

Meeting Minutes

RPA-1 Transportation Policy Board

Thursday, October 20th, 2022, at 11:00 a.m.

UERPC, 325 Washington St., Decorah

Members in attendance: Janel Bradley, Fayette County; Ray Peterson, Clayton County; Mark Vick (Chair), Winneshiek County; Larry Schellhammer, Allamakee County; Dean Eastman, Howard County; Dylan Mulfinger, City of Oelwein.

Members Absent: Lorraine Borowski, City of Decorah

Others in attendance: Aaron Detter, UERPC Transportation Planning Administrator; Rod Marlatt, Fayette County Conservation Board; Lori Egan, NEICAC/EARL Transit; Lee Bjerke, Winneshiek County Engineer.

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.m. by Vick.

2. Approval of the agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Eastman, seconded by Mulfinger, and passed unanimously.

3. Approval of the July 13th, 2022 meeting minutes

A motion to approve the July 13th, 2022 meeting minutes was made by Bradley, seconded by Schellhammer, and passed unanimously.

4. Consideration of proposed amendment to RPA-1 Transportation Policy Board bylaws

Detter provided an overview of the proposed bylaws amendment having to do with an entity being able to temporarily appoint an alternate in the event that an agency's designated representative and designated alternate both could not attend.

After some discussion, there was Board consensus for making no change to the bylaws.

A motion to disapprove of the proposed amendment and not have it placed on the next meeting agenda for further action was made by Mulfinger, seconded by Bradley, and passed unanimously.

5. RPA-1 Staff updates

Detter provided RPA-1 staff updates including the upcoming update of the regional Passenger Transportation Plan (PTP), an overview of the Iowa DOT six-year planning review of RPA-1 administration, as well as the idea of having a "board orientation" presentation about the regional transportation planning process and the RPA's roles and responsibilities.

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Stemming from recommendations from the Iowa DOT planning review, Board members discussed the possibility of bylaws amendment to add regional transit as a voting member, as well as to add a representative for small cities.

Bradley expressed support for adding regional transit as a voting member and asked for EARL Transit director Lori Egan's thoughts. Egan was also supportive.

Bradley and Mulfinger expressed concerns of a small city only looking out for their own interest. Detter noted that all members are going to look out for their interests to some extent, but that the purpose of the Policy Board is for all members to think regionally about what is in the region's best interests.

Bradley recommended proposing the bylaws amendment to add regional transit as a voting member for discussion at the next meeting.

Mulfinger noted that Iowa DOT would probably like to see movement on all its recommendations, and proposed including the small city voting member in the proposed bylaws amendments for discussion at the next meeting.

Detter noted that he would propose new bylaws language reflecting those two changes and share it before the next meeting so that members could consider and discuss, and that if there is Board support, the bylaw amendments can be acted on at the subsequent meeting.

Detter noted that Winneshiek County Engineer Lee Bjerke and Rod Marlatt were present to provide some updates from the Technical Committee and Enhancement Committee, respectively.

Bjerke noted that the Technical Committee met a few weeks ago to discuss the effect of the increased STBG funding for our region and resulting increased year-on-year balances of STBG, and the changes to the Iowa DOT's "swap" policy that had previously allowed STBG projects to be funded at 100%. He explained that sponsors of previously awarded projects will have to evaluate costs and the newly required 20% match to see if additional funding is needed or desired. Bjerke noted that the result of the Technical Committee's discussions was that they would make these considerations as appropriate through the normal STBG application process going forward.

Marlatt noted that the Enhancement Committee had held a work session prior to its meeting to discuss some issues that had come up with how the committee scores and evaluates TAP applications. He noted that the consensus of the group was to move forward with the existing application and evaluation process and learn from it.

6. Transit Updates

Egan provided additional updates from EARL Transit, including the drivers' annual safety training; her applying for a technical assistance grant for developing technology from the Transit Association of America; ongoing issues with supply chain issues and increased costs affecting orders of new buses; as well as continuing to consider implications for electric buses and charging needs.

7. Iowa DOT Updates

Detter gave Iowa DOT updates that had been provided by Iowa DOT District 2 Planner Krista Billhorn.

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8. Floor items

Mulfinger provided an update on the Highway 150 corridor study that is underway. He noted that Oelwein will be applying for grant funding to do a study for the rail viaduct in town, and also that speed cameras are active in Oelwein.

9. Set next meeting date

Detter noted that the next meetings would likely be in January and that he will coordinate as usual with the Board and committees to schedule.

10. Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned at 12:08 p.m.

Approved

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