

MEETING Minutes: RPA-1 Transportation Policy Board

Wednesday, July 11, 2018, 10:00 a.m. – Upper Explorerland RPC, Postville

Board members in attendance: Dean Thompson, Winneshiek County; Larry Schellhammer, Allamakee County; Janell Bradley, Fayette County; Lorraine Borowski, Decorah; Jan McGovern, Howard County; Ron McCartney, Clayton County.

Others in attendance: Aaron Detter, UERPC.

1. Meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Thompson.
2. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Bradley, seconded by Borowski, and approved unanimously.
3. A motion to approve the May 30, 2018 meeting minutes was made by Bradley, seconded by McGovern, and approved unanimously.
4. Motion to open the Public Hearing to review and receive comment on the 2019-2022 RPA-1 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) was made by Schellhammer and seconded by Borowski at 10:05 am. Motion approved unanimously.
5. Public hearing was held to discuss FFY2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Detter explained the TIP process, the public comment process, and the submission of the draft TIP to the DOT. He stated that the Iowa DOT had requested a few minor changes which were addressed in working with project sponsors and DOT staff. Detter explained how fiscal constraint is addressed in the TIP and described that projects by county and year can be viewed in the plan. He also explained that several of the draft revisions were minor, such as adjustments to titles or descriptions of funding sources. Detter shared the methods by which the public was notified of the opportunity to review the TIP. No public comments were received in response to these review notifications. There was no further discussion by the board regarding the final TIP. Hearing no additional public comments, a motion to close the public hearing was made by Bradley, seconded by Borowski, and was approved unanimously. Public hearing was closed at 10:15 a.m.
6. A motion to adopt the 2019 – 2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) was made by Schellhammer, seconded by McCartney, and unanimously approved.

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7. A motion to open the Public Hearing to review and receive comment on two amendments to the 2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) was made by McGovern and seconded by Schellhammer at 10:18 a.m. Motion approved unanimously.

8. Public hearing was held to discuss the following:

- Amendment to HDP-C003(57)-6B-03, TPMS# 29484. Per Iowa DOT, adding federal funding of \$51,000 to FFY18 in order to use remainder of federal earmark.

- Amendment to TAP-R-C022(086)-8T-22, TPMS# 35738. Alignment change due to change of ROW. Detter briefly reviewed information on the two amendments and explained the public notification process for the amendments. Schellhammer and McCartney provided additional details.

Thompson raised a question regarding the effect of the amendments on scheduling of future projects. Detter explained that anticipated impact to the next 4-year program is minimal.

Detter provided additional details regarding the TAP amendment for the Motor Mill Trail, explaining that it is a route amendment resulting from discussion with landowners.

Hearing no additional public comment, a motion to close the public hearing was made by Borowski, seconded by Bradley, and was approved unanimously. Public hearing was closed at 10:22 a.m.

9. A motion to approve the 2018 TIP amendments was made by McGovern, seconded by Schellhammer, and approved unanimously.

10. Detter requested the Policy Board consider a motion to allow adjustment of the 2019 Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP) to permit administrative funds to go towards assisting other trail partners in purchase of a trail counter system for the region. Detter reviewed what funds in the TPWP go towards technology purchase right now and explained that language just needs to be added to clearly identify trail counters as one possible use of those funds. No additional funds are being requested or moved. Members discussed whether a motion was needed and agreed that since the funds for technology purchase are already budgeted in the 2019 TPWP a consensus is just needed that use of those funds for trail counter purchase is appropriate and should be listed.

McCartney inquired as to how trail counts avoid false data, for example the possibility of counting the same trail user twice or having falsely high counts on designated count days. There was discussion of how to make trail counts fair, and the differences between in-person versus long term installed trail counters.

Members discussed that long-term trail counts, and planning of such by the Enhancement Committee,

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should take steps to reduce potential bias in the counts. Detter explained that the trail counters would likely reduce bias by creating a long term and regular method for attaining trail usage numbers.

Members discussed who should be in charge of implementing and maintaining the trail counter system in the region.

There was consensus by the board that they generally support this type of trail count activity and use of planning funds for it.

11. Thompson raised the point that a correction needed to be made to approval of the 2019 – 2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The Board needed to consider approval of the resolution on the TIP, as opposed to making a motion. Detter presented Resolution 2018 - 03 for adoption of the FFY 2019/2022 RPA 1 Transportation Improvement Program. Thompson reviewed the wording of the resolution. A motion to adopt the resolution was made by Schellhammer, seconded by McCartney, on roll call, all unanimously approved.
12. Detter shared information on the final submission of the 2019 - 2023 RPA-1 Passenger Transportation Plan (PTP) to the DOT. The final approved document is up on the Upper Explorerland website.
13. Detter shared information on the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Initial feedback on the existing Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and the draft community transportation survey was received from transportation committee representatives and other partners. The transportation survey will be initiated in the coming months. Public meetings for the LRTP will occur in each county, likely in September.
14. Detter shared information from Clayton County Conservation Board Director Jenna Pollock regarding a meeting on July 12, 2018 on the Motor Mill Trail. Detter shared date/time/location information for the meeting.
15. Detter shared DOT updates received from DOT District Planner Krista Rostad:
 - I-80 Plan and Rest Area plan is online for public review and comment.
 - DOT staff is working on concepts for future resurfacing, maintenance and bridge projects, and will wait to see what funding is available for programming for those.
 - DOT has committee work for their Transportation Mgt. and Performance Plans. No updates at this time. Final documents will be available for review soon.

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- Maintenance has begun mowing for the season.
 - No further updates on the public meeting for the Blackhawk Bridge in Lansing. They are holding program management meetings to discuss technical issues for the bridge and public comments received. Consultants are continuing environmental research on that project.
 - The RPA and MPO TIPs will be assembled in August and FHWA will approve the document as a state STIP which will go into effect in FFY 19 in October.

16. Floor items:

- Schellhammer discussed news from the county engineers regarding a law that came into effect in early July requiring re-rating of bridges. Engineers will be required to go out and re-rate their bridges with new parameters including weight limits. The changes appear to have come at the tail end of the most recent legislative session. The new requirements may impact posting at bridges.

17. Detter discussed that the next meeting will be in the October timeframe, with specifics and follow-up to come.

18. A motion to adjourn was made by McCartney, seconded by Schellhammer, and approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:40 am.