

TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Friday, September 22, 2023 | 10:00a - 11:30a
Boardroom - Main Level of the Metro Transit Building

Attendance

MINUTES

In attendance:

TTAC Voting Members

Eric Williams (PMRNRD)
Todd Pfitzer (Douglas County)
John Krager (Bellevue)
Sherri Levers (Metro Transit)
Bryan Guy (Omaha)
Carder Carder (Omaha)
Craig Wacker (NDOT)
Maurice Hinchey (NDOT)
Joe Soucie (La Vista)
Gaoty Williams (Omaha)

TTAC Non Voting Members & Guests

Bart Pugh (Shemmer)
Greg Youell (FHU)

MAPA Staff

Mike Helgerson
Carlos Morales
Jim Boerner
Court Barber
Michael Blank
Lindsey Button*

**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 10:06 am.

Action Items

For TTAC Approval

A. Approval of the Minutes from the July 21 and August 18, 2023 meetings

Soucie motion to approve July 21st meeting minutes, Krager second, motion carried.
Hinchey motion to approve August 18th meeting minutes, Krager second, motion carried.

Recommendations to MAPA's Board of Directors

B. Amendment 1 to the FY2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Michael Blank with the help of Court Barber presented the amendment, which includes changes to projects sponsored by the Cities of Omaha, Papillion, Carter Lake, Council Bluffs, Gretna and La Vista as well as Sarpy County.

Guy motioned to approve, Carder second, motion carried.

Discussion Items

C. August Redistribution

Carlos Morales provided a summary of MAPA's work with NDOT to participate in USDOT's August Redistribution.

Mike Helgerson further clarified the process of August Redistribution for Nebraska and Iowa.

D. NDOT Discretionary Grants

Court Barber and Craig Wacker updated the committee on NDOT discretionary grant efforts. NDOT typically submits an I-80 project for discretionary grants, and if it does not win we will submit again next year. NDOT is also getting involved with a planning grant with the Parks Commission out by Scottsbluff to find ways to reduce traffic collisions with wildlife.

Mike Helgerson noted some discretionary grant awards the MAPA region has received, as well as some discretionary grants MAPA is pursuing.

Wacker further clarified that any project you submit for a discretionary grant should have a multi-modal component, because that is a high priority under the current administration.

E. Regional Project Selection (STBG, TAP, CRP, Mini-Grants)

Court Barber updated the committee on the status of the upcoming call for projects, as well as hopefully trying to plug jurisdictions in for discretionary grant awards.

Eric Williams asked whether there will be further funding obligation information for the next year. Barber noted that we should have more information and guidance out next month.

F. Reconnecting Communities Application (Staff Update)

Jim Boerner updated the committee on a joint Reconnecting Communities Community Planning grant application to study the North Freeway. MAPA is partnering with NDOT, City of Omaha, Metro Transit, and Spark. It will be using the PEL methodology and is consistent with and supported by the Thriving Communities and the 24th Street RAISE-grant funded design and NEPA. Application is due September 28th, and selection notifications are in Spring 2024.

G. Member Agency Updates (time permitting)

Helgerson noted that the Council of Officials annual dinner is October 4th at the Bellevue Berry Farm. Additionally, there is an innovative financing workshop by NDOT and FHWA on October 4th from 12-5pm at Embassy Suites in La Vista.

Williams announced that construction is hoping to be underway soon for the highway trail bridge. There is a new state TAP project for a trail bridge that will cross the Elkhorn.

Hinchey discussed several ongoing NDOT projects in the MAPA region that are in many different stages of completion.

Pfitzer noted that Douglas County is closing the intersection of 168th and State Street to fix the state street jump. There is also some work ongoing to fix some gravel roads. Douglas County will also be closing a section of Military Avenue to vehicular traffic that will now have bike and pedestrian access.

Soucie noted that La Vista is looking forward to having the first concert at its new amphitheater tonight, and that the Applewood creek project is moving forward. Next month they are hoping to start the Active Mobility Plan.

Wacker talked about how the Vulnerable Road User assessment is almost done and will be submitted to the Feds. NDOT is still working on its Complete Streets study, and looking at other States at their policies. The Secretary of Transportation will be going out to Grand Island to announce a CRISI grant award to Cornhusker Rail.

Livers noted that Metro received an award for new buses, but for the moment there will be Moby buses out on some normal bus routes due to supply chain issues for maintenance parts for normal operation buses.

H. Additional Business (time permitting)

Barber announced that there will be a FHWA virtual training opportunity on November 28th and 29th for designing pedestrian facilities for accessibility. MAPA has requested a total of 25 seats for this event. There is no cost for you if you go through MAPA, contact Lindsey Button for more information.

Pfitzer adjourned the meeting at 11:00 am.

Future Meetings & Events

- **MAPA Board of Directors: Thursday, September 28, 2023**
- **TTAC: Friday, October 19, 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.