

TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Friday Sep 16, 2022

Metropolitan Area Planning Agency
2222 Cuming Street, Omaha, NE 68102
402-444-6866

MINUTES

In attendance:

Voting Members

Pat Dowse (City of La Vista)
Todd Pfitzer (City of Omaha)
Dan Kutilek (Douglas County)
Craig Wacker (NDOT)
Maurice Hinchey (NDOT)
Damion Stern (NDOT)
Alex Evans (City of Papillion)
Bryan Guy (City of Omaha)
*Jeff Reissleman (City of Omaha)
Joe Soucie (City of La Vista)
*Derek Miller (City of Omaha)
Lauren Cencic (Metro)
Krista Wassenaar (City of Omaha)

Non Voting Members

Jeremy Williams (HDR)
Jessica Smith (Benesch)
Matt Selinger (JEO)
*Lee Myers (AARP)
Katie Salerno (Olsson)
*Justin Luther (FHWA)
*Dave Vermillion (City of Council Bluffs)
Joan Green (EAG)

MAPA

Carlos Morales
Jim Boerner
*Travis Halm
Lindsey Button
Michael Blank
Michael Helgerson

** Attended virtually. Voting members are not eligible to vote while attending virtually and do not count for quorum.*

Todd Pfitzer called the meeting to order at 10:03am.
Quorum was not met.

Action Items

For TTAC Approval

A. Approval of the Minutes from the August 19, 2022 meeting

Quorum was not met, so this item was not discussed.

Recommendations to MAPA's Board of Directors

B. [Amendment 1 to the FY2023 Transportation Improvement Program](#)

Carlos Morales presented Amendment 1, through which the Cities of Omaha, Council Bluffs, La Vista, Papillon, and NDOT seek Control Number Updates, Funding Adjustments, Phase Adjustments, and Project Additions. No vote was taken as quorum was not met.

Discussion Items

C. NDOT Systemic Safety Planning Presentation

MAPA [Jim Boerner]: NDOT has announced two programs:

1. 28' Top Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Funding is available. Eligible roads and HSIP funded safety improvements were presented. Application process involves a request submitted in NDOT 530 through MAPA, which will be reviewed by the NDOT Highway Safety Engineer. Applications must include a cost breakdown provided showing HSIP eligible costs. HSIP funds are provided at an 80/20 split.
2. Pedestrian Signal Replacement with RRFB - eligible for direct replacement of hardware only, over 2 or 3 lane roads (4 to 5 lanes would require further study). Safety study is not required, however consideration of the current crossing configuration and appropriateness of RRFB requested. Stern indicated that NDOT is coming up with a shortlist of projects where they will be updating signals. Pfitzer mentioned that Omaha has numerous signals that are in need of replacement, so this program will be highly beneficial.

D. Project Selection Committee Update

MAPA [Carlos Morales]: Morales presented an update on MAPA's internal discussions on committee structuring and project selection. A chart of the existing committee structure was provided. The plan at this time is to create a single unified project selection committee, composed of members from TTAC, CTC, and RPAC. This would reduce the total number of meetings required for project selection, and would look at the full funding spectrum, with the goal of having a more diverse and inclusive body of members involved in project selection. Currently MAPA is considering representatives from each of the three committees, with additional consideration to technical experience, bike-ped experience, transit experience, etc. Pfitzer noted that once you have a group over approximately 10 members, scheduling is difficult, proposing that this committee be no more than 10-12 individuals, and that terms of service for members must be established. Helgerson noted that MAPA generally tries to make sure committees with key deliverables are no more than 15 members for this reason. MAPA's goal for this restructuring is to limit the burden on committee members by reducing the total number of meetings and time commitment requirements.

Pfitzer noted that this committee should ensure equitable representation, possibly with proportional representation of the metro area, leading to more representation from Omaha. Helgerson stated that ultimately this will be in bylaws, but MAPA is in line with this idea. At this time MAPA is still brainstorming and getting initial thoughts and suggestions as to how this committee should be structured and how project selection should be conducted moving forward. Ultimately MAPA will propose a few options on committee structure and bylaws, which would be presented and approved by both TTAC and RPAC.

Next call for projects [Carlos Morales]: Current STBG, TAP, and 5310 programs are full through 2028. Developing the new committee structure and project selection guidelines will likely take until early summer 2023. **MAPA is planning to hold off on calling for projects until fall 2023.**

Pfitzer indicated that he will need to have a meeting with NDOT and MAPA to discuss the current MTIS plan and how that will be integrated over the next 10 years with City initiatives. Helgerson indicated that initial meetings have been held, but coordination on discretionary grants will need to be built upon.

Guy asked if there has been clarification on the federal funding bill since the last call for projects. Helgerson stated that there has been an increase in funding of approximately 20% in Nebraska, and approximately \$500,000 in funding to the Iowa side. TAP nearly doubled based on set aside increasing and the overall amount allocated based on population. STBG grew about 20-25%. There is also a new Carbon Reduction program that will be coming to the MAPA region. This funding has more of a narrow focus but can be paired with other projects and funding. Over the next calendar year MAPA will be working on a carbon reduction strategy. Wacker indicated that NDOT has a consultant that will be putting together a list of project types that would be priority for the state for this carbon reduction funding stream.

Challenges regarding the increased cost of projects due to inflation were discussed.

Helgerson emphasized the need for coordination between formula and discretionary funding, through proactive project selection, which will be easier to achieve with this unified selection committee and selection process. One aspect will be examining how we can use regional funding in a way that sets us up for success in other spaces.

E. Member Agency Updates

Alex Evans [Papillion]: Intersection improvements ongoing. HAWK beacon in downtown Papillion has been completed.

La Vista [Pat Dowse]: 84th st trail system and redevelopment work is moving forward. Majority of our work is gearing up for busy 2023 pavement rehab. Currently looking for a better bid on sewer. Looking at residential roadway rehab.

Krista Wassenaar[City of Omaha]: Omaha Streetcar Authority board meeting coming up on Monday where they will be discussing the alignment of the streetcar. Pfitzer noted that Omaha is currently working with the DOT on alignment as it relates to the bridges that go over i40. 168th St bid has been received. 156th St from Dodge to Pacific will be coming up for bid later this year. Planned on getting 48th St as well but due to impacts with supply chain and OPPD we will have to push off another year for bidding. Baby Bob will be bidding early next year.

Brian Guy [City of Omaha]: Signal removal process: Construction this year is a bit behind schedule (held up by supply chain issues), but working on 2 projects and about 80 signals. Held up by supply chain issues. Received additional CMAQ funds (over what is shown in the TIP amendment) that will allow them to begin design on further phases. Brian will provide these details to MAPA so they can bring this TIP amendment to the board. Signal removals are underway and going smoothly. Some concerns have been raised and will be investigated. Retiming project for Dodge and Farnam streets is ongoing. Developed some safety videos as a part of this project and a social media component as well, focused on pedestrian safety from both pedestrian and driver standpoint. Pedestrian lead timing being rolled out in some locations.

Dan Kutelik [Douglas County]: 180th St. expected to be completed sometime next month. Local projects are wrapping up. Google datacenter on State St should be completed this fall. County board approved a program for Douglas County to adopt an "adopt a road" program to pick up litter.

Maurice [NDOT]: Numerous updates on highway and bridge resurfacing and repair projects including Hwy75, i460, i680, Hwy36, Hwy50, and Hwy370. West center at 156 is close to finishing the inside portion. Will soon be redirecting traffic to the inside lanes while work is conducted on the outside lanes. Western Douglas county trail is completed.

Mike Helgerson [MAPA]: MAPAs annual meeting and award night is coming up on October 5th with Keynote speaker Jeff Siegler. All are invited to attend. Nebraska Regional Officials Council has been working closely with NAACO on how counties outside of the MPO region access discretionary funding with progress being made with regards to a statewide bridge application. This is primarily with regards to Cass and Washington counties. More information to come.

Lauren Cencic [Metro]: Service changes are to be implemented October 2nd and will substantially increase service hours and frequency to numerous routes largely in response to growth in ridership. This is the first step in the implementation of the MetroNEXT strategic plan. Metro will hit 750,000 rides on ORBT either this or next week.

Joe Soucie [La Vista]: Nebraska chapter of APWA will be hosting the 2023 North American Snow Conference April 16-19 in Omaha - opportunity for staff members to attend a national conference without travel cost. Unlimited number of floor passes available to see the updates in equipment and network with vendors.

F. Additional Business

Todd Pfitzer wants to recognize Dan Kutelik. He's been at the county for the last 50 years and was asked to serve as the interim Douglas County Engineer.

Meeting adjourned at 11:25am.