

Citizens' Advisory Council Minutes

Date: Thursday, July 9, 2015, 4:35 p.m.

Location: MAPA Offices, Omaha, NE – Lobby Conference Room

In Attendance:

Cindi Goff
Robert Hamer
Dan Park
Joe Soucie
Steve Ziemba

MAPA Staff:

Jeff Spiehs
Megan Walker

1. Introductions

2. Approval of Minutes (Action Item) (Attachment)

There was not a meeting quorum and minutes from the June 11, 2015 meeting were not formally approved.

3. 2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Comments (Discussion Item)

Walker asked for suggestions for clarity on the TIP review process. Among the suggestions were:

- Compile a list of frequently asked questions with the answers and have them available at the meetings to give the public an idea of what types of information is being sought during the process
- Provide a list of projects that have been completed and projects that are upcoming
- Advertise TTAC meeting dates for the public
- More news media involvement; Creighton and UNO newspapers; Omaha.com

4. Heartland 2050 Implementation Update (Discussion Item)

Spiehs told the Committee the Heartland 2050 vision has been created. Last fall a number of committees worked on action plans with goals to accomplish the vision. Recently the public was invited to apply for a position on the Executive Committee. 65 applied and 32 are now part of the Committee where they come with a great skill set, diversity, knowledge and ethnic diversity. The Executive Committee's responsibility will be keeping the vision on task and making decisions from the Implementation Committees on their strategies and actions.

Wednesday, July 15, 2015, is the first Summit of the project to be held at the UNO Thompson Alumni Center. 220 are registered and through a facilitated process, they'll look at what strategies need to be looked at first. The newly-formed Executive Committee will be introduced.

Spiehs continued telling the Committee there is funding in the Unified Planning Work Program for FY 2016 that allows communities to use these funds for projects that work into the Heartland 2050 vision. Budgeted for FY 2016 is \$40,000 for Nebraska and \$10,000 for Iowa with the call for projects to happen in the fall. The hope is funding will increase over the years so more assistance can be given.

Cities and counties have been asked to sign a Heartland Regional Compact which is a voluntary compact in the spirit of being good neighbors where they agree with the values of Heartland 2050 and its goals. Seven counties and 28 cities have signed the Compact.

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5. 2050 LRTP Public Involvement Strategies (Discussion Item)

Walker said the 2050 Transportation Plan will be in line with the 2050 Heartland new land use with ideas to help input goals as well as going to the communities for their input. The MTIS Study (Metro Area Travel Improvement Study) will be providing much data that will be taken to the communities as well. They're always looking for ways to involve more people and diversify the groups and this process will be building off of the Heartland 2050 methods, as well. It was suggested that MAPA contact HDR for possible new suggestions in reaching more groups of people.

Walker said with public involvement the concern is how to get people to connect to the issues, to care and to be focused. Spiehs said they have reached out to Denver, Sacramento and San Francisco for public involvement ideas and Walker said the APA also has suggestions.

Walker said the 2050 Transportation Plan will have more time and resources to get ideas about engaging the public. They'll plan carefully on facilitating meetings where it's easier for the public to attend – time of day and location. For the 2040 Plan, public meetings held in coffee shops had a better attendance. Goff suggested contacting the Mid-Town Business Association who will in turn forward information to their businesses with other associations doing the same.

6. Next Meeting

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 13, 2015.

7. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.