



REGIONAL PLANNING AFFILIATION - REGION 18

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RPA-18 Policy/Technical Committee

Minutes of April 13, 2022 Meeting

11:00 a.m.

The RPA-18 Policy and Transportation Technical Committees met on April 13, 2022 at the Omaha Council Bluffs Metropolitan Planning Agency, 2222 Cuming Street, Omaha, Nebraska. Charles Parkhurst called the meeting to order at 11:00am.

PRESENT

Policy Committee

Charles Parkhurst
Richard Crouch
John Rasmussen
Steven Struble
Ron Kohn

Shelby County
Mills County
Pottawattamie County
Harrison County
City of Glenwood

Technical Committee

Brandon Burmeister
John Rasmussen
Steven Struble
Jacob Ferro
Jamey Clark

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

Staff/Non-Voting Members

Carlos Morales
Travis Halm
Grant Anderson

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

1. Approval of Agenda (Action)

MOTION by Crouch

SECOND by Kohn

MOTION PASSES

2. Approval of Minutes (Action)

Travis Halm, MAPA, noted one correction in the minutes and asked for approval with that correction as a term of approval.

Parkhurst called for approval of the minutes from March 9, 2022.

MOTION by Rasmussen

SECOND by Burmeister

MOTION PASSES

3. Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Memo (Discussion)

Travis Halm presented a memo from the Iowa DOT. The memo stated that due to an increase in funding, that the Iowa DOT would be discontinuing SWAP funding in January for STBG projects for RPA region projects. All projects after January would need to go through the federal review process.

4. STBG/TAP Project Selection (Action)

Travis Halm presented three applications for funding, which were tabled after the March meeting: M-16 in Mills County; F-50 in Harrison County; Locust Street in Glenwood. No TAP applications were received.

Ron Kohn, Glenwood, added that the Locust Street project is of great regional significance as a former US Highway, and a primary flood relief route every time Interstate 29 floods.

John Rasmussen, Pottawattamie County, stated he sees a potential cutoff for communities under 2500 people applying for funding since a designation exists that allow counties to construct and maintain roads through jurisdictions under that amount. John also shared concern in the existing regional equity spreadsheet not being followed, since he hopes to bank money for larger projects in outlying years due to new federal requirements for review.

Brandon Burmeister added that projects applied for should be put at the end of the line in 2026.

Travis Halm added that funding targets will be increasing rapidly in FY2023-26 and that the funding levels will be able to be leveled out quickly in near future years. Halm also added that funding targets would be steadily increasing over future years that some projects could be moved up with some somewhat sizable flexibility.

MOTION by Struble to approve these three applications for funding in FY2026.

SECOND by Ferro

MOTION PASSES

5. RPA-18 Planning Review (Discussion)

Travis Halm presented the findings from the recent planning review of RPA-18 by Iowa DOT and federal supervisory partners.

Halm noted the following key findings from Iowa DOT:

- RPA-18 meets all requirements laid out by Iowa DOT
- Iowa DOT suggests more representation for small communities in the RPA planning process
- Committee membership needs reviewed to represent more small communities
- Meetings should be held separately or have separate votes at least
- RPA-18 should do more public outreach – including visits to communities out in the region
- Virtual Meetings would be possible under certain circumstances – Halm has no objections to virtual meetings.

Steven Struble, Harrison County, added that separate votes seemed very reasonable, while separate meetings could create logistical issues.

6. Highway 34 “Super Two” Support Letter (Discussion)

Travis Halm presented an update on Highway 34 “Super Two” Development in Iowa. Portions of US Highway 34 are being studied in 2022 for this designation, while portions of the corridor closer to the RPA-18 region are eligible for planning studies in 2023. RPA-18 signed a letter of support for Super Two designation in 2020.

7. Project Funding Availability (Discussion)

Travis Halm presented information for INFRA and RURAL funding applications, due in late April. Halm also presented a funding opportunity for jurisdictions in IA-03 for Community Project Funding Applications, of which each US Representative is allowed to present 15 projects. No availability was made by IA-04.

8. Additional Business (Discussion)

None

9. Next Meeting (Discussion)

The next meeting of the RPA is scheduled for May 11, 2022.

10. Adjournment (Action)

Meeting was adjourned at 12:18 am.