

RPA-18 Policy and Technical Committees



Wednesday Jul 13, 2022
Metropolitan Area Planning Agency
2222 Cuming Street, Omaha, NE 68102
402-444-6866

MINUTES

In attendance:

Policy Board Voting Members

- **Ron Kohn** - Glenwood Mayor
- **John Rasmussen** - Pottawattamie County
- **Steven Struble** - Harrison County
- **Charles Parkhurst** - Shelby County

Technical Board Voting Members

- **Steven Struble** - Harrison County Engineer
- **Jacob Ferro** - Mills County Engineer
- **John Rasmussen** - Pottawattamie County Engineer

Non-Voting/MAPA Staff

- **Travis Halm** - MAPA
- **Carlos Morales** - MAPA
- **Lindsey Button** - MAPA
- **Carlos Morales** - MAPA

Charles Parkhurst called the meeting to order at 11:02.

Action Items

A. Approval of the Agenda

Charles Parkhurst called for approval of the agenda.

Struble motioned to approve the Agenda. Motion was seconded by Rasmussen and approved unanimously.

B. Approval of the Minutes from the May 25, 2022 meeting

Charles Parkhurst called for approval of the minutes.

Kohn motioned to approve the minutes. Motion was seconded by Ferro. Motion approved unanimously.

C. FY2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Travis Halm presented the final TIP. TAP funding more than doubled, so there will be a robust call for projects next year. New estimates were provided by Iowa DOT. Address for Mills county has been updated per last meeting's request. Questions were raised regarding project cost increases due to inflation and supply chain issues. Typically when project cost increases, cost

difference must be covered by local match. However, there is potential to increase award numbers accordingly if there is interest to do so.

Rasmussen motioned to approve the 2023 RPA-18 Final Transportation Improvement Program. Motion was seconded by Struble. Motion approved unanimously.

Discussion Items

D. Implementation of Iowa DOT review:

Travis Halm presented the Iowa DOT Planning review. MAPA is currently working with Iowa DOT to determine what is acceptable for public participation meetings with regard to virtual options etc. Iowa DOT suggested that we hold separate meetings for Policy and Technical Committees. MAPA is proposing calling separate roll call votes.

John Rasmussen commented that in past experience, when meetings were held separately, there was no overlap in project knowledge between the committees and policy votes were not made with technical information etc. Having all discussions at one time would have been more beneficial.

Steven Struble commented that obtaining a quorum with two separate meetings would also be difficult.

Carlos Morales noted that we may be able to keep with a single meeting in which we conduct each meeting back and forth to allow for discussion between committees. MAPA is evaluating alternatives at this time and will report back in the Fall. One disjointed aspect of these meetings has been finding TAP projects. There is a lot of funding available and we could better access projects if meetings were structured differently. Routine updates on STBG and TAP projects from member jurisdictions at meetings.

Looking more towards future efforts (not FY2023): Representative for small communities & public transit in policy/technical committees. The technical committee currently does not have bylaws. Obtaining a small community rep on the Technical Committee may be worth pursuing. Rasmussen noted that historically the committee has tried to get small community representation through elective procedure, but communities were only interested if they had a

project they had submitted for funding. In that case they wish to represent themselves. Otherwise interest in participation is low.

Review bylaws regarding quorum and attendance policy, and TAC members serving as Policy Board alternates. If we were to change quorum it would likely be reduced to allow for action. Updating the bylaws will be a challenge as each community and county needs to review and approve. Rasmussen noted that attendance could be improved by providing additional discretionary funding. At this time there is a limited amount of funding that is split 32 ways. Carlos Morales noted that there have been numerous discretionary grant programs released by DOT, and that this could be an opportunity for additional funds.

It would be beneficial for MAPA to review grant opportunities and determine which programs may be applicable to local jurisdictions in rural areas and disseminate that information to the RPA. MAPA will schedule a virtual meeting in August with RPA and Iowa DOT to start the conversation about current discretionary funding opportunities. RPA members will examine their current projects as well and come prepared with projects that may be able to fit some of these funding opportunities.

E. Additional Business

Public involvement: MAPA is looking to visit communities late summer and early fall to talk about discretionary grants f transportation and community development grants

Rasmussen motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:27. Motion was seconded by Kohn and approved unanimously.

Future Meetings & Events

- **Next RPA-18 Meeting: October 12th - Open FY2024 STBG/TAP Call for Projects**
 - Proposed Call for projects End: February 28, 2023 prior to Mar 9, 2023 meeting
- **TTAC: Friday, July 22, 2022**