
Meeting Minutes

RPA-1 Transportation Policy Board

Wednesday, March 16th, 2022 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 COVID-19 pandemic, it was impractical for the Transportation Policy Board 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: Janell Bradley, Fayette County; Lorraine Borowski, City of Decorah; Mark Vick (Chair), Winneshiek County; Ray Peterson, Clayton County; Larry Schellhammer, Allamakee County; Dean Eastman, Howard County.

Members absent: Brett DeVore/Dylan Mulfinger, City of Oelwein.

Others in attendance: Aaron Detter, UERPC Transportation Planning Administrator; Krista Billhorn, Iowa Department of Transportation, District 2; Lori Egan, NEICAC EARL Transit Director; Joel Fantz, Fayette County Engineer; Jamie Blume, City of Guttenberg; Rod Marlatt, Fayette County Conservation Board.

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 11:12 a.m. by Vick

2. Approval of the agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Borowski, seconded by Bradley, and passed unanimously.

3. Approval of the January 20th, 2022 meeting minutes

A motion to approve the January 20th, 2022 meeting minutes was made by Bradley, seconded by Schellhammer, and passed unanimously.

4. Public Hearing: Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendment (details below)

The public hearing was opened by Vick.

Detter provided a summary of the amendment, being a single bridge project that was programmed in both Ckickasaw and Fayette Counties that needs to be consolidated into a single TIP project entry to move forward. Detter noted that there is also a slight increase in Highway Bridge Program Swap funding and that the program year would be changed to FFY 2022 from 2024.

Fantz indicated that the project would remain a swap project and that it is in the July letting.

With no further discussion or comments from the public, the hearing was closed by Vick.

5. Consideration and possible board action: Approval of TIP amendment

A motion to approve the proposed TIP amendment was made by Bradley, seconded by Borowski, and passed unanimously.

6. Consideration and possible board action: STBG applications

Detter noted that the STBG and TAP targets had been increased as of the previous Friday and that both the Enhancement Committee and Technical Committee discussed the funding increases and how they wanted to recommend handling them. Detter summarized the recommendation of the Technical Committee, to award \$20,000 in STBG funding to Lansing for the Main Street/Iowa-9 Corridor Vision Plan in FY 2023; to award \$40,000 in STBG funding to UERPC for its TPWP planning and administration budget in FY 2026, while also increasing previously programmed amounts in FY 2023, 2024, and 2025 to \$37,000, \$38,000, and \$39,000, respectively; and to award \$2.8 million in STBG funding to Fayette County for its Juniper Road CIP/HMA overlay project in FY 2026.

Bradley noted that she sat in on the Technical Committee's discussion and believes they thoroughly weighed and considered everything.

A motion to approve the Technical Committee's recommendation for STBG funding, as summarized by Detter, was made by Bradley, seconded by Schellhammer, and passed unanimously.

7. Consideration and possible board action: TAP applications

Detter summarized the recommendation of the Enhancement Committee, to award the requested amount of \$133,000 in TAP funding to Winneshiek County Conservation Board for a trail bridge project on the Dry Run Trail in 2026, and to open another call for applications for the remaining balance of approximately \$440,000.

Detter noted that he had informed the Enhancement Committee that the timeline to do another call for applications would be feasible and that he would still have time to add any additional project(s) to the draft TIP before it is due to Iowa DOT.

A motion to approve the Enhancement Committee's recommendation for TAP funding, as summarized by Detter, was made by Schellhammer, seconded by Bradley, and passed unanimously.

8. RPA-1 Staff Updates

Detter provided RPA and general transportation updates including:

- Next Iowa DOT quarterly MPO/RPA meeting one week from today (March 23rd), virtual.
- TPWP development, draft to Iowa DOT by April 1st; final due June 1st.
- April 21st presenting our regional trails economic impact analysis to the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque at their "Regional Roundtable" meeting.
- Wednesday, April 27th we'll have our RPA-1 Planning Review with Iowa DOT, virtual.
- TIP development May-June; draft due to Iowa DOT by June 15th; final TIP due by July 15th.

9. NEICAC/EARL Transit Updates

Egan provided NEICA/EARL Transit updates including:

- Federal mask mandate extended to April 18th and applies to public transit vehicles.
- Secured funding for transportation for mental health appointments in Fayette County, so can now schedule trips, subject to driver availability.
- Have hired a few new drivers, which is really great for the transit agency.
- Discussions with Alliant Energy on electric vehicle (EV) pilot project for transit vehicles.
- Iowa DOT Office of Public Transit audit schedule for April 21st, 2022.

10. Iowa DOT Updates

Billhorn provided Iowa DOT updates including:

- The Commission is working on next five year program which they'll approve in June
- Construction season generally begins April 1st if not sooner.
- Lansing Bridge project still in final design; on course for letting in July of 2023.
- Swap funding and STBG up for discussion based on new IJA federal transportation bill; discussions going on with statewide stakeholders.

Vick asked if there has been any road usage tax ideas regarding electric vehicles. Billhorn noted that there was to be a study written on it and she has not heard anything.

11. Floor Items

No floor items.

12. Set next meeting date

Detter noted the timeline of next May for the next meetings and that he will coordinate as usual with the Board and committees.

13. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Peterson, seconded by Schellhammer, and passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 11:43 a.m.