

Area Transportation Partnership 7 (ATP 7)

Draft Minutes of March 13, 2020 Meeting – MnDOT, Mankato

Members Present: Ronda Allis (via Skype), Lisa Bigham, Seth Greenwood, Greg Ous, Craig Rempp, Ryan Thilges, Nick Klisch, Peter Harff, Michael McCarty (alternate for Jeff Johnson), Mike Kuhle, Patrick La Course, Robert Goblirsch, Rosemary Bruce-White (alternate for Matt Widboom)

Members Absent: Steve Koehler, Jack Kolars, Matt Widboom, Don Wachal

Others Present: Sam Parker, Angie Piltaver, Angelica Tejada, Charles Androsky (via phone), Dan Sarff, Debra Yates, Melinda Estey, Allison Karau, Dalton O'Brien

Legislative attendees: None.

Welcome, Introductions and opening business

- Greg Ous welcomed everyone and indicated he would lead the meeting as the Chair (Steve Koehler) and Vice Chair (Jack Kolars) were not in attendance.
- Introductions were made.
- The minutes from the December 2019 meeting were approved.

2020 – 2023 STIP Amendments

Debra Yates provided a handout and summarized 26 projects that were either formally amended or amended with an Administrative Modification since the previous meeting. Most amendments affected city, county and state roads, while a few affected District setasides and transit.

Draft ATIP

Greg Ous shared that additional funding opportunities for the US14 4-lane expansion from Courtland to New Ulm have become available to make the project happen.

Ronda Allis shared that with adding the US14 project to the ATIP, some changes are being made. The ATP will get an opportunity to review the changes to the draft ATIP prior to the final being submitted to MnDOT Central Office in July.

2024 ATP-7 Subcommittee Recommendations

For STP-Small Urban, Michael McCarty shared that four projects were submitted total with the City of Mankato and the City of New Ulm applications ranking the highest. The City of Mankato, which had unsuccessfully sought local HSIP funds in lieu of STP funds for the Augusta Drive roundabout, is slated to receive just over \$554,400 and New Ulm \$2,025,600 million for 20th South Street out of the \$2.58 million total.

For STP-Rural, Ryan Thilges shared that there were two applicants – Jackson County and Le Sueur County. The proposed distribution is Jackson County with \$1.7 million for a project on CSAH 29 and Le Sueur County with \$1.7 million for a project on CSAH 18.

For Transportation Alternatives, Seth Greenwood shared that four applications submitted. The City of St. Peter scored the highest and would receive its full request of \$354,584, and the City of North Mankato as the second-highest will receive the remainder of \$345,416. These are both Safe Routes to Schools projects.

Central Office Recommendations

For Bridges-Off System, Lisa Bigham shared that Faribault County was awarded \$758,000 total to replace two bridges: Bridge 9978 on CR 109 (\$480,000) and Bridge 22503 on CSAH 9 (\$278,400).

For local HSIP, Debra Yates shared that Brown, Cottonwood, Le Sueur and Sibley counties were awarded funds.

For Rail, Debra Yates shared that she received the list from Central Office in February. She provided a handout showing nine gate installation projects distributed throughout Blue Earth, Faribault, Jackson, Nobles, Waseca, and Watonwan counties that will receive funding, with six in 2021 and three in 2022.

For Transit, Melinda Estey shared that all awards were to the City of Mankato for replacement buses and one support vehicle.

ATP members consented to the subcommittee and central office recommendations.

MnDOT Trunk Highway Projects

Debra Yates provided a handout and reviewed the changes from the 2020-2023 STIP to the 2021-2024 ATIP.

Greg Ous explained the major change is that the Highway 14 project was added to 2022. MnDOT applied for a \$25 million BUILD grant, but did not receive an award. The district recently submitted an application for a \$50 million INFRA grant, which is pending review, and the Governor has indicated that a TIFIA loan might be able to be used if needed. He indicated that funding is fluid right now, and that MnDOT is focusing on right-of-way purchases. MnDOT will keep the ATP members informed as the situation evolves.

Sam Parker provided maps showing the projects in the ATIP. Greg Ous acknowledged Nicollet County for their leadership in committing \$3.5 million in county funds to the US 14 project.

Next Steps in the ATIP Process

Ronda Allis shared the next steps in the ATIP process, which includes working with the Regional Development Organizations to present the draft ATIP at public meetings, and coordination with MAPO as they draft and finalize their TIP.

CHIP Update – CHIP Funding Distribution to Districts

Following up on Steve Koehler's question from the previous ATP meeting, Ronda Allis provided handouts and presented how the CHIP funding distribution is determined.

Project Selection Update

Sam Parker provided a presentation on the project selection process after its first full year of implementation. The presentation included information about MnSHIP investment guidance, system performance standards, measurement of pavement quality (RQI), and scoring criteria for highways on the NHS and Non-NHS systems, as well as for urban segments. He also shared what we have learned about the limitations of the process.

Transportation Updates

Lisa Bigham and Ryan Thilges shared that the Kern Bridge was successfully lifted off its original piers and set down on land for disassembly, which has begun. Lisa Bigham indicated that a solicitation is planned for funding to assist with restoration and eventual re-use as a pedestrian bridge. A 50 second timelapse video of the removal can be seen at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=okHu-T3eOQU>.

Craig Rempp of the Mankato Transit System indicated there are no significant updates for his system, but noted that there are concerns about driver staffing as a result of COVID-19.

Patrick La Course of Brown County Heartland Express provided a transit update for Brown County, indicating that a number of facilities will be closing and staffing would likely become an issue for Brown County Heartland Express as well.

Charles Androsky presented an update on the Mankato/North Mankato Area Planning Organization (MAPO) activities. The Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update is process. Individual focus meetings will be held with agencies and MnDOT. The 169 Corridor Study has begun. The Regional Transportation Coordinating Committee (RTCC) project has begun, focusing on operations and staffing first. Mankato and Brown County are providing free transportation to the RTCC open houses for those who need transportation. MAPO also continues work on its 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP).

Rosemary Bruce-White with the Southwest Regional Development Commission (SRDC) shared that there were not any Transportation Alternatives applications submitted during the last solicitation from their four counties in District 7. SRDC will work on encouraging applications from these counties during the next solicitation.

Next meeting

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 12, 2020.