

**OMAHA-COUNCIL BLUFFS METROPOLITAN AREA PLANNING AGENCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING**

Minutes
October 30, 2015

The Board of Directors met at the MAPA offices, 2222 Cuming Street, Omaha. Chairman Kohn called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

A. ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTIONS

Members/Officers Present

Patrick Bloomingdale (representing Clare Duda) (Left at 2:25 p.m.)
Ben Gray
Ron Kohn

MAPA Secretary/Treasurer, Douglas County
Omaha City Council
IA Small Cities/Counties Representative (Mills County Board of Supervisors)
Deputy Chief of Staff, City of Omaha
Sarpy County Commissioner
Mayor, City of Bellevue
Mayor, City of Council Bluffs

Cassie Paben (representing Jean Stothert)
Tom Richards
Rita Sanders
Matt Walsh (arrived at 1:40 p.m.)

Members/Officers Absent

Clare Duda
Tom Hanafan
Doug Kindig

Douglas County Commissioner
Pottawattamie County Board of Supervisors
NE Small Cities/Counties Representative (Mayor, City of La Vista)

Guests

Ralph Batenhorst
Jason Carbee
Justin Luther
Mary Jane Truemper

HDR
HDR
FHWA
Citizen

MAPA Staff

Christina Brownell
Mike Helgerson

Sue Cutsforth
Karna Loewenstein

Melissa Engel
Ashley Myers

Michael Felschow
Greg Youell

B. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES of the September 24, 2015 meeting – (Action)

MOTION by Richards, SECOND by Sanders to approve the minutes of the September 24, 2015 meeting of the Board of Directors.

AYES: Bloomingdale, Gray, Kohn, Paben, Richards, Sanders

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

C. APPROVAL OF FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES AND REPORT – (Action)

Mr. Bloomingdale reported that the Finance Committee met on October 21, 2015 and approved bills for October, reviewed August financial statements and approved contract payments. Items were forwarded to the Board of Directors for approval.

MOTION by Sanders, SECOND by Paben to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2015 Finance Committee meeting.

AYES: Bloomingdale, Gray, Kohn, Paben, Richards, Sanders

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

Approved by _____
Patrick Bloomingdale, Secretary/Treasurer

MOTION CARRIED.

D. AGENCY REPORTS

1. Monthly Report – (Info)

Mr. Greg Youell provided an update to the Board on MAPA activities for the month of October. The new ozone standards were released by the EPA and the new standard has been set at 70 ppb. The Omaha-Council Bluffs region is currently at 67 ppb. The Senate passed the “Drive Act” (Senate’s long term bill) and the House has just voted out of the committee a 3 year transportation bill with provisions to extend to 6 years if certain funding requirements are met. Some concerns with the bill: the STP funding for the Omaha metro area was reduced by nearly a million dollars and bridge funding that are not on the National Highway System. Mr. Youell provided an update on the Veteran’s grant and the One-Call Center. Metro Transit has said they want to be participate and help lead this project. MAPA also met with the Director of the VA hospital and received their commitment of support to the project. Mr. Youell provided an update on Douglas County projects, 180th Street project (\$30 million) is currently programed to be obligated in 2019. A recent meeting convened by FHWA is moving the project forward again. The University of Nebraska-Omaha is considering expanding their Allwine prairie preserve so MAPA will be meeting with Douglas County and the City of Omaha to discuss 144th Street and the alternatives for possible road alignment. MAPA will potentially be requesting a letter from the Board to the Governor to follow up on the pass through funding that was received from the Department of Economic Development. Mr. Youell welcomed Councilman Gray to the Board of Directors and announced the departure of MAPA staff member Ms. Ashley Myers.

2. Heartland 2050 Report – (Info)

Ms. Karna Loewentsein provided an update to the Board on Heartland 2050 activities. The project is currently convening 8 working groups on a monthly basis with around 250 volunteers. The Core Group is also meeting quarterly and consist of the MAPA Council of Officials President, the Chairman of the Executive Committee, MAPA’s Executive Director, seven Implementation Committee Chairs, a representative from the Mayor of Omaha’s office and the Heartland 2050 Coordinator. The purpose of the core group is to ensure face to face communication between representatives of the H2050 project and the President of the Council of Officials. Council President, Mayor Doug Kindig, has indicated that he would like to see the Council take a bigger role in the project. Implementation Committees are developing common definitions, identifying current projects going on in the region and reviewing the action plan drafts. MAPA has submitted two major funding request and expects to hear back within the next 90 days.

3. Metro Area Travel Improvement Study (MTIS) Presentation – (Info)

Mr. Ralph Batenhorst, Senior Vice President at HDR, presented to the Board an update on the MTIS. Mr. Batenhorst provided the Board with an Executive Summary of Phase 1. The purpose of MTIS is to:

- Develop a comprehensive, multi-modal plan for the interstate and major roadways in the region
- Prioritize projects for short-term, mid-term and long-term
- Consider shortfalls in existing sources of local, state and federal funding

MTIS is a performance based planning study and links planning/programming with system performance. There are 22 performance measures and each performance measure has a target. The study area matches MAPA’s transportation management area but also includes north-west portion of Mills County. Collectively the MTIS looks at close to 500 miles of roadway.

Phase 1 identified the data-needs. Phase 1b collected additional data to get a comprehensive assessment of travel patterns, operations and infrastructure, identified the needs within the study area and ended with looking at potential strategies to address those issues.

Phase 2 is anticipated to take about 15 months. Phase 2 will develop strategies and improvements for each corridor, evaluate the feasibility and viability of those. All of the options will then be packaged together in many different combinations and will include stakeholder input to develop. Each strategy packet will be tested using various modeling techniques and a matrix will be developed to see how well they perform against the goals and performance measures. Using public and stakeholder input a preferred regional strategy package will be selected.

Phase 3 will develop the ultimate plan, implementation plan and prioritize projects as short-term, mid-term and long-term and the funding plan to accompany that.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Mary Jane Truemper, citizen, addressed the Board regarding her concern over the Ozone regulations from the EPA and our Region is so close to reaching non-attainment. Ms. Truemper suggested that we look into what the penalties are for being in non-attainment and how that would impact our region (taxes, economic development etc).

F. CONSENT AGENDA – (Action)

None.

G. OLD BUSINESS

1. CONTRACT AMENDMENTS – (Action)

Mr. Greg Youell presented to the Board for approval the contract amendments listed below.

a. South Omaha Brownfields

- i. Benesch Hazardous Substance (Brownfields) – Extension of time, scope and amount change
- ii. Benesch Petroleum Assessment (Brownfields) – Extension of time, scope and amount change
- iii. Metro Community College Hazardous Substance – Extension of time and scope change
- iv. EPA Brownfields Hazardous Substance – Extension of time and scope change
- v. EPA Brownfields Petroleum Assessment – Extension of time and scope change

The Brownfields project is being expanded and extended in length in order to utilize all of the funding. The amendment will extend the time and expand the scope beyond the original boundaries. The amount for the hazardous substance portion of the project is \$362,500 and the Petroleum Assessment is \$292,500.

MOTION by Richards, SECOND by Bloomingdale to approve amendments to the South Omaha Brownfields contract.

AYES: Bloomingdale, Gray, Kohn, Paben, Richards, Sanders, Walsh

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

b. Metro Area Travel Improvement Study (MTIS) Supplemental Agreement – Additional \$200,000 for Phase 2

The estimated amount for Phase 2 of the project has increased by \$200,000 to a total of \$1.6 million. This funding will come from the Department of Roads and utilize MAPA's apportionment.

MOTION by Paben, SECOND by Gray to approve the MTIS Supplemental Agreement.

AYES: Bloomingdale, Gray, Kohn, Paben, Richards, Sanders, Walsh

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

c. Nebraska Community Energy Alliance (NCEA) Interlocal Agreement amended and restated

The NCEA group has expanded from the original 9 cities to 22 members. With the expansion, there has been a difficulty getting a quorum at meetings to handle business items. This amendment revises the Interlocal agreement and creates an Executive Board so that officers and two at large members can conduct business.

MOTION by Gray, SECOND by Walsh to approve the amendment to the NCEA Interlocal Agreement.

AYES: Bloomingdale, Gray, Kohn, Paben, Richards, Sanders, Walsh

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

2. FY 2016 – 2019 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENT #1 – (Action)

Mr. Michael Felschow presented to the Board the first amendment to the FY 2016 – 2019 TIP Amendments. There are 37 adjustments over 5 different amendments. The reason for the significant number of amendments is primarily due to the number of projects that were not completed last year.

Amendment 1 will move safety funding from FY 15 to FY 16 and includes moving 4 projects to the new TIP and moving funding sources. The next category is TAP funding, the Omaha Pedestrian Bridge is moving forward. The Safe Routes to School Projects has been moved into the FY 16 TIP. The remaining 9 projects are STP funding projects being moved into existing TIP so the funding can be expensed. Other amendments to projects include: The STP advanced construction project in the City of Omaha; STP shifting pass phases (Omaha Signal Project, 120th Street, 168th Street, the 2nd 168th Street); STP right of way for 66th Street & Giles. Due to the shifting of funding there was \$12.9 million that was shifted from FY 15 to FY 16 and this amount needed to be reflected in the FY 16 TIP beginning balance.

Amendment 2 is the BRT project, \$1 million dollars was awarded and that needs to be transferred to 5307 funding so Metro can pull down the funding.

Amendment 3 is the \$1.6 million for the MTIS, this must be in the TIP before funding can be expensed.

Amendment 4 is for the TIGER 6 project money that was awarded in FY 2014. The funds (\$14.9 million) were not expensed so they must be moved to the existing TIP, along with \$1.4 million that was awarded in TAP funding.

Amendment 5 is all transit projects and transit funding. Four of the projects are Metro's projects to realign the projects to match with funding. The remaining projects listed were adjusted due to a reduction in 5310 funding.

MOTION by Paben, SECOND by Sanders to approve the 2016 – 2019 TIP Amendment #1.

AYES: Bloomingdale, Gray, Kohn, Paben, Richards, Sanders, Walsh

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

3. 2040 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (LRTP) AMENDMENT – (Action)

Mr. Mike Helgersen presented 2040 LRTP Amendments to the Board for approval. The amendment will correct an error in the table listing the TIP projects.

MOTION by Gray, SECOND by Paben to approve the 2040 LRTP Amendment.

AYES: Gray, Kohn, Paben, Richards, Sanders, Walsh

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

4. SARPY COUNTY TRANSIT MOU AMENDMENT – (Action)

Mr. Greg Youell presented to the Board the Sarpy County Transit MOU amendment for approval. The amount has increased to \$135,000 for the project. The Dept of Roads found additional federal funding and MAPA and Metro have committed to \$1,000 each to cover the additional match of \$2,000.

MOTION by Richards, SECOND by Gray to approve the Sarpy County Transit MOU Amendment.

AYES: Gray, Kohn, Paben, Richards, Sanders, Walsh

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

H. NEW BUSINESS

None.

I. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

None.

J. DISCUSSION

None.

K. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Kohn adjourned the meeting at 2:33 p.m.