



MEETING NOTES: RPA 1 Transportation Technical Committee  
 Thursday, March 30, 2017 9:30 a.m. - Upper Explorerland RPC, Postville

**Committee members in attendance:** Nick Rissman, Howard County; Brian Ridenour, Allamakee County; Rafe Koopman, Clayton County; Joel Fantz, Fayette County; Lee Bjerke, Winneshiek County; Lindsay Erdman, Decorah; Tom Stewart, Oelwein.

**Others in attendance:** Jenna Pollock, Clayton County Conservation Board; Krista Rostad, DOT; Michelle Barness, UERPC.

1. Meeting called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Rissman
2. Motion to approve the January 19, 2017 minutes was made by Ridenour, seconded by Bjerke, approved unanimously
3. The committee reviewed and discussed the following FY 17 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendments:
  - Clayton County: INCREASE planning engineering costs for Motor Mill Trail Alternate Route from \$22,000 to \$43,700 in federal Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding aid. Remaining funding for the project will be incorporated in FY 2018. TAP-R-Co22(o86)—8T—22.
4. A motion was made by Ridenour, seconded by Bjerke, to recommend approval of the FY2017 TIP amendment to the Policy Board. All agreed.
5. Review of federal fund balances: Committee reviewed the local distribution spreadsheet. Standings to date:

END OF FFY BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD:	\$770	% of Regional Allocation to Date	Long Term Distribution Target	Difference
ALLOCATION (w/out TAP FLEX):	\$2,219,000			
ALLAMAKEE		18.99%	17.5%	1.49%
CLAYTON		21.20%	19.0%	2.20%
FAYETTE		17.57%	19.0%	-1.43%
HOWARD		12.72%	13.5%	-0.78%
WINNESHIEK		16.72%	19.0%	-2.28%
IDOT		5.09%	5.0%	0.09%
DECORAH		2.29%	3.0%	-0.71%
OELWEIN		1.95%	2.0%	-0.05%
UERPC		1.25%	2.0%	-0.75%
BALANCE TO WORK WITH (LESS TAP FLEX):	\$2,219,770			

6. STP applications were reviewed and discussed. Each project sponsor presented their project(s) for consideration. There were eight project requests for FFY2021 totaling \$9,811,200.00:



Applicant:	STP request:	Project Name:
Allamakee County	\$2,200,000.00	On X16 from IA 76 south to Clayton County line
Fayette County	\$2,280,000.00	R Ave (W14 middle) rehab, 150 <sup>th</sup> St. (Hwy 93) to 100 <sup>th</sup> St. (C33)
Fayette County	\$1,840,000.00	R Ave (W14 south) rehab, 100 <sup>th</sup> St. (C33) to 60 <sup>th</sup> St. (Hwy 3)
Howard County	\$2,850,000.00	V10 (Dale Ave) from Hwy 9 north to MN border
City of Decorah	\$450,000.00	Locust Road, College Dr to Pine Crest Dr
City of Oelwein	\$251,200.00	Old Rd. (10 <sup>th</sup> St. SE) extension, from end of pavement to Outer Rd.
UERPC/RPA 1	\$30,000.00	RPA Planning, Technical Assistance, Administration
Winneshiek County	\$2,000,000.00	County Road W20 Bluffton Road, A34 to A18

After much discussion of the projects and consideration of the available funding, a motion was made by Bjerke to recommend funding by applied to the following projects:

- 1) Oelwein (\$251,200) in FFY 2018
- 2) Decorah (\$450,000) in FFY 2021
- 3) Winneshiek County (\$1,488,570) in FFY 2021
- 4) Upper Explorerland Regional Planning Commission (\$30,000) in FFY 2021

Motion was seconded by Koopman for approval of the Policy Board for inclusion in the FFY 18-21 TIP. All approved, motion passed.

7. The committee discussed the Federal Swap Bill that was recently approved and the potential impact to the STBG federal aid process. Changes resulting from the bill are not immediate and there was agreement that this year's STBG process should proceed as normal. There was discussion regarding how the bill may impact the types of projects, when they are completed, and the severity of regulations they must adhere to.
8. The committee discussed the distribution of TAP-Flex and the status of the TAP application process. Planner Barness indicated that the TAP and TAP-Flex targets hadn't yet been provided by the DOT. Also, the TAP application hadn't yet been provided to the region, so there were no TAP applications under consideration for the 2018-2021 TIP. Once the targets and application are received from the DOT, due to the constraints of the regions deadlines for submitting the TIP in July of 2017, TAP projects will be awarded combined 2021 and 2022 TAP funds for inclusion in the 2019-2022 TIP (submitted July 2018).

There was discussion regarding how the Federal Swap Bill would impact TAP funds, and whether or not they would remain federal aid. Planner Rostad indicated that the DOT is unsure at this point of the impact to TAP. The engineers agreed that given this uncertainty it may be best to forgo recommending a specific distribution of TAP-Flex to STBG projects for the time being. Rostad indicated that it could be at least a year before the DOT is clear on the impact of the Federal Swap Bill.

9. DOT Updates (Rostad):
  - Mentioned the Tuesday April 11<sup>th</sup> DOT Commission meeting, and explained that any power point presentations for the meeting were due the week before.
  - Explained that Ragbrai is coming through the region in summer of 2017 and explained some of DOT's involvement in planning and preparing for the event.
  - The DOT Commission is working on their 5-yr programming cycle through 2022.

- Reviewed the Federal Aid Swap Bill, which will allow the State of Iowa to give primary road funds to local entities, while the state can hold onto federal aid funds. The DOT is planning on setting up a commission of stakeholders to discuss the details of how the bill will be implemented.
  - Provided an update on the Iowa 9 Lansing bridge project.
10. Ridenour explained that the Hwy 9/Hwy 76 intersection would be closed down for Ragbrai. An intersection in Lansing will be closed as well for that purpose. Planner Rostad reminded the engineers that official requests for road closures are submitted to the DOT.
  11. The committee discussed new trail paving requirements for road crossings. There was general agreement that the application of the new rule wasn't practical for how these trails are constructed and actually work. The engineers requested Planner Rostad look into the issue and provide more background information on the new requirement.
  12. RPA TPWP: Due to time constraints, Barness postponed discussing proposed Transportation Planning Work Plan elements for the coming FY until the Policy Board meeting.
  13. Floor Items:
    - Erdman discussed the Oneota Bridge project and potential work in FFY 17. It was not clear whether the project would actually proceed in FFY 2017, but there was discussion around whether or not a TIP amendment would be necessary if this did occur and how to program the funds in TPMS.
  14. Next meeting scheduled for May 18<sup>th</sup>.
  15. A motion was made by Bjerke, seconded by Ridenour to adjourn the meeting, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.