
Meeting Minutes

RPA-1 Transportation Policy Board

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

UERPC, 325 Washington St., Decorah

Members in attendance: Mark Vick (Chair), Winneshiek County; Janell Bradley, Fayette County; Ray Peterson, Clayton County; Dean Eastman, Howard County; Dylan Mulfinger, City of Oelwein (remote); Lorraine Borowski, City of Decorah.

Members Absent: Dennis Keatley, Allamakee County Supervisor.

Others in attendance: Aaron Detter, UERPC Transportation Planning Administrator; Krista Billhorn, Iowa DOT District 2; Jenna Pollock, Clayton County Conservation Board; Lori Egan, NEICAC/EARL Transit; Lee Bjerke, Winneshiek County Engineer; Brian Ridenour, Allamakee County Engineer; Bruce Lehman, Fayette County Supervisor (remote); Nick Rissman, Howard County Engineer.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:06 a.m. by Vic.

2. Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair

A motion to appoint Mark Vick as Chair was made by Eastman, seconded by Bradley, and passed unanimously.

A motion to appoint Dean Eastman as Vice Chair was made by Peterson, seconded by Bradley, and passed unanimously.

3. Approval of the agenda

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

5. Consideration of proposed amendments to RPA-1 Transportation Policy Board bylaws (no action)

Detter explained proposed amendments to the RPA-1 Transportation Policy Board bylaws that were discussed at the last meeting. Per the bylaws, he presented proposed wording for discussion at this meeting, and possible action to approve the amended bylaws at the next meeting in March or April. Detter described proposed language to potentially add another voting member from one of the other cities in the region, as well as an amendment change to make the regional transit provider (NEICAC) a voting member (it is currently an ex officio member).

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A motion to keep the proposed amendment to make the regional transit provider a voting member and to withdraw the amendment regarding adding an additional city voting member, for consideration and possible board action at the next Policy Board meeting (this motion does not adopt the amendment, only approves it for action at the next meeting), was made by Peterson, seconded by Bradley, and passed unanimously.

6. Public hearing for proposed amendment to the FFY 2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

The public hearing was opened by Vick.

Detter and Bjerke explained a proposed amendment to the FFY 2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Bjerke discussed the project details. The City of Jackson Junction was awarded City Bridge funding from the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) for a project in FFY 2024. The project must be added to the current approved RPA-1 TIP (FFY 2023-2026) so that the project can proceed with development. The bridge replacement is on Winneshiek County Road V68 just north of Fayette County line. The project is sponsored by the City of Jackson Junction and will be administrated by Winneshiek County. The replacement structure is a box culvert, and the estimated cost is \$400,000.

Hearing no comments from members of the public, the public hearing was closed by Vick.

7. Consideration and possible Board action: FFY 2023 TIP amendment

A motion to approve the amendment to the FFY 2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) as proposed was made by Bradley, seconded by Peterson, and passed unanimously.

8. Regional transportation planning and RPA-1 overview

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 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.

9. 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.

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- 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).

10. NEICAC Public Transit updates

Egan shared new branding materials from NEICAC. She noted that Iowa DOT is looking at funding available for replacement vehicles. She explained that NEICAC has been in the process of evaluating the transit vehicle fleet and is looking at ways to “right size” the fleet, but noted that NEICAC decided not to do vehicle replacement for FFY 2021. She also noted that NEICAC is doing evaluation of some of their services to see where changes may need to be made.

11. Iowa DOT updates

Billhorn provided various Iowa DOT updates, including:

- 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.
- She noted that part of that Highway 150 study is looking at “super 2” modifications to a corridor of Highway 150 in Benton and Buchanan Counties (outside of RPA-1), which are modifications to add safety features and improve operations on a two-lane highway.
- Billhorn also discussed the upcoming process where Iowa DOT will be working with communities to update their census boundaries. She proposed that we would do this during meetings where the Policy Board members, RPA-1 transportation planner, community leaders, and others would review the maps for our region.
- She noted that November was the 60% design turn-in deadline for the Iowa Highway 9 Mississippi River bridge in Lansing; final design turn-in is in May; the letting will be in August; and work on site could start in fall of 2023.

NOTE: Bradley left the meeting at 12:20. There continued to be a quorum.

12. Floor Items

No floor items were discussed.

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13. 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.

14. Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned at 12:23 p.m.

Approved

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