
Meeting Minutes

RPA-1 Transportation Technical Committee

Wednesday, May 25th, 2022 at 10:00 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 Technical 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: Nick Rissman, Howard County Engineer (Chair); Joel Fantz, Fayette County Engineer; Brian Ridenour, Allamakee County Engineer; Rafe Koopman, Clayton County Engineer; Victor Kane, City of Oelwein; Lee Bjerke, Winneshiek County Engineer.

Members Absent: Jeremy Bril, Decorah City Engineer;

Others in attendance: Aaron Detter, UERPC Transportation Planning Administrator; Krista Billhorn, Iowa DOT District 2 Planner; Jenna Pollock, Clayton County Conservation Board; Sheryl Struthers, Fayette County resident; Rod Marlatt, Fayette County Conservation Board; Ray Peterson, Clayton County Supervisor; Darla Kelchen, Clayton County Development Group; Roger Thomas, Clayton County resident.

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by Rissman.

2. Approval of the agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Bjerke, seconded by Kane, and passed unanimously.

3. Approval of the March 16th, 2022 meeting minutes

A motion to approve the March 16th, 2022 meeting minutes was made by Fantz, seconded by Koopman, and passed unanimously.

4. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendments

Detter and Fantz gave the details of two Fayette County projects that needed to be added to the current-year TIP, programmed in FFY 2023, as “illustrative” projects in order to meet the requirement of the Community Project Funding congressional earmark opportunity, that the project must appear in the TIP/STIP.

Koopman noted that he would have a project that will similarly need to be added to the TIP by amendment. Detter said he would coordinate with Koopman as well as the Technical Committee and Policy Board members to hold a special meeting in June to accommodate the amendment’s public review timeline.

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A motion to recommend approval of the two amendments was made by Koopman, seconded by Bjerke, and passed unanimously.

5. RPA-1 Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP)

Detter explained that the TPWP would be up for consideration for adoption at the Policy Board meeting to follow at 11:00 a.m. He noted that the document had been reviewed by Iowa DOT and had been out for public comment for the required 15-day review period. Pending approval by the Policy Board, he said he would be submitting the final TPWP to Iowa DOT ahead of the June 1 deadline.

6. RPA-1 Staff Updates

Detter provided RPA-1 staff updates including:

- The timeline for TPWP adoption and submission to Iowa DOT
- He would be creating and sending out TAP and STBG award letters to grantees in the coming weeks
- He's developing the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for FFY 2023-2026 and is in contact with current project sponsors for updates. The draft is due to Iowa DOT by June 15th.
- Updates to the Passenger Transportation Plan (PTP) and Long-range Transportation Plan (LRTP) will likely begin later this year or early 2023

7. Iowa DOT Updates

Billhorn provided Iowa DOT updates including:

- Draft Five Year Program is out for public review; commission adoption at June meeting, second Tuesday;
- Wisconsin and Iowa DOT have applied for Rural Federal funding under IIJA to assist in funding the Black Hawk Bridge project in Lansing.
- Black Hawk Bridge still in the program as scheduled; funding increased according to new estimate, but schedule same.
- Lots of bridge deck overlays in the district, not only this year but the next five years
- US-18 bridge in Marquette and IA-9 bridge in Lansing (Black Hawk Bridge) will have their bridge washing going on. Wisconsin responsible for US-18 bridge, Iowa responsible for IA-9 bridge.
- Swap guidance at the RPA level coming out soon; January of next year will change over all the appropriate projects to federal-aid (FA).
- New project manager for the Lansing Black Hawk Bridge project, Clayton Burke, who will be located in Lansing or Decorah during the project.

8. Floor Items

Marlatt provided an update to Technical Committee members on the Fayette County Conservation Board project in FFY 2023 being cancelled, and the Enhancement Committee's subsequent recommendation to award the newly available TAP funds to a Clayton County Conservation Board project that is also on the Backbone Trail in FFY 2024.

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9. Set next meeting date

Marlatt noted that he'd like to have a worksession on the TAP scoring process sometime after Labor Day
Deter explained the mid-June timeframe for the special TIP amendment meeting for the Clayton County illustrative project.

Ne noted the timeline for the next meetings after that to be mid-July to accommodate the TIP submittal schedule, and that he will coordinate as usual with the Board and committees.

10. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Bjerke, seconded by Ridenour, and passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:23 a.m.

Approved

RPA-1 Policy Board