

MEETING SUMMARY

REGION 7W TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)

Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT)
3725 - 12th Street, St. Cloud; Rooms – Granite North & South
September 11, 2019
St. Cloud, Minnesota

Voting Members Present

Kevin Bittner	City of Zimmerman	Steve Voss	MnDOT, TAC Chair
Kelvin Howieson.....	MnDOT D3	Ron Wagner	City of Otsego
Matt Leonard	City of Monticello		

Voting Members Absent

David Blommel	Stearns Co. Cities	Gary Ludwig	Wright Co. Transit
Steve Bot	City of St. Michael	Adam Nafstad	City of Albertville
Chris Byrd	Benton County	Layne Otteson.....	Big Lake
Brad DeWolf.....	City of Buffalo	Lori Schultz.....	Tri-CAP Transit
Justin Femrite.....	City of Elk River	Jodi Teich	Stearns Co.
Jon Halter	Benton Co. Cities	Vince Vander Top.....	City of Delano
Virgil Hawkins.....	Wright County	Andrew Witter	Sherburne County

Non-Voting Members Present

Stephanie Castellanos.....	MnDOT D3	Nate McDonald.....	MnDOT D3
Jeff Lenz.....	MnDOT D3	Mary Nieken.....	MnDOT D3
Jon Mason	MnDOT D3		

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

- Meeting called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chair Voss and introductions were made. In the absence of having ten members present to reach a quorum, Chair Voss was unable to officially call the meeting to order so the meeting was declared to be informational for the members who were present and no formal actions were taken.

APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 14, 2019 MEETING MINUTES

- The minutes were held over for approval at the Region 7W TAC's next meeting due to meeting not meeting quorum requirements.

FY 2020-2023 LOCAL FEDERAL PROJECT UPDATE

- List of FY 2020 Local Projects were reviewed.

- Mr. Howieson noted a correction was needed on Benton County’s Foley project (S.P. 005-090-002). A portion of the project is being advanced in order to construct a trail in the Highway 25 right of way. *(Corrected line should read Construct Trail along MN 25 from Norway Drive to Birch Drive in Foley - \$80,000 Federal Funds.)*
- Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)
 - List of FY 2020 HSIP projects were reviewed. There are no HSIP projects in the Region 7W area in FY 2020.

FY 2020-2023 STATE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (STIP) UPDATE

- The Draft FY 2020-2023 Area Transportation Improvement Program (ATIP) was approved by the Central Minnesota Area Transportation Partnership (ATP-3) at their meeting on April 4. The approved document was submitted to MnDOT’s Central Office for inclusion in the STIP. The draft STIP was released in June for public comment. The public comment period has now concluded. MnDOT had concerns relating to some larger projects in District 1 (Duluth), Metro (Twin Cities) and District 3.
 - Interstate 94 Clearwater to Monticello – The bid came in higher than programmed. As a result, MnDOT’s Central Office will be funding an additional \$19 million. The District is exploring the possibility of funding additional concrete work from Hasty to Clearwater associated with this project that could bring the total cost closer to \$110 million.
 - Corridors of Commerce projects will be included in the STIP.
 - An application was submitted to receive federal funds for the I-94 Albertville to Monticello project and are now waiting for the outcome. This project will not be included in the STIP.
- The final draft of the document is being finalized at MnDOT’s Central Office and will be submitted by the end of September to the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Authority for approval. It is anticipated the review will take between three and four weeks.
- Staff will mail a printed copy of District 3’s pages from the STIP to TAC members. An online version of the STIP will be posted on MnDOT’s website and staff will provide TAC members with the website location.

ATP-3 FY 2021-2024 STIP DEVELOPMENT GUIDANCE

- STIP Development Schedule
 - Review of FY 2021-2024 STIP Development Schedule. It was noted that the solicitation and application submittal dates for the Federal Transportation Alternatives (TA) program solicitation are subject to change based on the finalized solicitation schedule by MnDOT’s Central Office.
- FY 2024 ATP-3 ATP Managed Program Federal Funding Project Solicitation
 - The Local Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP) guidance and application to be used for soliciting local candidate projects for the ATP-3 Draft FY 2021–2024 Area Transportation Improvement Program (ATIP) were reviewed.
 - ATP-3 will meet on October 10 to review the FY 2021–2024 application materials. The FY 2024 Local Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP) solicitation process will begin following the ATP-3’s contingent on the Partnership’s approval of the solicitation materials.
- FY 2024 ATP-3 Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program Solicitation
 - Currently waiting to receive finalized FY 2024 TA solicitation information and application materials documents from MnDOT’s Central Office.

DISTRICT 3 FREIGHT PLAN UPDATE AND MANUFACTURER’S PERSPECTIVES STUDY

- Stephanie Castellanos updated TAC members on District 3’s Freight Plan and Manufacturer’s Perspectives Study.
 - Freight Plan
 - The District is undergoing a freight plan update over the next year. While there will be some overlap with the manufacturer’s perspectives study, the freight study will focus more on the carrier side. Work on the finalized plan should take place next summer.

- The scope of work includes: Stakeholder Engagement; Data Analysis by Cambridge Systematics; Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) Analysis; Implementation Plan (identify potential freight investments); Project Feasibility and Draft and Final District Freight Plan.
- A Freight Advisory Committee has been formed that will meet four times to help MnDOT better understand the needs of Central Minnesota's freight transportation system. Mr. Hawkins and Mr. Witter are serving on the committee.
- Manufacturer's Perspective Study
 - Meeting face-to-face with approximately 150 key manufacturers and shippers in District 3. Interviews will take approximately 8 to 12 weeks to finish. The study will be a hybrid version, with two areas of focus: Urban (southern portion of District) and Rural (northern portion of District). This is the largest manufacturer's study MnDOT has done.
 - Consultants will be doing the study. Interview teams will be asking targeted questions. Information will be confidential and compiled into a report identifying ways to improve transportation.

REGION 7W LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE

- Mr. Mason led a discussion on the planned update to Region 7W's Long-Range Transportation Plan. A similar exercise will also be done with Region 7W's Transportation Policy Board members at their September 20th meeting.
 - The 2005-2030 Plan (2005) was reviewed. The update will be for the 2020-2040 Plan.
 - The four counties' (Benton, Sherburne, Stearns and Wright) long-range transportation/ comprehensive plans will be reviewed as it relates to the 2020-2040 Plan.
 - TAC members participated in review of the vision statement and a SWOT analysis on the Goals, Objectives and Evaluation Criteria.
 - Staff will compile information received from the TAC and TPB meetings and schedule a follow-up meeting in November for further discussion by TAC members. A status report will be presented at the February TAC meeting.

NEXT MEETING

- February 12, 2020 – 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. at MnDOT District 3, 3725 – 12th Street North, St. Cloud.

ROUND ROBIN/OTHER BUSINESS

- None.

ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting adjourned.