

TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Friday, July 21, 2023 | **09:00a - 11:30a**
Boardroom - Main Level of the Metro Transit Building

Attendance

MINUTES

In attendance:

TTAC Voting Members

Matt Cox - City of Council Bluffs
Joe Soucie - City of La Vista
Austin Rowser - City of Omaha
Krista Wassenaar - City of Omaha
Mike Kleffner - City of Papillion
Todd Pfitzer - Douglas County
Sherri Levers - Metro Transit
Craig Wacker- NDOT
Maurice Hinchey - NDOT
Kevin Carder - City of Omaha

Eric Williams - PMRNRD
Dennis Wilson - Sarpy County
Kristine Stokes - City of Gretna

TTAC Non Voting Members & Guests

Dan Kutilek - Douglas County
Evan Schweitz - Metro Transit
Damion Stern - NDOT
Jessica Smith - Benesch
Adam Denney - FHU
Mark Meisinger - FHU
Matt Selinger - JEO
Jeff Riesselman - City of Omaha
Tim Adams - WSP
Maria Sieck - Pott. County Public Health
Lauren Cencic - Metro Transit*
Jeremy Williams - HDR*
Lance Brisbois - Golden Hills R&D*
Bart Pugh - Schemmer*
Kaine McClelland - NDOT*

MAPA Staff

Laura Heilman
Court Barber
Michael Blank
Josh Corrigan
Travis Halm*
Lindsey Button
Carlos Morales
Jim Boerner*

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

Pfitzer called the meeting to order at 9:02 am.

Action Items

For TTAC Approval

A. Approval of the Minutes from the May 19 and June 16, 2023 meetings

Kleffner motion to approve, Rowser second, motion carried.

B. TAP-C Bylaws Update

Court Barber presented changes to TAP-C bylaws focused on incorporating selection of Carbon Reduction Program project funding.

Pfitzer motion to approve, Kleffner second, motion carried.

Recommendations to MAPA's Board of Directors

C. Amendment 3 to the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)

Court Barber presented the amendment, which includes the addition of projects sponsored by NDOT, the PMRNRD, the City of Bellevue, and the City of Omaha.

Pfitzer asked a question regarding the funding increase to the planning grouped category, wondering why the change was so substantial. Barber responded that MAPA estimated too low when developing the LRTP and that planning work for the first 10 years of the LRTP had already exceeded the amount programmed. The new amount is a more complete estimate.

Williams asked for clarification on the timeline of planning funds being 10 years, which Barber confirmed, and explained further the difference of the different funding buckets and their different attached funding timelines. Williams asked if there were any changes to those timelines, which Barber confirmed that no this Amendment won't change this.

Amendment 3 was recommended to the board.

D. Coordinated Transit Plan - Limited English Proficiency

Travis Halm presented an addition to the Coordinated Transit Plan on Limited English Proficiency demographics and resources available to persons in the region.

Barber clarified that this comes with recommendation from the CTC.

Metro transit guy asked if there was any study done to see what languages specifically should be included into transit. Halm clarified that this can be done in the future.

Kleffner motion to approve, Stursma second, motion carried.

E. Amendment 10 to the FY2023 Transportation Improvement Program

Court Barber presented the amendment, which includes changes to two projects sponsored by the City of Council Bluffs and one project sponsored by the City of Carter Lake.

Barber first asked for TAP-C members in the room to vote on this Amendment before TTAC does, and confirmed that TAP-C does have a quorum.

Williams asked if the changes by Council Bluffs were submitted by them, which was confirmed by Barber.

Dennis Wilson asked if there was any length of location changes to the City-County Connector Trail, which Barber clarified that there wasn't, primarily it is a funding increase.

Meisinger asked if there are any projects in this Amendment on the Nebraska side, Barber clarified that it is all on the Iowa side.

TAP-C voting: Schweitz motion to approve, Meisinger seconded, motion carried.

TTAC voting: Williams motion to approve, Pfitzer second, motion carried.

Discussion Items

F. Urbanized Area Boundary Update

Josh Corrigan presented changes included in the update for the next Omaha-Council Bluffs urban area boundary. These changes will require approval by both NDOT and Iowa DOT, and then it will be signed off by FHWA.

Williams asked if the change of removing the little strip in Cass County will affect Cass County in any way funding wise. Corrigan clarified that overall it should not.

G. MAPA Public Participation Plan

Laura Heilman presented the plan, which includes methods and procedures for involving the public in planning and decision making at MAPA.

Project Selection Workshop

H. Review of Previous Selection Criteria & Process

Court Barber introduced the efforts that the members of ProSeCom and TAP-C will undertake today, and what the goals are for this workshop. Ultimately it is discussion only, and our focus is to discuss the project selection process and how it will set the region up to be able to go after non-regional Federal funds, such as discretionary grants, more effectively. Based on a survey that recently came out for members of ProSeCom and TAP-C, it appears as though demand, safety, and asset condition were considered the most important criteria. But there were a few questions regarding what specifically demand meant, as some of the current criteria are vague.

Barber also showed some additional anonymous comments from the survey, and showed current efforts regarding priorities in project selection. The list of all priorities include safety, asset condition, demand, regional considerations, leverage, equity/environmental justice, and greenhouse gas emissions/local air quality.

Barber and Button brought up a Menti poll to take a survey of those present on the project selection process. The survey showed safety at the top, demand in second, and asset condition in third.

Vice chair of TAP-C asked if all these projects need to go through NEPA, which was clarified by Pfitzer and Barber that it does.

Kleffner clarified that safety can cover a wide range of topics so it should be at the top of the list of priorities.

Selinger noted that safety is not isolated, that it connects to the other priorities. An example can be seen from Vision Zero with the City of Omaha where safety is affected by and affects demand, asset condition, equity of a community, and so on.

Barber noted that his goal is to try and make project selection less convoluted, and have it make more sense and be easier to operate with for ProSeCom and TAP-C.

I. Future Project Selection

Last few calls for projects opened October 31st, and closed the 1st week of January. Barber asked if this is still a sufficient amount of time. Pfitzer noted that during that time of year it's generally a bit slower for most jurisdictions so that should be a sufficient amount of time.

Barber and Morales asked for more detailed and accurate cost estimates on projects moving forward, which Pfitzer clarified that it's also better if the metrics used are a bit more standardized.

Wassenaar noted that while we may want more data on MAPA project selection, we should be careful not to make the project selection process as extensive, costly, or time consuming as for example a RAISE grant.

Barber asked whether ProSeCom is fine with MAPA staff scoring projects, or whether it's better for ProSeCom to score projects. Pfitzer brought up that it's better if at least some non-MAPA staff are helping to score projects, perhaps even make a new scoring committee, possibly with two-year terms.

Barber brought up the problem that technically ProSeCom does not have bylaws, and only has information about its creation from the 2014 TTAC meeting that it was created from. Pfitzer noted that at the time we only created ProSeCom as a way to quickly resolve an issue that was brought up by FHWA regarding transparency in project selection, and was not expected that it would become a more important committee that would need bylaws.

Moving forward, Barber clarified that MAPA will take the guidance from this meeting to develop the new project selection process, provide evaluation criteria proposals to the selection committees for feedback, and hold TAP-C and ProSeCom meetings in late August to confirm the evaluation criteria.

Pfitzer mentioned support for MAPA's efforts to update the project selection process, its importance for people to understand how project selection works, and that people need to take it seriously.

Pfitzer called for a motion to adjourn the meeting, Dowse moved, Kleffner seconded, motion carried at 11:14am.

Future Meetings & Events

- **MAPA Board of Directors: Thursday, July 27, 2023**
- **TTAC Meeting: Friday, August 18, 2023**
- **Heartland 2050 Summit: TBD August 2023**
- **Council of Officials/MAPA Annual Dinner: Wednesday, October 04, 2023**

Meeting Quorum: The presence of ten (10) members of TTAC at an officially called meeting shall constitute a quorum.