

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

Minutes
September 29, 2016

The Board of Directors met at the MAPA offices, 2222 Cuming Street, Omaha. Chairwoman Sanders called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

A. ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTIONS

Members/Officers

Present

Patrick Bloomingdale	MAPA Secretary/Treasurer, Douglas County
Clare Duda	Douglas County Commissioner
Doug Kindig	NE Small Cities/Counties Representative (Mayor, City of La Vista)
Ron Kohn	IA Small Cities/Counties Representative (Mills County Board of Supervisors)
Tom Richards	Sarpy County Commissioner
Rita Sanders	Mayor, City of Bellevue
Cassie Paben (Alt. rep Mayor Stothert)	Deputy Chief of Staff, City of Omaha
Matt Walsh	Mayor, City of Council Bluffs

Members/Officers Absent

Ben Gray	Omaha City Council
Tom Hanafan	Pottawattamie County Board of Supervisors

Guests

Brandie Neeman	Nebraska Department of Roads
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MAPA Staff

Christina Brownell	Sue Cutsforth	Melissa Engel	Karna Loewenstein
Greg Youell			

B. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES of the August 31, 2016 meeting – (Action)

MOTION by Richards, SECOND by Paben to approve the minutes of the August 31, 2016 meeting of the Board of Directors.

AYES: Duda, Kindig, Kohn, Paben, Richards, Sanders, Walsh

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Mr. Patrick Bloomingdale reported that the Finance Committee met on September 21, 2016 and approved bills for August, reviewed July financial statements and approved contract payments. Items were forwarded to the Board of Directors for approval.

MOTION by Kohn, SECOND by Walsh to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2016 Finance Committee meeting.

AYES: Duda, Kindig, Kohn, Paben, Richards, Sanders, Walsh

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

Approved by _____
Patrick Bloomingdale, Secretary/Treasurer

D. AGENCY REPORTS

1. Build Nebraska Act Presentation – (Info)

Ms. Brandie Neeman, Nebraska Department of Roads, provided an update to the Board on the Build Nebraska Act. The Build Nebraska Act fully committed the first 10 years of a 20 year funding package. The Transportation Innovation Act was passed this year and provided an additional revenue source for infrastructure in the state. Kyle Schneweis, Director of NDOR, had conversations the Governor, stakeholders, community members, out-of-state DOT employees and wanted to gain insight on what the agency was doing right and what could be done better. Stakeholders and members of the public wanted to be more involved in the decision making process. These conversations helped the Department of Roads revise and rethink how capital improvement projects are selected. An Innovation Task Force was developed from representatives throughout the state, whom were appointed by the Governor, to help challenge NDOR to innovate new strategies. One piece was the project selection process and the prioritization for capital improvements. NDOR provided a basic proposal to the task force and established that the agency needed to develop a process that not only look at projects from the engineering side (using only a technical analysis to rank them against one another) but also need to include an economic assessment and include stakeholders to find out what they want and need. Highlights of the process:

- Over 2,000 Nebraskans participated in the Public Participation process.
- Over \$300 million is being invested in 8 construction projects
- Beginning design on 12 projects
- Beginning planning on 2 large projects, these projects improve safety, promote economic growth and expand the Expressway system
- 100% of the Expressway system will be in design, planning, or under construction

2. Monthly Report – (Info)

Mr. Greg Youell provided an update to the Board on MAPA activities for the month of September. In staffing, Ms. Lynn Dittmer has accepted a position with a consulting firm and her last day at MAPA will be October 20. Mr. Chuck Karpf has been meeting with communities to explore opportunities for housing projects. MAPA will be applying for the Nebraska Housing Trust Fund through N-DED next spring. MAPA has received strong interest from Waterloo, Valley, Blair and Herman for owner-occupied rehabilitation projects. The agency will be replying to an RFP from Council Bluffs to provide Home Inspection services on approximately 10-15 homes for CDBG rehab. The South Omaha Brownfields project close date is September 30, 2016. MAPA is exploring a partnership on a grant application to address workforce issues in the Brownfields area. MAPA would administer the grant, if awarded. MAPA has been working for a number of years with Whispering Roots and recently received word that they along with 75 North Corporation received a grant for \$315,000 from EDA to support their hydroponic agriculture system in North Omaha. MAPA intends to provide the administration to assist with that project. MAPA is working with Carson and Macedonia on Downtown Revitalization (DTR) applications and Hancock for a wastewater application. MAPA staff teamed up with UNO Center for Public Affairs Research (CPAR) and presented to DoCo Environmental Services to work a Comp Plan but were not selected. Mr. Youell provided an update on recent media and news coverage for 'Little Steps. Big Impact.' project. Mr. Youell and Mayor Sanders attended the NARC Conference in South Bend, Indiana.

3. Heartland 2050 Report – (Info)

Ms. Karna Loewenstein provided an update to the Board on Heartland 2050 (H2050) activities. H2050 has named Tim O'Brien, Director of Economic Development OPPD, to serve as vice-chair on the Executive Committee. Ms. Spellman is the current Chair and her two year volunteer period will expire June 30, 2017. Mr. O'Brien will take over as Chair in June 2017. Mr. O'Brien served as chair of the Infrastructure Committee. The Broadly Speaking event was held on September 15 with Zach Manheimer, twenty-two leaders under 40 gathered at the House of Loom to learn from Mr. Manheimer. They were encouraged to be active, get engaged as leaders and not be passive stakeholders. Due to severe weather, the evening event had a smaller turnout than expected with around 100 in attendance. Mayor Sanders suggested that it would be a great event to bring to each city. Ms. Loewenstein updated the Board on the upcoming trip to Salt Lake City in October. There will be 23 attendees and have a very diverse group (planning, public works, philanthropy, developments & engineering sectors etc). The team will be on the ground for two days and experience

public transit in Salt Lake City and hope to develop relationships that will further future collaboration and interaction with the team.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT –

None.

F. CONSENT AGENDA –

The Board considered Consent Agenda items listed below for approval.

1. Contract Final Payments – Douglas County GIS – NIROC Project - \$8,000
2. Contract Amendments – Heartland Family Services – Extension of Time

MOTION by Richards, SECOND by Duda to approve all items listed on the Consent Agenda.

AYES: Duda, Kindig, Kohn, Paben, Richards, Sanders, Walsh

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

MOTION CARRIED

G. OLD BUSINESS

1. TTAC Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STPBG) Policy Guide Amendment – (Action)

Ms. Karna Loewenstein presented to the Board for approval an Amendment to the STPBG policy guide to include sub-allocation of funding to the Heartland 2050 program for projects submitted and approved annually through the TIP process. This allocation would seek funding for regional planning projects and programs for the implementation of strategies identified in the Heartland 2050 Action Plan. The funding is from STP, staff has worked with NDOR and IDOT to collaborate on the allocation, \$250,000 for Nebraska and \$80,000 for Iowa. A call for projects would be put out in 2016 and funds would be allocated based on a documented project selection process. Entities within the MPO would be eligible to apply. Projects would go through TTAC for recommendation and would then come to the Board for final approval. Mr. Richards asked if this funding was new or would come from existing projects. Mr. Youell clarified that this funding would be a set-aside from existing STP funds, Nebraska receives about a \$15 million allocation every year and currently has a balance of over \$50 million. Mr. Youell also explained to the Board that there is a major concern around the challenges of getting through federal-aid process and concerns around losing some of this funding in the future if unused.

MOTION by Paben, SECOND by Kohn to approve the STPBG Policy Guide Amendment.

AYES: Duda, Kindig, Kohn, Paben, Richards, Sanders, Walsh

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

H. NEW BUSINESS

1. Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form – (Action)

Mr. Youell presented to the Board for approval the recommendation that each board member read and sign the Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form annually. Board Members would sign the form each year and agree to disclose any conflict of interest. Mr. Youell clarified to the Board that Ms. Jennifer Taylor (MAPA's Legal Counsel) defined a conflict of interest as something that impacts someone's personal interest or personal business.

MOTION by Kindig, SECOND by Duda to approve the recommendation that each board member read and sign the Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form for LPAs annually.

AYES: Duda, Kindig, Kohn, Paben, Richards, Sanders, Walsh

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

I. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

None.

J. DISCUSSION

None.

K. ADJOURNMENT

Chairwoman Sanders adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.