
Meeting Minutes

RPA-1 Transportation Enhancement Committee

Thursday, January 20th, 2022 at 9:00 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 COVID-19 pandemic, it was impractical for the Transportation Enhancement Committee to meet in person. This meeting 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.

Members in attendance: Barbara Schroeder, Winneshiek County Conservation Board (Vice Chair); Val Reinke, Allamakee County Economic Development; Darla Kelchen, Clayton County Development Group; Roger Thomas, Clayton County; Jenna Pollock, Clayton County Conservation Board; Jeff Korsmo, Howard County Conservation Board; Sheryl Struthers, Fayette County; Joshua Johnson, City of Oelwein; Elaine Govern, Howard County;

Members Absent: Jim Janett, Allamakee County Conservation Board; Andy Kelleher, Lansing Main Street; Rod Marlatt, Fayette County Conservation Board (Chair); Craig Fencil, Howard County Conservation Board; Brian Fuhrmann, City of Decorah; Stephanie Fromm, Winneshiek County Development, Inc.;

Others in attendance: Aaron Detter, UERPC Transportation Planning Administrator; Lori Egan, NEICAC EARL Transit Director; Mallory Hanson, Northeast Iowa RC&D/TRRC/Fayette County Econ. Dev. and Tourism; Ray Peterson, Clayton County;

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Schroeder.

2. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

A motion to nominate Marlatt as Chair was made by Struthers, seconded by Pollock, and passed unanimously.

A motion to nominate Schroeder as Vice Chair was made by Pollock, seconded by Struthers, and passed unanimously.

3. Approval of the agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Struthers, seconded by Kelchen, and passed unanimously.

4. Approval of the October 20th, 2021 meeting minutes

A motion to approve the October 20th, 2021 meeting minutes was made by Pollock, seconded by Reinke, and passed unanimously

5. STBG and Iowa's TAP application cycle (FFY 2026 funding)

Detter explained the application process for the current call for STBG and Iowa's TAP funding for programming in federal fiscal year 2026. He noted that approximately \$2.2 million in STBG funding and \$133,000 in Iowa's TAP funding is expected to be available, and applications are due February 28th, 2022.

6. RPA-1 Staff Updates

Detter provided RPA and general transportation updates including:

- Trails economic impact assessment in the news
- Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)
- Decorah Sidewalk GIS work
- Pending Policy Board approval, processing TIP amendment (Fayette County 240th Street Bridge Replacement)
- UERPC office consolidation at Decorah building

7. Iowa DOT Updates

Detter provided Iowa DOT updates provided by Krista Billhorn, Iowa DOT District 2 Planner, including:

- Commission Tours and Input meetings proposed, to be final in February:
 - i. April - Council Bluffs
 - ii. June - Iowa City
 - iii. August – Sioux City
 - iv. October – Des Moines
- \$50.9M Amendment to the 5yr Program includes project in Clayton County:
 - i. IA 13 Resurfacing, intermittent over dowel bar retrofit, from IA 56 in Elkader south to Strawberry Point. Rural sections only, full pavement width, including the existing 4 foot shoulders and rumble strips.
- Iowa's TAP statewide funds awarded to INRCOG and Upper Explorerland – Safe Routes Partnership \$221,050
- State Long Range Transportation Plan to be release in late February with a 45-day comment period
 - i. Emphasis areas: asset management and “right-sizing”; emphasis on super twos; PEL studies
- IIJA – Discussion of implications for Swap funding

8. Floor Items

Pollock inquired about how to get information on DOT lettings. Peterson noted there are monthly updates on the IDOT website. Egan noted that there is an email list one can sign up for.

Thomas provided the update that he has replaced Pollock on the Upper Mississippi River Parkway Commission, which includes the MRT.

Thomas also mentioned the Cardinal Hickory transmission line from Holy Cross through the Mississippi River bluffs, across the river to Casville, WI, then to Madison. He noted there has been a federal stay.

Hanson informed members that NEIRCD received an Iowa Tourism grant with match from seven counties to develop a tourism-focused bike map for the region.

9. Set next meeting date

Detter noted that the next meeting would be in mid- to late March to accommodate the STBG and Iowa's TAP application cycle, and as usual he will contact everyone about a month in advance to schedule the meeting.

10. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Kelchen, seconded by Reinke, and passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.