
Meeting Minutes

RPA-1 Transportation Technical Committee

Wednesday, January 11th, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

UERPC, 325 Washington St., Decorah

Members in attendance: Nick Rissman (Chair), Howard County Engineer; Jeremy Bril, City of Decorah; Brian Ridenour, Allamakee County Engineer; Lee Bjerke, Winneshiek County Engineer.

Members Absent: Joel Fantz, Fayette County Engineer; Casey Stickfort, Clayton County Engineer; Vic Kane, City of Oelwein.

Others in attendance: Aaron Detter, UERPC Transportation Planning Administrator; Ray Peterson, Clayton County Supervisor; Jenna Pollock, Clayton County Conservation Board; Dean Eastman, Howard County Supervisor.

1. Call to Order

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

2. Appointment of Chairperson

A motion to appoint Joel Fantz as Chair was made by Rissman, seconded by Bjerke, and passed unanimously. Rissman filled in as Chair for the meeting in Fantz's absence.

3. Approval of the agenda

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

4. Approval of the September 26th, 2022, meeting minutes

A motion to approve the September 26th, 2022, meeting minutes, was made by Bril, seconded by Bjerke, and passed unanimously.

5. Amendment to the FFY 2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Detter and Bjerke discussed a proposed amendment to the FFY 2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) that would be considered at the Policy Board meeting to follow.

Bjerke discussed the project details. The City of Jackson Junction was awarded City Bridge funding from the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) 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.

6. Regional transportation planning and RPA-1 overview

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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.

7. 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.

8. Floor Items

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Members continued to discuss the pavement data collection option, with Brill noting that the pavement data is useful to the City of Decorah because it helps objectify decisions. He also noted that the data is available in an interactive online map and database.

Ridenour discussed the decommissioning of the Alliant coal power plant south of Lansing. He noted concerns about the impacts of all the truck loads in and out during the decommissioning and site mitigation.

Bjerke reiterated the need to figure out how to handle the increased STBG funding and the changes in the Iowa DOT swap program and the impacts it has on existing projects.

9. 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.

10. Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Approved

RPA-1 Policy Board