

RPA-18 Policy/Technical Committee
Minutes of January 8, 2020 Meeting

11:00 a.m.

The RPA-18 Policy and Transportation Technical Committees met on January 8, 2020, in the Metro Building, 2222 Cuming Street, Omaha, Nebraska. John Rasmussen called the meeting to order at 11:00am.

PRESENT

Policy Committee

Charles Parkhurst
Ron Kohn

Shelby County Supervisor
Glenwood Mayor

Technical Committee

Steven Struble
Cory Gaston
Brandon Burmeister
John Rasmussen
Perry Cook

Harrison County Engineer
Mills County Engineer
Shelby County Engineer
Pottawattamie County Engineer
Glenwood Public Works

Staff/Non-Voting Members

Michael Helgerson
Travis Halm
James Boerner

Metropolitan Area Planning Agency
Metropolitan Area Planning Agency
Metropolitan Area Planning Agency

1. Approval of Minutes

Parkhurst called for approval of the minutes.

MOTION by Rasmussen

SECOND by Struble

2. LRTP 2040: (Discussion)

Michael Helgerson updated the committee on the LRTP 2040 update. He noted that this was an action item on the agenda but no action was needed today.

Helgerson noted that Iowa DOT is currently reviewing the plan and is making their comments and that it would be up for approval in February.

Helgerson stated the last process left is the "Fiscal Constraint" section which details funding forecasts moving into the future. These programmed projects would be consistent with the TIP for five years out.

3. FY2020 TIP Amendment

Travis Halm presented a TIP amendment to split two Harlan projects that were previously one project in TPMS.

Halm noted the two projects were for welcome signs into Harlan, and for decorative streetlighting on 6th and 7th Streets in Harlan, and that the projects would be split for administrative purposes.

Halm noted that TPMS is being recreated and that this process normally would have come from TPMS.

Helgerson added that they requested Iowa DOT to make the changes in the meantime.

Helgerson noted this STBG funding was swapped from TAP.

Gene Gettys, City of Harlan, noted that these projects have been in the works for four years.

Helgerson added that the funding types dictated why this split was taking place.

Gettys said he hopes that this change is the last hurdle to overcome prior to construction on this project.

Steven Struble inquired why these projects were separate.

Gettys added that the letting would happen in the spring for lighting.

John Rasmussen, Pottawattamie County, inquired whether signage was in the right-of-way, and Gettys confirmed that three of four signs were located in highway ROW.

MOTION by Rasmussen

SECOND by Struble.

Motion Carries.

4. STBG & TAP Applications: (Discussion)

Helgerson handed out documents related to the STBG and TAP selection process, along with a document prepared by John Rasmussen, Pottawattamie County.

Rasmussen stated that when he is spending money from the RPA that it's a small portion of his overall funding, and that it is currently holding up other funding when it is in holding patterns.

Rasmussen stated that he wants a faster and more definitive process, which would allow funding decisions to be made quicker than the current application process.

Steven Struble said this proposal fit with what he intends the process to be. He added that programming a five year construction plan is challenging when certain projects are stuck in particular years when RPA is four years planned out, while counties are five years out.

Helgerson noted that leftover funding with the second application process needs to be decided, including the option of "off-the-top" funding.

Helgerson said that if everyone simply programs all funding, that the second round doesn't exist.

Helgerson added that there are questions how small communities fit in, along with how they work together with counties.

John Rasmussen said that he spends more than half a million on local communities, and that he doesn't necessarily see a need for them at the table outside of Harlan and Glenwood, based on the other cities, especially since those cities' sub-allocation goes into the county total as well.

Helgerson added that this has not always been the consensus among members of the RPA which is the cause for concern with this idea.

Struble added that this is how he wants things to be processed, along with a requirement that counties work with small cities, especially those under 5,000 (whether very small or at 4,995).

Rasmussen stated that some laws and rules have changed based upon jurisdiction within communities, which changed after current RPA bylaws were created.

Helgerson noted that the first RPA projects were programmed in 1997.

Struble added that some of the first RPA meetings took place in 1992.

Helgerson stated he sees no issue with this proposal if everyone is clear in articulating how small communities are at the table.

5. TPMS Changes: (Information)

Travis Halm, MAPA explained that Iowa DOT is currently undergoing a complete overhaul for the TPMS project database.

Halm noted that the RPA administration would be able to make changes to TPMS projects which was previously not a possible option, which is positive since some errors have taken place in the previous TPMS system.

Helgerson stated that there has been a need for RPA staff to edit projects in TPMS but there hasn't been the option for that to take place.

Halm also noted that there are more streamlined ways to see County Five Year Plans, along with some other streamlined processes that are slowly being presented.

6. Next Meeting: (Information)

The next meeting of the RPA is scheduled for February 12 at 11:00 am.

7. Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 11:52 am.