

SAINT CLOUD AREA PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY BOARD
Thursday, January 10, 2019 – 5:00 p.m.
Waite Park City Hall

A regular meeting of the newly revised and newly created Saint Cloud Planning Organization Policy Board was held on Thursday, January 10, 2019 at 5 p.m. at Waite Park City Hall. Chair Jeff Goerger presided with the following members present:

Council Member Jeff Goerger	Saint Cloud
John Libert	Saint Cloud (Alternate for Paul Brandmire)
City Administrator Matt Staehling	Saint Cloud (Alternate for Mayor Kleis)
Mayor Rick Schultz	Saint Joseph
Mayor Ryan Fitzhum	Sartell
Council Member Nick Sauer	Sauk Rapids
Council Member Frank Theisen	Waite Park (Alternate for Mayor Miller)
Supervisor Jeff Westerlund	LeSauk Township
Commissioner Spencer Buerkle	Benton County (Alternate for Mr. Bauerly)
Commissioner Raeanne Danielowski	Sherburne County
Commissioner Joe Perske	Stearns County
Doug Diedrichsen	Metro Bus (Alternate for Ryan Daniel)

Also Present:

Brian Gibson	Exec Director, Saint Cloud APO
Joseph Miller	Saint Cloud APO
Alex McKenzie	Saint Cloud APO
Alison Henning	Saint Cloud APO
Dorothy Sweet	Saint Cloud APO
Kim Pettman	Community Member

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mr. Theisen motioned to approve the agenda, and Mr. Sauer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

Ms. Kim Pettman said she would like to see many people attend the Bike/Ped meeting at the Saint Cloud Library on January 22 from 2-3 p.m. She asked that we all take a walk around the city to see what it is like for the pedestrians. She encouraged having clear sidewalks to keep pedestrians safe because recently two pedestrians were injured due to unsafe sidewalks. She stated that there is no reason that pedestrians should risk their lives trying to get around the city. Even in the summertime, there are many close calls for the pedestrians. She said she would like to see some action taken regarding this. One easy solution would be to use pedestrian safety signs near crosswalks.

CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

Mr. Goerger asked if anyone wanted to remove anything from the Consent Agenda list. He noted that a revised and updated bills list was distributed to everyone at the meeting.

Mr. Sauer motioned to approve the Consent Agenda items, and Mr. Theisen seconded the motion. Motion carried. The Consent Agenda items included: Minutes for August 9, 2018 Executive Board, October 25, 2018 Policy Board, Bills List for October and November, and Proposed Bills List for December 2018 and January 2019, WACOSA

Contract, Pay Equity Report, Reimbursement Payment to City of Saint Cloud for CSAH 75 Corridor Study, Annual Resolutions, Declaration of Gifts, and the 2019 Board Meeting Calendar.

CONSIDERATION OF BYLAWS:

Mr. Gibson commented that with the approval of the new Joint Powers Agreement and the formation of a new Policy Board, the members are required to approve the rules (Bylaws) that they have agreed to abide by. It was noted that Mayor Fitzthum from Sartell was not previously involved in discussions about forming a new Policy Board, JPA and Bylaws. The question was raised and discussed whether we are required to include the term "Policy," to describe our board. Mr. Gibson said there was no federal regulation that required us to use the term "Policy Board"; ***however, it was decided that since the new Joint Powers Agreement, which the jurisdictions have agreed to, uses the term "Policy Board" that we should use that term to refer to our board.***

Mayor Schultz motioned to approve the new Bylaws, and Mr. Sauer seconded the motion. Motion carried, and passed unanimously.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Mr. Gibson announced that the new bylaws state that an election of officers shall occur annually at the first Policy Board meeting following January 1. Officers shall serve for a one-year term, and no officer shall serve more than two consecutive terms in any one office. The members discussed the rotation of officers and the perks and responsibilities of being Chair. The main responsibilities/perks of being Chair are leading the monthly meetings, the APO paying for traveling to Washington DC with the Executive Director to meet with congressional staff, attending the ATP meetings which rotate between Baxter and MnDot St. Cloud, and leading the evaluation process for the Executive Director. Mr. Georger announced that he was willing to continue on and serve as Chair if elected.

Election of Officers:

Chair: Jeff Westerlund
1st Vice-Chair: Rick Miller
2nd Vice-Chair: Jeff Goerger
3rd Vice-Chair: Joe Perske

After the election of officers, Mr. Westerlund took over as Chair of the meeting.

CONSIDERATION OF FY 2019-2023 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENT:

In the absence of Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Gibson summarized the major highlights which required the Amendment. The changes are as follows:

2019 – Sartell is adding on to the scope of a Safe Routes to School infrastructure improvements project. The project has since changed to improvements along Second Ave N, 5th Ave N, and 2-½ St N in Sartell, and the total cost of the project has increased to \$2,467,154 with the Federal contribution remaining the same. The local share has increased from \$49,794 to \$2,267,978. Fiscal constraint has been maintained

2020 – Metro Bus has decreased the amount for the purchase of three standard 35-ft replacement CNG fixed route buses. Fiscal constraint has been maintained.

2021 – Metro Bus has increased the number of less than 30 ft replacement CNG DAR replacement buses from one to three. Total project cost increased from \$460,000 to \$690,000. Fiscal constraint has been maintained.

2023 – Metro Bus has made several changes to projects currently programmed in FY 2023: An increase in total funding for operating assistance, preventative maintenance, paratransit operating, and Northstar Commuter operating, the deletion of a transit hubs project from the TIP, an increase in total funding allocated for facility improvements and additions, and the addition of the purchase of six less than 30 feet CNG DAR replacement buses. Fiscal constraint has been maintained for all of these changes. The TAC has recommended approval of the Amendment.

Mayor Schultz motioned to approve the FY 2019-2023 TIP Amendment, and Mr. Goerger seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENT TO THE STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN:

Mr. Gibson reviewed the many detailed changes, which are listed in the agenda packet. Changes included wording changes, addition of several disclaimers, descriptions, etc. The major change includes how the TIP is amended and modified. We are now proposing to follow the State of Minnesota’s rules for amendments vs. modifications. The TAC recommended approval of the SEP.

Mr. Goerger motioned to approve the Amendment to the Stakeholder Engagement Plan, and Mr. Sauer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF PURCHASE OF STREETLIGHT DATA:

Mr. Gibson reported that there are many companies that sell the movement of vehicle data. These companies buy this data and then sell it to transportation companies. MnDOT has a 2-year contract with Streetlight Data to access the valuable transportation data, and the APO would like to buy access to that data for \$5,000 per year. Assuming that MnDOT finds this information valuable after the two-year contract ends, it is hoped they will extend the contract, which means the APO could continue accessing and using that information. The members discussed the various types of information collected (i.e. average speed on a particular road, where vehicles came from, where vehicles went, changes in travel speed minute-by-minute, and specific data for heavy commercial trucks). While jurisdictions cannot access the information directly themselves, they can describe the information they require and the Transportation Planning Technician at the APO can access and gather the requested information. The APO will be able to gather and run as many reports as necessary for the jurisdictions.

Mr. Goerger motioned to approve the purchase of Streetlight Data, and Mr. Theisen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CONSIDER ANNUAL CONGRESSIONAL EDUCATION TRIP TO WASHINGTON DC, AND DISCUSSION OF REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PRIORITIES:

Mr. Gibson reported that the annual trip to Washington DC for the Executive Director and Chair is scheduled for the week of February 11. Our lobbyist, Kodiak Hill-Davis, is working on setting up the appointments. The APO typically pays the travel, food and lodging expenses for the Executive Director and the Chair. However, other Policy Board members are welcome to attend but will be at their own or their jurisdiction’s expense.

Mr. Staehling motioned to approve funding the Washington trip for the Executive Director and Chair, and Mr. Goerger seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The 2018 major priorities included Widening I-94 from Albertville to Saint Cloud, Widen TH 23 to four lanes, Develop Saint Cloud Regional Airport into a Regional Air Hub, and Connect Northstar Commuter Rail to Saint Cloud. Because significant progress has been made on the first three issues, Mr. Gibson suggested that we focus on Connecting the Northstar Commuter Rail to Saint Cloud. His reasons for focusing on Northstar include BNSF making substantial capacity upgrades on its tracks between Big Lake and Saint Cloud, Oil trains have been reduced substantially due to a pipeline providing some distribution of oil from the Bakken Field, Minnesota House Dist #14B has a new representative who has publically supported the extension of Northstar train to Saint Cloud, and growing support on Capitol Hill for the return of Congressional earmarks to help fund larger projects.

Several members felt additional priorities should be added to our list. Suggestions included: Continue requesting for the expansion of and widening of all sections of I-94, Listing upcoming projects included in our 25-yr plan, continued focus on the airport, beltway around Saint Cloud, and a Bridge across the Mississippi. ***The members voted on the number of projects to include on the Priority List and no one voted to have just one item on the priorities list. Most members wanted three or four on the list, in addition to Northstar and some felt it showed consistency on our part to continue to request these same priorities.***

OTHER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Gibson announced that Alex McKenzie recently received a Masters in Public Administration.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:52 p.m.