

**Saint Cloud Area Planning Organization
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
February 1, 2018**

A regular meeting of the Saint Cloud Area Planning Organization's (APO) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was held on Thursday, February 1, 2018 at Stearns County Public Works. Joseph Mueller, APO's Senior Planner, presided with the following members present:

Jodi Teich	Stearns County
Jon Halter	Sartell/SEH
Terry Wotzka	Sauk Rapids
Scott Zlotnick	Saint Cloud
Steve Foss	Saint Cloud
Steve Voss	MnDOT Dist. #3
Chris Byrd	Benton County
Jim Perez	Metro Bus
Nancy Lahr	Metro Bus
Randy Sabart	SEH/City of Saint Joseph
Kelvin Howieson	MnDOT Dist. #3
Joseph Mueller	Saint Cloud APO

Additionally, the following people were also in attendance:

Brian Gibson	Saint Cloud APO
Alex McKenzie	Saint Cloud APO
Dorothy Sweet	Saint Cloud APO

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 4, 2018:

Ms. Teich motioned and Mr. Zlotnick seconded the TAC meeting minutes of January 4, 2018.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

Mr. Mueller congratulated Ms. Teich and Mr. Byrd for awards recently given by the Minnesota County Engineers Association. Ms. Teich received the Highway Safety Achievement Award and Mr. Byrd received the Project of the Year Award for the "Up the Hill" project.

PRIORITIZE TIP STPBG FUNDING LIST:

Mr. Mueller reported that seven projects were submitted for 2022. The APO was just notified that we have a federal funding set-aside in the current STIP/TIP in fiscal year 2021 of \$287,420. Mr. Voss explained that this set-aside was set up last year because the APO did not program fully to its target in its FY 2020/2021 solicitation. MnDOT has advised the APO to program the \$287,420 remaining in FY 2021, in addition to our plans to

program fiscal years 2022 and 2023 with the fiscal year regional sub targets of \$1,970,880. He also stated that we can move projects up to 2021, which would create additional funds in 2022/2023. Mr. Wotzka said that in the past we had targets on expansion and preservation, but no one was aware of what the current targets were. Mr. Mueller and the APO staff scored the projects using the Technical worksheet with no consideration of equity. The categories included: Access & Mobility, System Connectivity, Multimodal, System Condition, Safety, Economic Vitality, Cost Justification. A score of 0=Low; 5=Medium; 10=High was used. Mr. Foss and others objected to using 0 as part of the scoring system and felt it would throw the scoring off, and instead suggested a scoring of 1, 2 and 3. In the past, the TAC members reviewed each project after scoring by APO staff and then raised or lowered the APO-ranked qualifications. Mr. Sabart felt that equity analysis was part of the ranking in the past. The projects are listed below:

Stearns Co. CSAH 75	Rehabilitate concrete pavement from 15th Ave in Waite Park to Park Ave. in St. Cloud along Division St.
Stearns Co. Co. Rd. 134	Resurfacing
St. Cloud Cooper Ave.S.	Conversion from rural type roadway to an urban roadway with 2 traffic lanes, bike lanes and sidewalks.
St. Cloud 22nd St. S	Conversion from rural type roadway to an urban roadway with 2 traffic lanes, bike lanes and sidewalks.
Sauk Rapids 2nd Ave.S.	Reconstruction with utilities improvements
Sartell 19th Ave. S.	Reconstruction with utilities improvements
Benton Co. CSAH 1	Resurfacing

Each project and its technical scoring was discussed and reviewed. Mr. Mueller responded to inquiries about several aspects of scoring on the projects. TAC members provided justification as to why some of the scoring factors should be increased. Mr. Wotzka felt the Sauk Rapids project provided connectivity to downtown Saint Cloud, and that it is a major collector. (Sauk Rapids/2nd Ave S: System Connectivity rating was increased to Medium). Mr. Voss said if projects involve several jurisdictions, it could be rated higher if it helps multiple communities. Mr. Halter advocated for increasing the Safety factor to more than medium, and suggested increasing connectivity. (Sartell/19 Ave S: System Connectivity rating increased to Medium and Safety rating increased to High). Mr. Voss explained the state scoring system and how it is used, and the fact that this is the ATP's scoring system. He stressed that this is a guide to use. Mr. Foss felt that St. Cloud's Cooper Avenue System Connectivity rating should be at least a Medium instead of Low. Mr. Wotzka agreed that the System Connectivity factor for Cooper, Sauk Rapids and Sartell should be upgraded to Medium. Mr. Gibson cautioned everyone that we should avoid tweaking the system to get what we want. Mr. Voss said no one size fits all. We should be able to document comments to show how technical bias changed. Mr. Halter expressed disappointment that the Sartell project was ranked last and felt it

should be moved up in ranking. Ms. Teich commented, and Mr. Byrd agreed that the TAC should show numerical scores and to keep the evaluation technical, and to let the Policy Board use other factors if they want to change the scoring or ranking. Mr. Byrd agreed with using a scoring of 1,2,3, but Ms. Teich felt that 1,2,3 scoring method was not enough. Mr. Voss suggested counting the number of High, Medium, and Low ratings, which members agreed with. After upgrading the suggested factors and applying that new rating system (1,2,3 instead of 0,5,10), Mr. Mueller announced that without considering equity as a factor, the top three projects did not change. Mr. Gibson reiterated that he wanted to use every dollar that we can. Ms. Teich stated that Stearns County CSAH 75 would probably be done before 2022 so that project's funding amount could be added to the total. Mr. Halter felt that in looking at the Multimodal factor, more value should be placed on "off road" projects. Mr. Teich added that in rural areas, most bikers want to ride on shoulders and not on trails. In rural areas, wider shoulders are as important as in cities. Mr. Byrd commented that our APO includes both rural and urban areas. The results of the scoring are listed below and have incorporated the changes:

Stearns County/CSAH 75: 5 High; 2 Med

Stearns/CR 134: 3 High; 4 Med

St. Cloud/Cooper Ave S: 3 High, 4 Med

Benton Co: 2 High, 4 Med, 1 Low

Sartell/19 Ave S: 2 High, 4 Med, 1 Low

Sauk Rapids/2nd Ave S: 1 High, 5 Med, 1 Low

St. Cloud/22nd St S: 2 High, 3 Med, 2 Low

Initially Mr. Halter motioned to approve projects CSAH 75 and Sartell 19th Ave, but Mr. Foss suggested Mr. Halter should rescind his motion because that would potentially use all the funds. Ms. Teich said CSAH 75, CR 134, Sartell and Benton County projects would give approximately 55.7% funding using overall project costs. Mr. Zlotnick commented that at 60% funding four projects could be done. Mr. Wotzka clarified that he was representing Sauk Rapids at this TAC meeting, and said CSAH 75, Cooper Ave and Sartell would give 72% funding and three jurisdictions would be involved. **Mr. Halter then motioned to fund Stearns Co/CSAH 75, St. Cloud/Cooper, and Sartell at 72% each and to incorporate the set-aside funds into the funding. Mr. Foss seconded the motion. Motion carried. Mr. Voss abstained from voting.** Mr. Howieson stated the funding for each project as follows: Stearns County CSAH 75: \$641,120; St. Cloud Cooper Avenue: \$1,457,080; Sartell 19th Avenue South: \$2,130,980.

Ms. Teich motioned and Mr. Byrd seconded using Mr. Mueller's point system for the remaining four projects. Motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS/OPEN FLOOR:

Mr. Gibson announced that at the last Executive Board, the members started discussing the ring road concept for Saint Cloud area. During the public input sessions for the Long Range Transportation Plan, several members of the public raised the issue of a ring road. At the January Executive Board Meeting, Mayor Miller raised concerns about land being sold off as more and more farmers are aging and are giving up farming. Mayor Miller expressed concern about land development and losing land if the ring road was going to take place. After considerable discussion and members sharing their recollection of this discussion from about ten years ago, Mr. Gibson said he planned to recommend to the Board that if they feel the ring road is a priority, that we should do a regional beltline concept plan and get this on paper. Mr. Foss expressed his appreciation to Mr. Gibson for sharing this with the TAC.

Mr. Voss announced the deadline of February 5 for all Corridors of Commerce project ideas. Ms. Teich said the Highway 23 project from Richmond to Paynesville was submitted. The APO has already submitted a letter of support for this project.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.