

Area Transportation Partnership 7 (ATP 7)

Minutes of September 13, 2019 Meeting – MnDOT, Mankato

Members Present: Ronda Allis, Lisa Bigham, Seth Greenwood, Steve Koehler, Greg Ous, Craig Rempp, Ryan Thilges, Don Wachal, Nick Klisch, Annette Fiedler (alternate for Matt Widboom)

Members Absent: Vance Stuehrenberg, Peter Harff, Jeff Johnson, Jack Kolars, Mike Kuhle, Patrick La Course, Matt Widboom

Others Present: Shawn Schloesser (R9), Sam Parker, Angie Piltaver, Angelica Tejada, Charles Androsky, Dan Sarff, Paul Vogel, Debra Yates, Cathleen Amick, Patrick Weidemann

Legislative attendees: Senator Nick Frentz, Derek Ringhaul for Representative Hagedorn, Chuck Ackman for Senator Klobuchar's office, Representative Jeremy Munson

Welcome, Introductions and opening business

- Steve Koehler welcomed everyone. Introductions were made.
- Steve Koehler and Jack Kolars reappointed as Chair and Vice Chair; Greg Ous thanked both for their service
- The minutes from the June 14, 2019 meeting were approved.
- Steve Koehler welcomed new member Vance Stuehrenberg
- ATP membership reaffirmed
- Sam Parker provided a handout of the tentative 2019-2020 ATP-7 meeting schedule
- Ryan Thilges notified the ATP that Nick Klisch is taking over for Tim Stahl – ATP approved the change
- ATP reviewed/approved amended operating procedures

Final Draft of the 2020-2023 ATIP

Deb Yates provided handouts and presented the changes to the draft ATIP since June. Changes have now been summarized on a one-page handout. Additional changes not listed on the handout include a change in FY20 to Line 54 with a \$1 million increase to the setaside for 7-Mile Creek; in FY21 to Line 97, project number SP4609-17 with an additional \$4.1 million for turnback funds in FY22; and in FY22 to line 131 project number SP4001-49 was dropped.

Greg Ous indicated we are using the one-page handout to make the way we track and provide information about these changes clearer and more transparent.

Sam Parker indicated that for those who want more information, it can be found on the ATP-7 website.

2019 – 2022 STIP Amendments

Debra Yates provided a handout with a summary of the projects that were amended since the previous meeting. These include North Mankato getting federal funds earlier than anticipated

for their 2019 project, a rail safety project being dropped in 2020 and the funds being shifted to a new rail safety project in 2020, and additional funds needed for the removal and storage of the Kern Bridge being added in Blue Earth County using leftover setaside funds.

Solicitation Flowchart and STP funding history

Ronda Allis provided a handout and presented the solicitation flowchart and STP funding history. Flowchart has a new format for ADA compliance. Solicitation for TA opens October 1 and closes October 31. Letter of Intent (LOI) is the first step. SRDC and RNDC will review LOIs and make recommendations for those that should move forward to the full application. The full solicitation is open from November 18, 2019 – January 3, 2020. The RDOs and MAPO score and rank the applications, then ATP subcommittees meet and rank applications. Recommendations are made in March, and the RDOs hold public meetings to announce.

Ronda Allis explained that the draft ATIP is sent to Central Office in April, and the Final ATIP is sent to Central Office after ATP review in June. Ronda noted that the MAPO process was modified to extend to August/September so that the MnDOT ATIP and the MAPO TIP match.

Ronda also provided a handout on the 10-Year Funding Overview for ATP-7, and discussed the funding changes in the TA, STP-Small Urban and STP-Rural programs between 2014 and 2023. The previous transportation bill, MAP-21 changed these funding levels. The latest transportation bill, the FAST Act, also impacted funding levels.

Local Partnership Program solicitation

Lisa Bigham explained the Local Partnership Program solicitation. This process is relatively new. Each district decides on its selection criteria. Important to know that locals lead these projects. Lighting projects in Cottonwood and Nobles Counties are being done as LPP projects. Also, Springfield has a project for 2020 and Blue Earth County has roundabouts at Riverfront Drive and the 14 ramps in the STIP for 2021. Formerly known as Cooperative Agreements – trunk highway funds have to be spent on trunk highways. The program has \$700,000 to spend each year. The timing will likely be November this year for the 2022-2023 solicitation.

Ronda Allis also explained that the setaside that funds the LPP is actually a bit higher - \$1.1 million for 2022 and \$1.0 million for 2023 to allow some flexibility for smaller projects.

Transportation Funding Distribution Presentation

Patrick Weidemann made a presentation to the ATP about transportation funding distribution, including history of national and state transportation legislation, formation of ATPs, and the effects of legislation on how MnDOT distributes funds among ATP members.

Transportation Updates

Senator Nick Frentz talked about the Hands Free Cell phone law and indicating they are waiting for new data about traffic fatalities to see if the numbers have decreased. He also indicated that the debate continues about revenue and the need for additional revenue for

transportation. He knows that US14 was submitted for a BUILD grant and hopes that it is selected.

Representative Jeremy Munson indicated a separate bonding bill might be an alternative.

Chuck Ackman from Senator Klobuchar's office indicated that the FAST Act was 5 years, and that keeping them longer seems to work better – creates more certainty.

Craig Rempp provided a transit update. Operating grants were approved. He indicated it will be the first part of next week to hear about the application for capital grants. He thanked OTAT for working with them on these grant applications. The process is a copy of the ATP process, and will generate a list much like the STIP.

Kathleen Amick indicated that United Community Action Partnership (UCAP) applied for funds to create new stops including shelters, etc. in Marshall. The transit system and the city partnered on the application.

Charles Androsky presented an update on the Mankato/North Mankato Area Planning Organization (MAPO) activities. The 2020 Work Plan was adopted, they are working on the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update, and they will be starting the Warren Street Corridor Study from Riverfront Drive to the Highland Park area. Charles also indicated that a consultant has been selected for the Regional Transportation Coordinating Council (RTCC) and contract negotiations are underway. The grant is a two-phase grant, with Phase 1 being for planning and Phase 2 being for implementation.

Shawn Schloesser with Region 9 shared that Mankato Safe Routes to School (SRTS) planning is kicking off soon – covers five elementary schools and one middle school. They have also tested the TA LOI application system and it is working. Shawn indicated that he also attended CHIP Outreach meetings in Watonwan and Sibley counties. Shawn indicated that RNDC is applying for a US EDA grant to do an economic impact study in the Henderson area, and they hope this could lead to an application for construction funds for mitigation of flood impacts.

Annette Fiedler with SRDC (Southwest Regional Development Commission) provided an update on SRDC activities. SRDC will be testing the TA LOI application next week. Buffalo Ridge Rail Authority has applied for a CRISI grant to increase the weight the line can hold to 286,000 pounds. Annette also indicated that UCAP received funding for RTCC planning, and they are now negotiating with their selected consultant. District 8 has started their District Freight Plan, and she attended a meeting for it.

Manufacturer's Perspectives Study Update

Greg Ous indicated we are wrapping up the final draft edits today.

Next meeting

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 8, 2019.