

ST. CLOUD AREA PLANNING ORGANIZATION

A regular meeting of the St. Cloud Area Planning Organization was held on Thursday, September 22, 2011, 7:00 p.m. at Waite Park City Hall. Chairman Felix Schmiesing presided, with the following members present:

Mayor Dave Kleis	City of St. Cloud	Penny Weihrauch	Town of Haven
John Libert	"	Jeff Westerlund	Town of LeSauk
Dave Masters	"	Ron Naber	"
Nancy Gohman	"	Jerry Hettwer	"
George Hontos	"	Brenda Stanger	Town of St. Joseph
Sonja Berg	"	Jeff Janssen	"
Mike Landy	"	Joe Wollak	Benton County
Mayor Rick Schultz	City of St. Joseph	Jim McMahon	"
Bob Loso	"	Spencer Buerkle	"
Renee Symanietz	"	Felix Schmiesing	Sherburne County
Mayor Perske	City of Sartell	Ewald Petersen	"
Bill Bard	City of Sauk Rapids	John Riebel	"
Mayor Bob Kroll	City of St. Augusta	Jeff Mergen	Stearns County
Donna Schultzenberg	"	Leigh Lenzmeier	"
Mike Zenzen	"	Don Otte	"
Jeff Schlingmann	Town of Haven	Carolyn Garven	Metro Bus
Kathi Sims-Kosloski	"	Carl Kuhl	CMTA

Absent Members:

Dick Andzenge	City of St. Cloud	Jerome Salzer (Exc)	Town of St. Joseph
Sheila DeVine	"	Mike Linqvist (Exc)	City of Waite Park
Jeff Goerger (Exc)	"	Chuck Schneider (Exc)	"
Jeff Johnson	"	Mayor Rick Miller (Exc)	"
Dennis Molitor	City of Sartell	Brad Gunderson	City of Sauk Rapids
Steve Hennes (Exc)	"	Mayor Dave Saunders	"
Mark Bromenschenkel (Exc)	Stearns County		

Also Present:

Scott Mareck	St. Cloud APO	Dorothy Sweet	St. Cloud APO
Mark Nelson	Mn/DOT	Shannon Tietz	TRI-CAP

CONSIDERATION OF POLICY BOARD AGENDA FOR SEPTEMBER 22, 2011

Mr. Petersen motioned to approve the Policy Board Agenda with two additions under "Other Business". Mr. Zenzen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF APO POLICY BOARD MINUTES OF MAY 26, 2011

Mr. Zenzen motioned to approve the Policy Board Minutes of May 26, 2011. Ms. Berg seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF APO EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES OF JUNE 9, 2011

Mayor Kleis motioned to approve the Executive Board Minutes of June 9, 2011. Mayor Kroll seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF APO EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES OF JULY 14, 2011

Mr. Hettwer motioned to approve the Executive Board Minutes of July 14, 2011. Mayor Kroll seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF APO EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES OF AUGUST 11, 2011

Mr. Schlingmann motioned to approve the Executive Board Minutes of August 11, 2011. Mr. Hettwer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF APO EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2011

Mayor Kroll motioned to approve the Executive Board Minutes of September 8, 2011. Ms. Symanietz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS RECEIVED SINCE SEPTEMBER 8, 2011

Mayor Kroll motioned to approve the bills received since September 8, 2011. Mr. Hettwer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR MAY, JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST AND 2011 YEAR-TO-DATE BUDGET STATUS

Ms. Berg motioned to approve the financial statements for May, June, July and August and 2011 Year-to-Date Budget Status. Mr. Libert seconded the motion. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

“MINNESOTA GO” TRANSPORTATION VISION & STATEWIDE MULTIMODAL PLAN:

Mark Nelson from Mn/DOT Central Office spoke about the “Minnesota GO” Transportation Vision, which is a 50-year visioning process to better align the transportation system with what Minnesotans expect for their quality of life, economy and natural environment. This is a vision for all forms of transportation (aeronautics, bike, pedestrian, vehicle, rail), and answers the question “what are we trying to achieve?” It does not answer the question “how will we do it?” Mr. Nelson summarized the process used to develop the vision and the three scenarios considered. Mr. Nelson described a variety of implications for different parts of the transportation system. The Guiding Principles will guide future policy and investment decisions for all forms of transportation and include:

- Leverage public investments to achieve multiple purposes
- Ensure accessibility
- Build to a maintainable scale
- Ensure regional connections
- Integrate safety
- Emphasize reliable and predictable options
- Strategically fix the system
- Use partnerships

The challenges and opportunities, which will impact transportation and the State in the coming decades, include:

- Aging population
- Urbanization
- Energy Shifts
- Automation
- Persistent Budget Challenges
- Health Care Costs
- Increased Global Competition
- Changing Work environment, Telecommunications and Access to Services
- Floods/Water Quality.

Mr. Nelson requested feedback on the draft vision, which will be available for a 30-day comment period, and invited members to attend the public hearing on October 4. Feedback may be given using the website <http://www.minnesotago.org>.

Questions presented to Mr. Nelson pertained to how Minnesota attracts people from other states, roadway capacity issues since St. Cloud area is growing rapidly, how money gets allocated to the St. Cloud APO area and other parts of the State, Northstar and how MnDOT will plan for interregional connections between urban areas (St. Cloud, Fargo/Moorehead, Rochester, Brainerd, Duluth, Twin Cities, etc.).

TRANSPORTATION RESOURCE CENTER TRAVEL OPTIONS PROGRAM

Ms. Shannon Tietz, the Mobility Manager with the Transportation Resource Center (TRC), a project of Tri-CAP, briefed the Board members about the transit services offered to the surrounding communities. The TRC, was instituted in 2008 and looks at how they could be more efficient in providing transportation, via existing methods or by volunteers, to medical appointments (including chemical dependency and adult daycare) for seniors and people with disabilities who have no other existing resources. The TRC phone number is a one click, one call resource center, and has the latest local transportation updates available, which covers Benton, Stearns, Morrison, Sherburne and Wright counties. (320-257-4456 or 877-717-1515 or www.tricap.org/TRC) All of their transportation programs use volunteer drivers when possible. When volunteer drivers are not available, private provider transport services are purchased. A New Freedom Program allows for partial reimbursement to volunteer drivers. Thirty-five thousand (35,000) rides were arranged last year with the seven volunteer driver programs and 40,000 rides are projected for 2011. Eventually, the TRC will need to become a financially self-sufficient in this program. Ms. Tietz commented on the great relationship they have with Metro Bus.

Ms. Tietz also spoke about the benefits and advantages of the Ride Share Program and the Ride Buddy Program. Informational packets regarding the Ride Share Program were available for Board members to take back to their communities or to their employers to help implement the Program. Ms. Tietz expressed her willingness to speak to local communities and agencies regarding the services offered in the Ride Share Program. A secure on-line data base is available for those interested in carpooling at www.TRCRideshare.org.

**CONSIDERATION OF APO EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATION REGARDING
2012/2013 BUDGET AND PLANNING WORK PROGRAM**

Mr. Mareck explained that this recommendation comes to the Policy Board with approval of the APO Personnel Committee and Executive Board. The proposed budget is \$552,975, which represents a 10.9% or \$67,838 decrease from the 2011 original budget. A key factor leading to the reduced 2012 budget proposal is the Executive Board's decision to leave the APO Transportation Planner position vacant. This position became vacant in April of this year when the APO Senior Transportation Planner resigned and the APO Transportation Planner was promoted to the Senior Planner position.

Mr. Mareck went on to say that based on recent discussions with Mn/DOT after the Executive Board meeting, he is suggesting a shift of 660 hours in the proposed 2012 Work Program from Member Assistance, Transit Planning and Transportation Coordination to 2040 Transportation Plan Development.

Three separate actions are requested of the Policy Board:

- 1) Approval of the Executive Board's recommended 2012/2013 budget,
- 2) Approval of the Executive Board's recommended 2012/2013 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), including suggested staff changes and
- 3) Approval of APO Resolutions allowing the Executive Director and Chair to execute necessary State and federal operating grant paperwork for the 2012 calendar year.

Mr. Lenzmeier motioned to approve the 2012/2013 Budget and Work Program as recommended by the Executive Board, including the three separate approval actions outlined by staff. Mr. Loso seconded the motion.

Mayor Kleis and Mr. Hontos voiced objection to the staff performance adjustment provision of the proposed 2012 budget. Discussion ensued regarding 2012 staff salary considerations in the City of St. Cloud and other APO member jurisdictions. Mr. Mareck indicated that he had contacted area city and county administrators and found that a variety of salary approaches were being used for 2012, from a complete salary freeze to providing step increases and COLAs. The proposed APO approach for 2012 assumes variable performance based adjustments ranging from 1 to 5 percent with no COLAs.

Mr. Libert motioned and Mr. Masters seconded to amend the original motion removing all APO salary increases from the 2012 budget. Mr. Hettwer stated that since APO staff are being asked to handle the same workload with one less person, he was in favor of the recommended performance based salary increases. The amended motion to remove all salary increases from the 2012 budget failed.

Mr. Landy motioned to amend the original motion to include 2012 salary increases for all APO staff totaling no more than 3 percent. Ms. Garven seconded the motion. The amended motion passed with one abstention.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Mareck reported the federal surface transportation authorization bill (SAFETEA LU), which expired in October of 2009, has been extended for an eighth time until March 31, 2012.

Mr. Mareck reminded the Board of an Airport meeting, sponsored by the Central Minnesota Transportation Alliance (CMTA), scheduled for Friday morning, Sept 23rd at the St. Cloud Regional Library.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Schmiesing adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.