

Area Transportation Partnership 7 (ATP 7)

Draft Minutes of September 11, 2020 Meeting – MnDOT, Mankato (via Skype)

Members Present: Jack Kolars, Troy Nemmers, Ronda Allis, Seth Greenwood, Greg Ous, Ryan Thilges, Nick Klisch, Peter Harff, Jeff Johnson, Mike Kuhle, Patrick La Course, Robert Goblirsch, Matt Widboom

Members Absent: Don Wachal, Lisa Bigham, Craig Rempp

Others Present: Sam Parker, Angie Piltaver, Angelica Tejada, Debra Yates, Charles Androsky, Melinda Estey, Jeremy Monahan, Scott Roehmildt, Brianna Sanders, Rebecca Arndt, Anna Pierce, Voni Vegar, Anne Wolff, Rosemary Bruce-White, Stephen Schnieder, Shawn Schloesser, Tim Becker, Joel Hanif

Legislative attendees: Non-present due to Special Session

Welcome, introductions, and opening business (Jack Kolars)

- Approval of June 12, 2020 minutes (handout)
- Operating Procedures: Chair and Vice Chair reaffirmation (Greg Ous)
 - Greg reviewed the Chair/Vice Chair process and indicated that Jack Kolars has taken over for Stephen Koehler who recently retired. Mike Kuhle will serve as the Vice-Chair. Normally the Chair and Vice Chair would be appointed at this time, but not this year since Jack Kolars just recently took over.
- ATP membership, meeting schedule and solicitation process (Sam Parker/handouts)
 - Membership reaffirmed, no new members.
 - Greg Ous welcomed Jeff Johnson back to Minnesota from his deployment
 - Sam showed the 2020-2021 meeting schedule with recurring business for each meeting
 - Sam showed the ATP-7 solicitation flowchart and described the processes for TA, STP-Small Urban, STP-Rural as well as MnDOT and MAPO, SRDC and RNDC processes related to the solicitations

MnDOT Hwy 14 Project Update

Jack Kolars asked Greg Ous to update ATP on funding applications.

Greg shared that MnDOT was awarded a \$22 million BUILD grant for the project from the second BUILD solicitation. Also will receive a \$49 million TIFIA loan. Latest interest rate appears to be less than 1 percent. Greg thanked all the partners and participants for their support and provided a brief summary of where the project is with MnDOT. Design in progress. Right-of-way acquisition moving forward. Looking for a 2021 letting, with construction start in 2022 and substantial completion in 2023.

Jack Kolars thanked the Hwy 14 Partnership for their efforts spanning 40 years in getting the project moved forward.

Kern Bridge update (Ryan Thilges)

Ryan gave a presentation on the Kern Bridge removal, disassembly and storage. Showed pictures of the bridge removal and provided background of the Kern Bridge as the longest bow string through truss bridge in America. Its construction type allowed for the successful removal, disassembly and storage of the historic bridge, which is on the Register. Many partners involved with Lisa Bigham spearheading the effort to remove and save the bridge for future re-use. Beginning stages of selection process with eight LOIs received from four cities and four counties. LOI's to be reviewed and then moved forward to a full application. Sept 30, 2020 – notify select applicants to submit full applications. Nov. 20, 2020 – deadline for full application. Applications to be reviewed between November and December 2020. January 2021, the Kern Bridge Steering Committee will select and notify the successful applicant of federal funding to be programmed into STIP.

2020-2023 STIP amendments and modifications (Deb Yates/handout)

Still operating under 2020-2023 STIP. Deb reviewed the summary of 10 total amendments and modifications with the ATP members. Four projects are emergency projects added for hillside and slope repairs due to heavy rains that caused slides on 22, 68 and 99 this year.

2021-2024 Draft ATIP changes (Deb Yates/handout)

Deb Yates provided a handout and reviewed the changes made to the final draft 2021-2024 ATIP. Cost estimate updates or landscaping projects that were added. Preventative Maintenance budget reduced from \$3.5 million to \$3.4 million to add roundabout curb and gutter project in Worthington.

Erosion and Emergency Projects (Peter Harff)

Peter Harff reviewed the erosion and emergency projects with the ATP members. These projects are emergency repairs to roads and roadsides that happened this summer, are ongoing, or are planned to occur this fall or in 2021. The major repairs total just over \$3 million. The Preventative Maintenance budget is being used up to make these emergency repairs. Some projects have been down-scoped to recover some funds to fix these types of issues. In the past we have been able to request additional funds from C.O.; however, not this year. District 7 will have to rely on its own funds to address these issues.

Jack Kolars asked about slope repairs and posts and guard rail repairs. Peter indicated they are driven posts – no concrete needed to support them. The goal is to keep the soil in place. Have to make a decision about dollars now versus dollars later. We've discovered that the more cost effective way to handle these situations is to build the way we've always built, then go after repairs as they occur.

Jack asked about budgeting of preventative maintenance and emergency repairs. Peter discussed balancing the funds so that projects still get done while necessary repairs and preventative maintenance also are performed.

2025-2030 Draft CHIP changes (Ronda Allis)

Ronda updated the ATP membership on the need for changes to the CHIP with primary reasons being: the addition of the Hwy 14 four-lane project in 2022, emergency repairs, and being held to targets by Central Office. Some projects were added in for 2030; new target for 2025-2030 is \$562 million, about \$40 million higher than 2025-2029 budget.

Ronda then provided maps and described the changes in the CHIP by county. Ronda noted to ATP members that there have been a lot of changes, and this is a lot of information, but that there are opportunities throughout to ask questions and provide input/feedback about issues that the membership sees and wants to discuss.

MnDOT Legislative Update

No legislators were present to the Special Session.

Transportation Funds Interim Budget Projection Update (Greg Ous)

Jack Kolars asked Greg Ous for a funding update.

Greg shared that COVID19 impacted gas tax revenues with people staying home. During the first four to six weeks, there was a 30-50% reduction in gas taxes. Original forecast indicated there would be a \$400 million reduction in revenues. However, the loss has not been as great as predicted – traffic is now back to about the average it was at this time last year. Update will be made to the forecast in November. There will still have a reduction, but it likely will not be as bad as originally thought. We will share the update once we have new information.

Greg will also share at the next meeting more detailed information about the overall funding for the Hwy 14 four-lane project, and the impacts to funding due to COVID19.

Transit Update

Patrick LaCourse stated that there were not a lot of changes. CARES funding was received. No match required via MnDOT as its 100% funded. Ordering a bus at the end of December. One bus for Brown County in 2021 and two buses in 2022. Thanked MnDOT for Hwy 14 work.

Craig Rempp was not present/no update.

MAPO Transportation Update (Paul Vogel or Charles Androsky)

- Policy Board adopted the TIP.
- Update on Kibble culvert failure along 22. Falls in MAPO boundary.
- Adopted Work Plan for next year and sent to MnDOT and Federal Hwy.

- Finishing up RTCC Phase 1 Planning. One final open house on Monday at 5 p.m. Contact Charles for online virtual open house.
- LRTP is on schedule to be finished up end of year.
- Variety of corridor studies, ICE report, Bridge report.

Regional Development Commissions Transportation Update

RNDC: Joel Hanif (for Shawn Schloesser) provided an update, sharing that they are conducting outreach with partners in Lake Crystal and Gaylord on corridor studies.

SRDC: Rosemary Bruce-White provided an update, sharing that the RTCC was approved for funding for Phase II. The RTCC is under United Community Action Partnership (UCAP), which has not been able to do much planning activities due to COVID19. She also shared that there was a kickoff for SRTS in the City of Tyler, and that the Jackson County SRTS planning effort will kick off soon. Rosemary also thanked MnDOT D7 for crash data for their resiliency study.

Transportation Updates

Deb Yates shared that State Aid was just notified that there are additional funds from the August redistribution. District 7 will receive another \$300K for local projects. Deadline is today so we will quickly determine where we can place the funds.

Adjournment

Mike Kuhle thanked MnDOT for keeping up with all the changes happening during this time.

Jack Kolars adjourned the meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2020