, Karla went through each change since the draft was first posted. One additional change was noted on the description of TPMS 22088. Engineers will recommend that the Policy Board approve the TIP.
5. Floor items – Rafe may have a bridge project to add at a later date, will need to amend TIP when he has all of the information he needs and submits a project.
6. Next Meeting: There is a five-county meeting in Cresco on August 9th. Tech Committee will meet again when next Policy Board schedules a meeting. (update: October 9, 2012 – noon)
7. Motion to adjourn was made by Bjerke, seconded by Koopman, all approved, meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.