

ST. CLOUD AREA PLANNING ORGANIZATION

A regular meeting of the St. Cloud Area Planning Organization was held Thursday, May 28, 2009, 7:00 p.m. at the Waite Park City Hall. Chair Kroll presided, with the following members present:

Mayor Dave Kleis	City of St. Cloud
John Libert	
Carolyn Garven	
Mike Landy	
Sheila DeVine	
Mayor Al Rassier	City of St. Joseph
Renee Symanietz	
Mayor Tim O'Driscoll	City of Sartell
Steve Hennes	
Joe Perske	
Brad Gunderson	City of Sauk Rapids
Dave Saunders	
Marv Neubert	
Mayor Rick Miller	City of Waite Park
Chuck Schneider	
Mike Lindquist	
Mayor Bob Kroll	City of St. Augusta
Donna Schulzetenberg	
Mike Zenzen	
Jeff Schlingman	Town of Haven
Penny Weihrauch	
Kevin Pullis	Town of LeSauk
Ron Naber	
Mark Bromenschenkel	
Matt Symalla	Town of St. Joseph
Jerome Salzer	
Jeff Janssen	
Jim McMahon	County of Benton
Spencer Buerkel	
Ewald Peterson	County of Sherburne
Felix Schmiesing	
Mark Sakry	County of Stearns
Leigh Lenzmeier	
Vince Schaefer	
Tim Crennen	CMTA

Absent Members:

George Hontos (Excused)	City of St. Cloud
John Pederson (Excused)	
Bob Johnson (Excused)	
Dave Masters	
Dick Andzenge	
Bob Loso	City of St. Joseph
Randy Linn (Excused)	Town of Haven
Joe Wollak (Excused)	County of Benton
John Riebel (Excused)	County of Sherburne

Also Present:

David Turch	Turch & Associates
Kodiak Hill-Davis	
Deb Steiskal	Congresswoman Bachmann's Office

Harry Forsyth
Scott Mareck
Michele Cottrell
Cathryn Hanson
Kirby Becker

Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee
St. Cloud APO

APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR MAY 28, 2009:

Mayor Kleis moved, Mr. Sakry seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF APO BOARD MINUTES OF MARCH 26, 2009:

Mr. Zenzen moved, Mr. Schneider seconded to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF APO EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES OF APRIL 9, 2009 & MAY 14, 2009:

Mayor Miller moved, Mr. Libert seconded to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS RECEIVED SINCE MAY 14, 2009 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING:

Mayor Rassier moved, Ms. Symanietz seconded to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF MARCH AND APRIL 2009 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND YEAR-TO-DATE BUDGET STATUS:

Mr. Salzer moved, Ms. Garven seconded approving the financial statements as presented. Motion carried.

UPDATE FROM DAVID TURCH AND ASSOCIATES:

Ms. Hill-Davis, from Turch and Associates reported that Senator Klobuchar has submitted 9 of the 13 projects submitted by the APO for FY 2010 Appropriations consideration. These projects include: TH 15/33rd Street interchange, 40th Street, 50th Avenue, Benton CSAH 29, Northstar Commuter Buses, Rocori Trail, University Bridge, West Metro Corridor and the Northstar Commuter Bus Park/Ride lots. Ms. Hill-Davis also reported that Congresswoman Bachmann has submitted two APO High Priority Projects (HPPs) for funding consideration as part of the upcoming SAFETEA LU reauthorization bill; the Congresswoman made 5 total submittals in her District. APO HPPs submitted by the Congresswoman include the TH 15/33rd Street interchange and the University Drive Bridge. These projects were the APO's #1 and #2 priorities. It is expected that the House Transportation Committee will propose a Transportation Bill in June of this year; however, the Senate will likely not consider a bill until sometime in early 2010.

Mr. Turch informed the Board that the APO's organization and cohesive message is the main reason why Senator Klobuchar and Congresswoman Bachmann are willing to submit these projects on behalf of the St. Cloud Metro Area. Though APO members may think it is a matter of common practice to put together a list and stick to it, this is not the case for most other major urban centers across the Country. The fact that APO members do not waiver from their priority list is looked upon with high regard by the Minnesota Congressional delegation in Washington.

UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES OF APO BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN COMMITTEE:

Mr. Harry Forsyth, owner of Revolution Cycle and Ski, and member of the APO's Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee, overviewed the TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) Discretionary Grant opportunity available through the federal Stimulus Bill and requested the Board to consider submitting bike/pedestrian grant applications for these funds.

Ms. Hanson clarified that Mr. Forsyth's proposal had not been discussed with staff prior to the meeting and stated that the Bike Committee has been working on a safety and share the road campaign, updating the 2035 Plan and working on a bike/pedestrian survey sent to APO member jurisdictions.

Mr. Mareck stated that staff are aware of the TIGER Discretionary grant program and suggested that, as a matter of protocol, that the Board refer this item back to the APO's Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee and APO TAC to develop a recommendation.

Ms. Garven moved, Hennes seconded to forward the TIGER grant matter to the APO Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee and APO TAC for a recommendation. Motion Carried.

PRESENTATION ON ACTIVITIES OF THE MNDOT PASSENGER RAIL FORUM AND NORTHSTAR PHASE II:

Mr. Mareck explained that the 2008 Minnesota Legislature mandated Mn/DOT to develop a Comprehensive Statewide Freight and Passenger Rail plan by the end of 2009. There is also a concurrent effort of the Minnesota Intercity Passenger Rail Forum, chaired by MnDOT, to prioritize Minnesota passenger rail projects for submittal to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to compete for approximately \$12 billion that was recently made available for high speed and "intercity" passenger rail. Northstar Phase 2 could potentially compete for these FRA funds as an "intercity" connection.

Mr. Mareck overviewed Nationwide and upper Midwest plans for high speed passenger rail and "intercity" passenger rail and noted President Obama's vision for ongoing Federal funding for this initiative. Strong grassroots efforts are underway in other parts of the State and Country to advocate for these FRA dollars. Accordingly, Mr. Mareck encouraged the APO and Northstar Corridor Development Authority (NCDA) to follow suit. Collaboration with the Cities of Minneapolis and Fargo/Moorhead would likely help Northstar Phase 2 in its nationwide competition for "intercity" FRA funding.

Mr. Mareck explained to the Board that an FRA Workshop will be held in Chicago on June 1st to overview tentative grant eligibility criteria and to solicit input on these criteria. It may be advantageous for the APO to send a staff member to this training.

Mr. Sakry question how fast the high-speed rail can actually go?

Mr. Mareck explained that the high-speed rail can go anywhere from 90-300 miles per hour.

Mr. Pullis asked why go into Fargo? Why not stay straight west to the Bad Land and more tourist areas.

Mr. Mareck stated that President Obama's vision for passenger rail is to connect major urban areas.

Mr. Sakry moved, Mr. Pullis seconded to approve Resolution 2009-07 in support of Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) grant submittals for Northstar Phase 2, and to request support for Northstar FRA funding from the NCDA, St. Cloud Chamber of Commerce, and federal, State and local elected officials. Motion carried.

Mr. Sakry moved, Mr. Schneider seconded to approve Mr. Mareck going to Chicago on June 1, 2009 for the FRA passenger rail grant workshop. Motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIALLY CONSTRAINED ROADWAY PLAN 50% SCENARIO-PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING:

Mr. Mareck explained that over the past few months APO staff have systematically been providing the Board with draft components of the 2035 Transportation Plan. Federal regulations require the St. Cloud Area Planning Organization (APO) to adopt a financially constrained transportation plan every four years. Financial forecasts must be limited to local, State and federal revenues that are "reasonably expected to be available" through the forecast period. The APO's 2035 financial forecast for APO city and county projects is approximately \$156 million. The MnDOT District 3 forecast of Trunk Highway and federal revenues to be invested within the APO area through 2035 is approximately \$157 million. These figures represent the respective city, county and MnDOT "budgets" to be used for development of the APO's 2035 Roadway Plan.

Federal regulations require that city and county expansion projects be identified within the APO's approved financial forecast and roadway plan to be eligible for federal formula and/or federal earmark funding. All MnDOT expansion projects must also be identified within the approved APO financial forecast and roadway plan. Projects not identified

within the APO 2035 Roadway Plan are considered “conceptual”, meaning they can only receive federal funding if another project of equal or greater cost is amended out of the Plan by the APO Board.

The St. Cloud Metro Area 2030 Roadway Plan identifies 95 percent of forecasted city and county revenues for roadway capacity expansion. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is strongly encouraging the APO to diversify its investments into other areas for the 2035 Plan. Accordingly, the APO’s TAC is recommending that the city and county portion of the APO’s 2035 financial forecast be invested 50 percent in roadway capacity expansion and 50 percent in a “flexible pot” including road and bridge rehabilitation/preservation, safety/operations, and transit capital and bicycle/pedestrian projects. MnDOT has indicated that its entire 2035 financial forecast for the APO Area will need to be invested in road and bridge rehabilitation/preservation, and safety/operations projects.

Proposed 2035 Roadway Plan – 50% Expansion/50% Flexible Pot

The TAC also evaluated scenarios of 75% expansion and 95% expansion. A summary of the modeling analysis shows congested lane miles under a “do nothing” scenario of 329 miles, 50% expansion 315 miles, 75% expansion 293 miles, and 95% expansion 281 miles. A 50 percent expansion/50 percent “flexible pot” investment approach was recommended for the 2035 Plan.

Some of the significant factors considered in developing the list of federally funded projects to be included in the 50 percent expansion alternative included the following:

- Constraining project costs within the overall 2035 financial forecast
- Constraining project costs within short, medium and long-range Plan time frames & inflating project cost estimates to these projected time frames
- Constraining earmark (illustrative) project costs, per new FHWA requirement
- Considering the status of federal project development work for projects (Corridor Study, EA, EIS)
- Considering the regional significance of projects (traffic volumes, facility type, system continuity, etc.)
- Considering how certain projects may perform well together from an overall system perspective
- Considering project priorities of APO member jurisdictions
- Considering APO member jurisdiction equity

Mr. Mareck overviewed projects recommended by the APO TAC to be in the 2035 financially constrained Transportation Plan. These projects are major capacity expansions or new roadway alignments. Mr. Mareck explained that this item will be brought back to the APO Board later in the year for final approval, along with other 2035 Plan chapters.

Mr. Mareck explained that this item was published as a Public Information Meeting; however, no members of the public were present to testify.

2010-2013 TIP DOCUMENT-PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING:

Mr. Becker explained that in February 2008 the APO Policy Board approved \$3.48 million of federal funding in 2012-13 for construction of 8th Street N. and Pinecone Road and the University Bridge in St. Cloud. These local federal projects have been packaged with new Mn/DOT and St. Cloud Metro Bus projects into a draft St. Cloud Metropolitan Area 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Document.

The draft TIP Document discusses air quality conformity, environmental justice, local match capability and other miscellaneous regulations that must be addressed for federal funds to eventually be obligated by St. Cloud Area cities, counties, Mn/DOT District 3 and St. Cloud Metro Bus.

The St. Cloud Metropolitan Area 2010-2013 TIP includes approximately \$188.2 million of road/bridge, bike/pedestrian & safety project funding and approximately \$64.8 million of transit funding. In total, the Program includes just under \$253 million of transportation investment within the St. Cloud Metropolitan Area through 2013.

Mr. Schmiesing moved, Mr. Lenzmeier seconded to approve the 2010-2013 TIP for a 30-day comment period. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mayor Kleis moved, Mr. Libert seconded to approve canceling the June and July Policy Board meetings. Motion carried.

ANNUAL MEETING:

Mr. Mareck informed Board members that the St. Cloud Area Planning Organization’s (APO’s) By-Laws require convening of an Annual Meeting each year to elect officers and certify representatives from APO member units of government. This meeting must be a separate agenda item following the business of the regular May meeting.

Appointment of Officers

APO officers include: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Officers serve for a one-year term and no Officer may serve more than two consecutive terms in any one office. Officers assume office upon their election at the Annual Meeting. (Note: Officers have traditionally been the principal elected officials from APO member jurisdictions; however, this is not required in APO By-Laws).

Current APO Officers (All have served 2 terms in their positions as of May 2009)

Chair	Mayor Bob Kroll – City of St. Augusta
Vice-Chair	Supervisor Kevin Pullis – LeSauk Township
Secretary	Commissioner Felix Schmiesing – Sherburne County
Treasure	Mayor Tim O’Driscoll – City of Sartell

Executive Board Nominations for New APO Officers (May 2009 to May 2010)

Chair	Supervisor Kevin Pullis – LeSauk Township
Vice-Chair	Commissioner Felix Schmiesing – Sherburne County
Secretary	Mayor Tim O’Driscoll – City of Sartell
Treasure	Mayor Dave Kleis – City of St. Cloud

Mr. Peterson moved, Mr. Bromenschenkel seconded to approve the slate of officers as presented. Motion carried.

Certification of Representatives

APO By-Laws stipulate that member units of government must certify their representatives at the Annual Meeting. At all times, APO representatives from a given member unit of government must be 60 percent elected officials. Non-elected representatives may not be staff persons of APO members. New representatives should provide the Executive Director with their mailing address, email address, and telephone number(s) where they can be contacted.

Mayor Kleis stated requested that Councilmember Sonja Berg be added to the vacant member position for the City of St. Cloud.

Ms. Weihrauch moved, Mr. Bromenschenkel seconded to approve the Certification of Representatives with the one addition to the City of St. Cloud. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Weihrauch moved, Mr. Zenzen seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 p.m. Motion carried.