
Meeting Minutes

RPA-1 Transportation Policy Board

Wednesday, April 12th, 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; Lorraine Borowski, City of Decorah; Dennis Keatley, Allamakee County Supervisor.

Members Absent: None

Others in attendance: Aaron Detter, UERPC Transportation Planning Administrator; Krista Billhorn, Iowa DOT District 2 (remote); Rod Marlatt, Fayette County Conservation Board; Lori Egan, NEICAC/EARL Transit; Lee Bjerke, Winneshiek County Engineer; Brian Ridenour, Allamakee County Engineer; Nick Rissman, Howard County Engineer; Denise Schneider, City of Guttenberg; Bonnie Basemann, City of Marquette.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:14 a.m. by Vic.

2. Approval of the agenda

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

3. Approval of the January 11th, 2023, meeting minutes

A motion to approve the January 11th, 2023, meeting minutes was made by Bradley, seconded by Eastman, and passed unanimously.

4. Consideration and possible Board action: Amendments to RPA-1 Transportation Policy Board bylaws

Detter explained proposed amendments to the RPA-1 Transportation Policy Board bylaws that were discussed at the last two meetings, including a presentation of proposed wording for discussion at the last meeting on January 11th, 2023, per the bylaws. He explained that the Policy Board may now choose to take action to approve the amended bylaws. Detter described the proposed change to make the regional transit provider (NEICAC) a voting member, a change from their current, non-voting status as ex-officio. He noted that there were also minor proposed changes to clarify the bylaw amendment process in the bylaws.

Members discussed the proposed amendments.

A motion to approve the proposed amendments, to make the regional transit provider a voting member and make minor changes to the amendment process language, was made by Borowski and seconded by Mulfinger. The motion failed, with Borowski voting aye and all other members voting nay.

A motion to approve only the minor changes to the amendment process language in the bylaws was made by Mulfinger, seconded by Borowski, and passed unanimously.

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Lorraine Borowski, City of Decorah; Brett DeVore, City of Oelwein; Larry Schellhammer, Allamakee County; Ray Peterson, Clayton County; Janell Bradley, Fayette County; Dean Eastman, Howard County; Mark Vick, Winneshiek County

5. Review Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) applications

Detter explained the recommendation that the Technical Committee had made, walking through the changes in the funding spreadsheet so that members could see what funding was recommended and in what years. He summarized the Technical Committee's recommendation to fund:

- the RPA-1/UERPC request for planning funds in the amount of \$46,300 in FFY 27 and slight increases to the previously awarded funding in FFYs 2024-2026 totaling \$9,100;
- the City of Oelwein's trail intersection safety improvements in the amount of \$46,141 in FFY 24;
- Clayton County's shoulder widening and paving on B45 north of Marquette city limits in the amount of \$2,900,000 in FFY 27;
- Howard County's request for additional funding on its V10/Dale Avenue overlay in the amount of \$300,000 in FFY 24;
- and Winneshiek County's request for additional funding on its project on B16 in conjunction with the City of Spillville in the amount of \$300,000 in FFY 24.

Schneider asked for clarification of whether the City of Guttenberg's application for the Great River Road Scenic Byway Trail along US 52 was still being considered.

Detter explained that it was not included in the Technical Committee's recommendation, but offered a reminder to the Policy Board that it may still choose to award funding differently than what is recommended by the Technical Committee.

6. Consideration and possible Board action: STBG funding award(s)

A motion to approve the recommendation of the Technical Committee's recommendation, as presented in the funding spreadsheet and summarized by Detter, was made by Bradley, seconded by Peterson, and passed unanimously.

7. RPA-1 staff updates

Detter provided RPA staff updates including:

- Passenger Transportation Plan (PTP) development
 - TAG held initial kick-off meeting December 5th, 2022.
 - Community and transportation service provider surveys conducted during January-March.
 - Demographic and other data updated during January-March.
 - TAG met again on March 28th to go over the draft plan and refine the PTP priorities and strategies.
 - Draft submitted for Iowa DOT review on March 31st, ahead of April 1st deadline.
 - Iowa DOT will return their comments and they will be incorporate prior to public review.
 - Expected Policy Board adoption in July and submission to Iowa DOT ahead of August 1st deadline.
- Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP)
 - Draft submitted to Iowa DOT on March 30th, ahead of April 1st deadline.

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- Iowa DOT has reviewed and returned their comments, which will be incorporated prior to public review.
- Adoption in late May and submission to Iowa DOT ahead of June 1st deadline.
- Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
 - Draft TIP due June 15th; final due July 15th
 - Dettler will be developing in coming weeks and will coordinate with project sponsors for updates on current-year projects as well as making sure information for programmed projects is correct.
- Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)
 - Public involvement process will begin in earnest later this summer.
 - Final adopted document is due to Iowa DOT by September 19th, 2024
- Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)
 - Iowa DOT has completed their review and revamping of the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
 - Program is returning and additional guidance from Iowa DOT will be coming out soon.
 - The most obvious change is that the name "Iowa's TAP" is being discontinued and the program will just be called TAP.
- US DOT's Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) discretionary grant program
 - Fayette County was Iowa's only recipient of an implementation grant. (\$10,425,879)
 - For Safety Action Planning grants, Bi-State, CMPO, DMAMPO/RPA 11, ECIA/RPA 8, INRCOG MPO, MAPA, SIMPCO received awards. There is a mix of hiring consultants and doing the work in-house among these agencies.
- The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for FFY 2023 is available and the application deadline is July 10th, 2023.

8. NEICAC Public Transit updates

Egan provided NEICAC Public Transit updates. She noted that their consolidated funding application is due June 1st and that there will be a public hearing May 18th at 9:00 a.m. She noted they are looking at identifying parking spaces for station points and working with Counties, and discussing the need to store electric vehicles (EV) indoors. She noted that NEICAC is making a federal request for CDL licensure for public transit as the current licensure doesn't really fit transit. She noted that vehicles purchased last February may be delivered by the end of the year. She ended by noting that they are working on their five-year plan and are looking at doing a new transit facility to accommodate EVs.

9. Iowa DOT updates

Billhorn provided various Iowa DOT updates, including:

- Construction projects include resurfacing on Iowa 76/26 with 76 getting shoulders; McGregor's city street project; and a bridge deck replacement on Iowa 18 west of Iowa 13 intersection; and a bridge replacement on Iowa 9 east of US 63.
- The Lansing Bridge letting will be on August 1st. Finally plan turn in was on Tuesday of this week.
 - Fantz asked about the design and construction timelines.

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- Billhorn noted that the design would mimic the existing bridge, which was mitigation of the existing historic structure.
- She noted that construction will take two a half years with construction set to start this fall and that they think the current bridge will likely close in the spring of 2025 unless it needs to close sooner.
- Billhorn added that there will be a website that will go live after the letting that will feature updates and will be advertised really well.

Detter noted to Billhorn that a question had come up in the Enhancement Committee meeting about the scheduled overlay project on Iowa 150 from West Union to the Winneshiek County line and how that might affect the expanded shoulders that were added a couple years ago, with the hope being that they would be retained. Billhorn explained that the overlay process involves the entire roadway surface, so that would include the existing width of the shoulders.

10. Floor Items

No floor items were discussed.

11. Set next meeting date

Detter noted that the next meetings would likely be in late May to accommodate the TPWP submission timeline, and that he will coordinate as usual with the Board and committees to schedule.

12. Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.