

## ST. CLOUD AREA PLANNING ORGANIZATION

A regular meeting of the St. Cloud Area Planning Organization was held Thursday, October 22, 2009, 7:00 p.m. at Waite Park City Hall. Chair Pullis presided, with the following members present:

Mayor Dave Kleis	City of St. Cloud
George Hontos	
John Libert	
Mike Landy	
Mayor Al Rassier	City of St. Joseph
Bob Loso	
Renee Symanietz	
Steve Hennes	City of Sartell
Joe Perske	
Mayor Rick Miller	City of Waite Park
Mike Linqvist	
Chuck Schneider	
Donna Schulzetenberg	City of St. Augusta
Mike Zenzen	
Jeff Schlingmann	Town of Haven
Penny Weihrauch	
Kevin Pullis	Town of LeSauk
Ron Naber	
Mark Bromenschenkel	
Jeff Janssen	Town of St. Joseph
Jerome Salzer	
Spencer Buerkle	County of Benton
Jim McMahan	
Joe Wollak	
Ewald Peterson	County of Sherburne
John Riebel	
Mark Sakry	County of Stearns
Vince Schaefer	
Tim Crennen	CMTA

### Absent Members:

Dick Andzenge	City of St. Cloud
Sonja Berg	
Sheila DeVine (Excused)	
Carolyn Garven	
Bob Johnson	
Dave Masters	
John Pederson	
Mayor Tim O'Driscoll (Excused)	City of Sartell
Brad Gunderson (Excused)	City of Sauk Rapids
Marv Neubert	
Dave Saunders (Excused)	
Mayor Bob Kroll (Excused)	City of St. Augusta
Randy Linn	Town of Haven
Matt Symalla (Excused)	Town of St. Joseph
Felix Schmiesing (Excused)	County of Sherburne
Leigh Lenzmeier	County of Stearns

### Also Present:

Jim Povich	Mn/DOT District 3
Steve Voss	
Bill Towle	St. Cloud Regional Airport
Scott Mareck	St. Cloud APO
Kirby Becker	
Cathryn Hanson	

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR OCTOBER 22, 2009:**

Ms. Symanietz moved, Mayor Kleis seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

## **CONSIDERATION OF APO BOARD MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 24, 2009:**

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

## **CONSIDERATION OF APO EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES OF OCTOBER 8, 2009:**

Mr. Schlingmann moved, Mr. Sakry second to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

## **CONSIDERATION OF BILLS RECEIVED SINCE OCTOBER 8, 2009 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING:**

Mayor Kleis moved, Mr. Wollak seconded to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried.

## **CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER & YEAR-TO-DATE BUDGET STATEMENTS:**

Ms. Symanietz moved, Mr. Zenzen seconded to approve the financial statements as presented. Motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **PRESENTATION ON MN/DOT LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION POLICY PLAN:**

Mr. Povich reported that pavement conditions in Mn/DOT District 3 continue to be ranked near the top in the State and there also continues to be a shortage of funding for capacity expansion projects on high volume two lane highways. However, District 3 no longer has the most fatalities in the State. The money that the District receives each year (\$50-\$60 million) is invested primarily in preservation and maintenance projects, with approximately \$10 million of this allocated annually for capacity improvement projects. This amount of funding allows District 3 MnDOT to build about 1-2 miles of expanded highway per year. He noted that MnDOT District 3 has enough highway miles to extend from St. Cloud to Los Angeles.

Mr. Landy inquired why the safety of roads in District 3 is considered to have improved when improvement funding is so low.

Mr. Povich responded that the four E's (education, enforcement, engineering, emergency response management) are critical and all equally important factors to addressing safety issues. For example, on TH 371, no fatalities have occurred since the expansion to four lanes was completed. Prior to the expansion, the average fatality rate was 2 per year; so now we are saving at least 2 lives per year.

Mr. Voss presented information on the 2009-2028 Minnesota Statewide Transportation Policy Plan. He explained in detail Chapter 152 funding and presented an overview of the Statewide Transportation Policy Plan and Statewide Highway Investment Plan (a subset of the Statewide Plan). He indicated that the Plan purpose is to establish a multimodal transportation vision, supporting policies and strategies to assist Mn/DOT and its partners in focusing investments and services over the next 20 years. The Plan vision focuses on a safe, efficient, and sustainable transportation system.

Mr. Voss described the Plan approach and guiding principles for State investment over the planning period, as well as strategies and performance measures for evaluating progress. Information on the Highway Investment Plan Methodology was also explained in detail. From a statewide investment approach, nearly \$65 billion worth of needs have been identified, while anticipated revenue is approximately \$15 billion, resulting in a funding gap of \$50 billion. District 3's largest needs are in mobility, then infrastructure preservation and finally traveler safety. Four major expansion projects are programmed during the current planning cycle: TH 23 to Foley, TH 25 Buffalo to Monticello, TH 371 Nisswa to Jenkins, and TH 55 Buffalo to Rockford.

Ms. Symanietz, inquired about MnDOT plans to improve Highway 23 from Richmond to New London.

Mr. Voss indicated that District 8 has the Paynesville bypass, but District 3 does not have a specific project for that corridor. Mr. Povich explained that Paynesville is within District 3, but \$40 million is financed by Willmar because it was a priority for their District, even though it is outside their geographic boundaries.

Mr. Sakry inquired about modal plans and whether the Plan discussed included any mass transit, or Northstar priorities.

Mr. Voss indicated that there are specific modal plans that cover each of the other areas; they are not included in this Plan.

Mr. Janssen inquired about safety improvements at TH 15 & 2<sup>nd</sup> St. S. near the Holiday Inn, citing a recent fatality at that intersection.

Mr. Povich indicated there may be low cost improvements that could be considered for that intersection, but nothing is programmed at this time. Aside from the crash that involved a wind-turbine transport, there have been zero fatalities in the St. Cloud urban area in recent years. Making improvements to the rural system where the fatality rates are the most severe is the primary goal for the District.

Mr. Landy inquired about the impacts on TH 15 from the Epic Center development in Sartell.

Mr. Povich indicated that traffic studies indicate a sizable volume for that corridor. An interchange will be built at CR 120 and TH 15 with Chapter 152 funding. The interchange should be constructed by 2013. Funding may be \$5-\$10 million dollars short. This shortfall will need to be addressed with supplemental State and/or local funds.

Mr. Perske asked if an interchange at CSAH 1 and TH 15 was being considered.

Mr. Povich indicated that although the TH 15 Corridor Study recommends an interchange at this location, there is no funding for such a project at this time.

## **PRESENTATION ON ST. CLOUD METROPOLITAN AREA 2035 TRANSPORTATION PLAN – PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING:**

Chairman Pullis indicated that this was a Public Information Meeting.

Mr. Becker presented the St. Cloud Metropolitan Area 2035 Transportation Plan. Mr. Becker explained that every four years the APO updates its Long Range Transportation Plan. The Plan is a multi-modal document that covers planning initiatives for roadways, transit, and non-motorized transportation. The forecast period for the document spans twenty two years and outlines short-term, mid-term and long-term investment approaches.

Mr. Becker explained the Metro Area growth statistics including data on urban development, population growth, number of households, vehicle miles traveled and vehicle hours traveled. He also provided information on transit related transportation and non-motorized transportation priorities such as multi-use trail investments and complete streets.

Mr. Dennis Duffy, citizen, suggested a tunnel be built in the 33<sup>rd</sup> Street South corridor under the Mississippi River, instead of another bridge. This could be another thoroughfare for the region. Mr. Duffy presented a copy of a report completed by Gemini on behalf of Mn/DOT regarding the University Drive EA.

Mr. Sakry inquired about the 33<sup>rd</sup> Street Bridge over the Mississippi, how it would be funded, and why it is not on any priority list at this time.

Mr. Becker indicated that funding would need to be a combination of local, State and federal dollars and indicated that there simply is not enough funding to include all of the desired projects in the Plan.

Mike Landy stated that having the 33<sup>rd</sup> Street Mississippi River crossing on a map was important for future planning.

Mr. Schlingmann noted Haven Township's objection to the 33<sup>rd</sup> Street Bridge crossing proposal.

Mr. Landy wondered if all participating jurisdictions had updated their comprehensive land use plans and if that data had been provided to the APO.

Mr. Becker responded that each of the jurisdictions provided direct input for this process.

Mr. Perske asked if there is a plan to preserve right-of-way at the 33<sup>rd</sup> Street Corridor.

Mr. Becker responded that a Scoping Document has identified a general corridor for the proposed 33<sup>rd</sup> Street South Bridge; however, additional environmental work would be necessary to select and preserve a specific alignment.

Mayor Rassier commented that the APO 2035 Transportation Plan has been prepared through a very diligent and thoughtful planning process. This planning process has resulted in a good working regional transportation plan document. Without this document, it would be very difficult for individual communities to plan.

Ms. Symanietz moved, Mr. Bromenschenkel seconded to approve the APO 2035 Transportation Plan to be released as presented by staff for public comment. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **PRESENTATION ON ST. CLOUD REGIONAL AIRPORT ACTIVITIES:**

Mr. Bill Towle, St. Cloud Regional Airport Director, presented on recent activities at the St. Cloud Regional Airport (SCRA). He reported that several years ago a study was completed that identified the SCRA as the priority reliever airport to MSP International. In 2001, the SCRA completed the runway and taxi expansion and in 2004 finished constructing an air traffic control tower.

Mr. Towle reported that in 2005 snow removal facilities were completed that included an addition to the storage facility and fencing. In 2006, utilities were connected to the National Guard facility. In 2008 and 2009 the National Guard facility and new terminal were completed. More recently the passenger support bridge was completed. The airport currently has about 100 operations a day, which is down from 175 operations couple of years ago. The National Guard facility employs 70 full-time employees while the air facility employs 100 full-time employees along with housing the SCSU aviation training program. Even in recent tough economic times corporate aircraft arrivals/departures has not slowed at the airport. The SCSU aviation program at the SCRA is the only accredited aviation program in the State. Life link emergency response helicopter service is also housed at the airport.

Mr. Towle also reported that the APO, SCRA, City of St. Cloud and Sherburne County are working on an Environmental Assessment to analyze how Sherburne CSAH 7 will need to be realigned west of the airport to facilitate future airport runway expansion plans. Unfortunately with all the good things that have happened at the airport in recent years, Delta, the main daily air service at the airport, is pulling their operations at end of 2009. Everybody is working hard to get another carrier in, but this will take financial backing from the business community to shelter the new carrier against potential losses.

Mr. Sakry asked how many people could fit on Express Jet flights out of the SCRA and what would a ticket price cost if a carrier were to offer service from St. Cloud to Chicago.

Mr. Towle said each Express Jet plane has approximately fifty seats. He did not have a good grasp on the ticket price right now. The top markets today out of St. Cloud include Chicago and Phoenix because of the volume of flight out of those international airports and the availability of connecting flights.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF 2010/2011 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP):**

Mr. Mareck stated that a breakdown of the 2010-2011 UPWP has been provided in the Policy Board packets. This work program has been merged with the approved budget. Approximately 90 percent of the work program is funded through State and federal operating grants. The remaining 10 percent is funded through APO member jurisdiction assessments.

Mr. Sakry moved, Mr. Schlingmann seconded to approve Resolutions 2009-13 and 2009-14, adopting the St. Cloud Area Planning Organization 2010-2011 UPWP. Motion carried.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS – ST. CLOUD AREA NORTHSTAR PRINCIPLES (FROM BUSINESS COMMUNITY)**

Mr. Mareck overviewed Northstar Principles developed by St. Cloud Area business leaders and the Central Minnesota Transportation Alliance (CMTA).

Mr. Peterson moved, Ms. Weihrauch seconded to support the principles as presented. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Zenzen moved, Mr. Miller second to adjourn. Motion carried.