



SOUTHWEST MN AREA TRANSPORTATION PARTNERSHIP (ATP) Meeting Minutes

Date: March 6, 2020

Minutes prepared by: Megan M. DeSchepper, AICP, Senior Planner

Location: MnDOT Willmar Headquarters- 2505 Transportation Rd. Willmar, MN 56201

Attendance

ATP Board Members: Jim Dahlvang, Gary Johnson, Mic VanDeVere, Rollie Nissen, Bob Byrnes, Lindsey Bruer, Jon Huseby, Joe Wilson, Tiffany Collins, Jeff Marlowe, Sean Christensen, Susann Karnowski, and Todd Broadwell.

ATP Board Members Absent: Andy Sander, and Doug Krueger.

ATP Guests: Dan Coughlin, Randy Groves, Phil Schmalz, Chad Kingstrom, Rosemary Bruce-White, John Rodeberg, Kyle Ten Napel, Glenn Olson, Bruce Cochran, Tom Cherveney, Mandi Schmidt, Bill Knofczynski, Aaron Backman, Mel Odens, Kent Exner, Megan DeSchepper, Tony Pfau and John Groothius.

Welcome & Introductions (Jim Dahlvang)

- Introductions were conducted.

Approval of December ATP Minutes

- A motion was made by Mr. Johnson to approve the December meeting minutes as written, seconded by Mr. Byrnes. The motion carried.

Please Note: All handouts can be found at the ATP 8 website under the March 6, 2020 meeting: www.dot.state.mn.us/d8/apt/meetings.html

STIP Amendment Update (Tony Pfau)

- Tony presented two Formal STIP Amendments and one amendment that was approved via e-mail on January 8, 2020. (see handouts on ATP 8 website titled Amendment Request Handout for 051-602-020 and Amendment Request Handout for 065-616-031)

- A motion was made by Mr. Nissen, seconded by Mr. Broadwell, to approve the amendments as requested. The motion carried.

District Engineer Update (Jon Huseby)

- Jon talked about the Governor's proposed Bonding Bill (second year of the biennium) including local road improvements. Each District Engineer tasked to meet with legislators in their district to discuss transportation issues and act as a resource for transportation related topics.
- April 23, 2020 there will be an Explore MnDOT Open House at MnDOT Willmar Headquarters 4 to 7 pm.
- The Milan Bridge will be completed by midsummer.
- The TH 67 slope failure is still being dealt with by consultants and the foundations unit for potential fixes. The best solution and cost are still unknown and no timetable has been set for reopening.
- Hwy. 29 Bridge project in Montevideo will begin soon.
- Two large urban reconstructions will be underway this summer TH 12 Downtown Litchfield and TH 15 Downtown Hutchinson. The Hutchinson project bid letting was last Friday, the Engineers estimate was \$10 Million and the bid came in at \$11.5 Million.
- Jon explained that MnDOT has been experiencing high bids, state wide it is up 6%. Concrete projects especially are coming in high. The Engineer's Estimate for the TH 23 project from Cottonwood to Granite Falls was \$29 Million and the bid came in at \$37 Million. The plan sheet for the project is 600 pages long and it is completely reviewed to make sure it's an accurate bid and it was. This overage has a ripple effect on the program and at this point it looks like the TH 75 project through Madison may get pushed back to 2022, or District 4 received a high bid on a project as well and may delay and swap funds with District 8 (essentially swapping funding years). There were only two bidders for the project and both were bituminous contractors acting as the prime contractors and subbing out the concrete work.
- There is a Federal Loan Program with very low interest being tested through a pilot effort in District 7 on TH 14 from Nicollet to New Ulm, could be a potential funding option for D8 in the future.

MnDOT Program and Project Updates- FY 2020-2023 (Susann Karnowski)

- Susann presented the changes to the program done for the final FY 23 STIP vs the draft FY 21 to FY 24 MnDOT project list from 2/13/2020 (see handout on ATP 8 website titled Changes FY 21-24 MnDOT Projects).

Presentation of FY 2024 Project Recommendation

- Susann presented the 2024 Area Transportation Improvement Projects. (see handout on ATP 8 Website titled 2021 to 2024 ATP and 2021 to 2024 ATIP Map)
- Todd Broadwell spoke about the 2024 Local Road and Bridge projects. (see handout on ATP 8 Website called Local Road and Bridges)
- Lindsey presented the 2024 Transportation Alternatives Recommended Projects and the Local Rail Projects. (see ATP 8 Website handout titled TA and Rail Projects)
- Lindsey talked about Local and MnDOT HSIP Projects. All projects that D8 applied for were granted monies. In Glencoe, a J-Turn at Chandler and TH 212, and a roundabout at Morningside and TH 212. In Slayton, bypass lanes at TH 59 and 29th and 30th St. In McLeod County, a roundabout at Hwy 7 and CSAH 1. And 16 flashing LED stop signs throughout the district for a total of \$4.2 Million.
- Tiffany Collins updated the group about 2024 funding for bus replacements is still moving forward as per what Mark Nelson shared at the previous meeting.
- Chad Kingstrom announced the UMRDC Annual ATIP Public Meeting will be held on March 24th from 3:00 to 6:00 pm at their office in Appleton.
- Kyle Ten Napel announced the MMRDC Annual ATIP Public Meeting will be held on March 20th 10:00 am to 12:00 pm at the Meeker County Courthouse in Litchfield.
- Rosemary Bruce-White announced the SRDC Annual ATIP Public Meeting will be held on March 31st at 1:00 pm at the RDC Office in Slayton.

ATP Guidance Manual (Lindsey Bruer)

- Lindsey explained the final edits in the guidance manual are highlighted in yellow and often times cleaning up language or processes. (see handout on ATP 8 website titled ATP 8 Guidance Manual 2020 Update)
- Mr. Byrnes made a motion, seconded by Mr. VanDeVere to approve the amended ATP Guidance Manual as submitted. The motion carried.

D8 Engagement Update (Mandi Schmidt)

- Mandi gave a quick summary of her engagement work role and processes. Her position is different than Public Affairs side and that is once project start construction and snow and ice notices she handles all the scoping and pre-letting engagement with communities. (see handout on ATP 8 Website titled District 8 Public Engagement Process)

D8 Freight Plan (Lindsey Bruer)

- Lindsey presented and update to the Freight Plan which is about half way through the process. (see powerpoint on ATP 8 Website titled District 8 Freight Plan Update)

Round Robin

- Jim Dahlvang said that Chippewa County has been unable to hire a new County Engineer and has hired a consulting firm to help with finding someone.
- Bob Byrnes announced that the Hwy 23 Coalition will meet March 13th at 11:30 am at the Willmar Conference Center. Glenn Olson is transitioning into retirement on June 12th and the City of Marshall will be looking for an Assistance Engineer soon.
- Gary Johnson said that the City and County have all told him to let everyone at MnDOT know how much they appreciate the new blinking stop signs in Clarkfield. He also said the Canby Prairie Five bus garage is nearly completed. And three new lights were installed on Cty. Rd. 18 and safety is improved.
- Chad Kingstrom announced that the MACCRAY School District was awarded SRTS Engineering grant money.
- Jon Huseby updated the group on some construction details. March 16th the Montevideo bridge project will commence and will be completed by June 10th. The TH 23 project from Granite Falls to Cottonwood is scheduled from May 4th through the 31st of October.
- Jeff Marlowe shared that their bid prices have been going up in Renville too, seems to be a shortage in contractors and contractor staffing in Renville County.
- Rosemary Bruce-White said District 7 is starting a Highway 60 Corridor Study on May 7th in Windom.
- Glenn Olson thanked everyone for the ATP collaborative effort over the last 20 years.
- Aaron Backman reminded everyone that there will be a safety study on TH 23/TH 7 in Clara City starting in April. The North gap letting will be November 2021 and the south gap letting will be December 2022.
- Dan Coughlin thanked the members of the TA Subcommittee for selecting the City of Olivia Trail project for funding.
- John Groothius thanked Mr. Johnson and Mr. Dahlvang for their support in the transition of Heartland Express taking over Prairie Five.
- Mandi Lighthizer-Schmidt reminded everyone to keep an eye out for those open house and construction update e-mails, and if you aren't on the mailing list and wish to be added please contact her. There will be an open house in New London for the J-Turn at TH 9 and TH 23. There will be a construction open house in Litchfield on March 17th. South gap for TH 23 will be held in May or June.

Next meeting will be April 10, 2020. Exact time and location are to be determined. Megan will send out an updated calendar appointment closer to the date.

Adjourned at 11:45 a.m.