
Meeting Minutes

RPA-1 Transportation Enhancement Committee

Wednesday, January 11th, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

UERPC, 325 Washington St., Decorah

Members in attendance: Jenna Pollock, Clayton County Conservation Board (Vice Chair); Val Reinke, Allamakee County Economic Development; Norma Thiese, Clayton County; Joshua Johnson, City of Oelwein; Darla Kelchen, Clayton County Development Group; Craig Fencil, Howard County Conservation Board; Jeff Korsmo, Howard County Conservation Board; Elaine Govern, Howard County; Sheryl Struthers, Fayette County.

Members absent: Rod Marlatt, Fayette County Conservation Board (Chair); Stephanie Fromm, Winneshiek County Development, Inc.; Andy Kelleher, Lansing Main Street; James Janett, Allamakee County Conservation Board; Barbara Schroeder, Winneshiek County Conservation Board; Brian Fuhrmann, City of Decorah.

Others in attendance: Aaron Detter, UERPC Transportation Planning Administrator; Mallory Hanson, Fayette County Economic Development and Tourism.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m. by Pollock.

2. Appointment of Chairperson

A motion to appoint Rod Marlatt as Chair was made by Reinke, seconded by Struthers, and passed unanimously.

A motion to appoint Jenna Pollock as Vice Chair was made by Govern, seconded by Struthers, and passed unanimously.

3. Approval of the agenda

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

4. Approval of the October 20th, 2022, meeting minutes

A motion to approve the October 20th, 2022, meeting minutes, was made by Korsmo, seconded by Fencil, and passed unanimously.

5. Regional transportation planning and RPA-1 overview

It was noted that Norma Thiese has replaced Roger Thomas on the RPA-1 Transportation Enhancement Committee.

Detter provided an overview of federal and state laws, regulations, and guidelines that establish and provide funding for a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive ("3 C") transportation planning process in each state. He discussed the role of the Regional Planning Affiliations (RPAs) and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) in Iowa, and the roles and activities of the RPA-1 Transportation Policy Board and its

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three advisory committees: the Passenger Transportation Advisory Group (TAG); Transportation Enhancement Committee; and the Transportation Technical Committee. Detter noted and explained the five core planning and administrative products that are required to be produced and maintained by each RPA and MPO, those being: the Long-range Transportation Plan (LRTP), updated at least every five years; the Passenger Transportation Plan (PTP), updated at least every five years; the Public Participation Plan (PPP), updated at least every five years; the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), produced annually; and the Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP), produced annually. Detter also provided a list of some of the many acronyms that are used in federal and state transportation planning and funding programs. Pollock also took the opportunity to have everyone go around the room and introduce themselves for the benefit of new folks.

6. RPA-1 staff updates

Detter provided RPA staff updates including:

- PTP development is currently underway
 - The TAG had a kick-off meeting on December 5th.
 - Detter is developing surveys and will deploy those soon to residents and transportation providers in the five-county region.
 - The draft document is due to Iowa DOT by April 1st and the final document will be due August 1st.
- The call for applications for regional Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funding will be coming out later this month. Applications are due February 28th.
- RPA-1 will have to decide if it wants to use some of its regional STBG funding to pay for having pavement data collected for all streets and roads in the region during the two year “off cycle” period. Iowa DOT pays for the data collection every four years. The deadline to let Iowa DOT know is October 2023.
- The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) is still on hold at the state level as Iowa DOT works with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to retool the program to reflect the recently enacted Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).
- There is an opportunity to participate in a virtual public information meeting held by Iowa DOT for the Highway 150 planning study that is currently underway. People can go to the Iowa DOT website to view the virtual presentation and provide feedback if desired anytime between January 17th (around Noon) and January 30th, 2023.

7. Floor Items

Pollock provided an update on the Destination Iowa grant application that was discussed at the previous meeting. The application was for \$8.5 million and the project was for several segments of the proposed Backbone trail network, as well as some spurs and trail in Oelwein.

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8. Set next meeting date

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

9. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Kelchen, seconded by Struthers, and passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Approved

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