

# **Area Transportation Partnership 7 (ATP 7)**

Draft Minutes of March 8, 2019 Meeting – MnDOT, Mankato

**Members Present:** Ronda Allis, Lisa Bigham, Annette Fiedler (alternate for Matt Widboom), Seth Greenwood, Peter Harff, Steve Koehler, Jeff Johnson, Jack Kolars, Mike Kuhle, Greg Ous, Tim Stahl, Ryan Thilges, Patrick LaCourse

**Members Absent:** Terry Genelin, Craig Rempp, Don Wachal, Matt Widboom

**Others Present:** Angelica Altamirano, Shawn Schloesser (R9), Sam Parker, Angie Piltaver, Dan Sarff, Paul Vogel, Debra Yates, Nick Klisch

**Legislative attendees:** Senator Nick Frentz, Derek Ringhaul for Representative Hagedorn

## **Welcome and Introductions**

- Steve Koehler welcomed everyone. Introductions were made.
- The minutes from January 4, 2019 meeting were approved.

## **2019 – 2022 STIP Status**

Ronda Allis indicated that the 2019-2022 STIP was approved by FHWA on 10/30/18, and we are now working under that STIP.

## **2019 – 2022 STIP Amendments**

Debra Yates provided a handout with a summary of the projects that were amended since the previous meeting. A project in New Ulm was formally modified due to an increased cost estimate, with no change in scope. Additionally, five projects were amended via Administrative Modification, including two projects that were changed to ELLAs (Early Let, Late Award), two state-funded projects that were added to FY20, and one project that decreased by \$1.84 million in cost based on a more current estimate.

## **2019 Construction Schedule**

Peter Harff reviewed the 2019 construction schedule. The schedule includes fewer projects than 2018, but large projects. These include the TH14/15 project in New Ulm, the Victory Drive Memorial trees/landscaping on TH22 between Mankato and Mapleton, resurfacing of TH91 from Adrian to Nobles County Line, resurfacing of TH99 between St. Peter and Le Center and between TH13 and TH21, an unbonded concrete overlay on I-90 from TH15 to west of the Blue Earth River, J-turns in Heron Lake on TH60, resurfacing of TH60 through Windom, and concrete resurfacing of TH60 through St. James.

Ronda Allis indicated that she is currently developing the scope for a Corridor Study for TH60 through Windom and asked ATP members for comments/input. Nick Klisch, Cottonwood County Engineer, requested an opportunity to review the scope before releasing it. Annette

Fiedler indicated that there was a previous access study on TH60 through Windom that should be reviewed as part of this process.

Peter Harff shared that District 7 has received many calls about TH19 through Winthrop and TH13 through Montgomery, and that one or both of these roads may be added to the program.

### **2020 – 2023 Draft ATIP**

Ronda Allis provided a handout and an overview of the ATIP categories, including federal funding amounts for the 2023 ATIP.

### **2023 Subcommittee Recommendations**

Sam Parker provided a handout summarizing the FY 2023 Transportation Alternatives (TA) applications. The program received 6 applications requesting a total of \$2.6 million in funding. The target for TA is \$700,000. The FY 2023 TA program recommendations include \$400,000 for the CSAH 16 Trail in Blue Earth County and \$300,000 for the Lincoln Avenue and Dakota Trail in Sibley County. The ATP approved the recommendations.

Ryan Thilges provided an update on the Kern (Yeager) Bridge, a historic bow string arch bridge over the LeSueur river. The bridge is currently closed to all traffic, and is in jeopardy of failure. Blue Earth County, the township and MnDOT have been secured \$290,000 in funds to disassemble and store the bridge, with Blue Earth County leading the effort. Several options for re-use are being explored including possible use as a pedestrian/trail bridge on the Minnesota River Trail, in Minneopa State Park, or as a pedestrian overpass in Mankato. Cost estimates to restore/re-use range from \$1.1 to \$1.2 million. Funds in a Setaside in the STIP were identified for use, and matching funds will be provided by the county. An amendment to the 2019 STIP is needed to re-allocate federal money to remove/disassemble and store the bridge. The ATP approved this amendment.

Jeff Johnson provided an overview of the STP-Small Urban applications. Four applications were submitted – two from New Ulm, one from Mankato, and one from North Mankato. The committee met on February 19 to review the applications. The FY 2023 STP-Small Urban program recommendations include \$1.2 million for a new roundabout on MSAS 117 & 255 in North Mankato; \$539,370 for a mill and overlay on MSAS 122 in New Ulm; and \$406,833 for a mill and overlay on MSAS 115 in New Ulm. This leaves a setaside for FY23. Although it received the most points, the Augusta Drive/TH22 roundabout in Mankato was not selected as the MnDOT TH22 project in this area has shifted to 2024, and the city of Mankato has chosen to withdraw the project request at this time. The ATP approved these recommendations.

Tim Stahl provided an overview of the STP-Rural applications. The committee met on February 21. Only two applications were received for FY 2023. Cottonwood County and Waseca County will each receive \$1,567,500 for their projects. The ATP approved these recommendations

Seth Greenwood made a request to have flexibility with STP-Rural funding that was originally awarded for a project on CSAH-13. CSAH-12 in Nicollet County has been flooded since June

2018 and requires a grade raise. Seth shared that they originally wanted to request a funding swap from 13 to 12; however, Nicollet County recently was awarded an additional \$800,000 from the DNR for the project on CSAH-12. The county now would like flexibility to further determine whether the swap from the project on CSAH-13 is still needed, and if it is, then proceed with the swap. The current cost estimate for the work on CSAH-12 could be revised upward. The ATP approved flexibility with the funding.

### **2023 Central Office Recommendations**

Lisa Bigham provided an overview of the Bridges Off System (BROS) program eligibility requirements. These projects are selected by MnDOT Central Office. Jackson County was selected to receive \$650,000 for a bridge over the Okabena Creek. The ATP approved this selection.

Deb Yates provided a handout and an overview of the HSIP selections for 2023. These projects are selected by MnDOT Central Office. Jackson County has a project in 2020, and Cottonwood County was selected for projects in 2022 and 2023.

Deb Yates provided a handout and an overview of the Rail selections for 2023. Blue Earth and Martin County projects moved to 2020. The 2021 projects are all new. The projects are selected by MnDOT Central Office.

Deb Yates provided a handout and an overview of the Transit Applications. There are no bus purchases shown for 2023.

The ATP members consented to all of the Central Office recommendations.

### **MnDOT Trunk Highway Projects / 2020-2022 ATIP and 2023 Projects**

Ronda Allis provided handouts and an update on 2020-2022 ATIP and 2023 projects. There have been two funding changes since the last ATP meeting. Currently, \$16.8 million has come out of FY20 STIP. In FY22, about \$32 million in funding has been removed from the program. This has resulted in a number of changes to the STIP. Some projects in the STIP have changed funding sources or been removed entirely, while some have been moved to another year. In some cases, projects in the STIP have been pushed back into the CHIP. Ronda reviewed the maps showing the changes to the 2020-2022 projects and provided information on the current 2023 projects.

Tim Stahl requested information about the city and county splits and how the splits are determined. Ronda Allis suggested that perhaps Central Office could present how the shares for local systems are determined at the June ATP meeting.

### **CHIP Update**

Ronda Allis provided an update on the CHIP. The new guidance for the CHIP removes about \$4 million per year from the CHIP. As a result projects are being shuffled, which might result in no new projects in FY29. Additionally, the project selection policy is now in effect, so scoring of

projects may cause additional changes to projects planned in the CHIP. Flex projects are being prepared in the event the state gas tax is increased and additional funds become available. Since June is the next ATP meeting, the CHIP updates will be posted on the website.

### **State Legislative Discussion**

Senator Nick Frentz shared that the Office of Legislative Auditor released its financial efficiency report. MnDOT received a generally favorable review. The report identified that efficiencies could be improved in scoping. Senator Frentz also indicated that the House Transportation Committee hearing is being held in the afternoon on March 8 in Mankato. He briefly discussed the increase in the state gas tax that Governor Walz has proposed in the draft budget and the potential increase this might mean for transportation funding if an increase is approved.

### **Next Steps for 2020-2023 ATIP Review**

Ronda Allis described the next steps in the ATIP review process. The RDO's will hold public hearings, with R8 on March 27 and R9 on April 10. The draft ATIP is due to Central Office April 15 and the final review by ATP-7 is due June 14. The final ATIP is due to Central Office July 8.

### **Regional Transportation Updates**

Ronda Allis presented an update from Paul Vogel on the Mankato/North Mankato Area Planning Organization (MAPO) activities. An RFP is out for the Warren Street Corridor Study, the LRTP is due to be updated. There are currently 2 RFP responses. MAPO is amending the TIP for buses for MRCl and an application for planning assistance has been sent out.

Annette Fiedler with SRDC (Southwest Regional Development Commission) shared that they are coordinating a transportation council with United Community Action Partnership and preparing for the upcoming public meeting for the draft ATIP.

Shawn Schloesser with Region 9 shared that the Waseca and St. Clair SRTS studies are progressing, and Region 9 is getting ready for the upcoming public meeting for the draft ATIP.

### **Next meeting**

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 14, 2019.