

# TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Friday, January 19, 2024 | 10:00a  
Training Room - Lower Level of the Metro Transit Building

## MINUTES

### Attendance

In attendance:

#### TTAC Voting Members

Todd Pfitzer (Douglas County)  
Eric Williams (PMRNRD)  
Krista K. Wassenaar (City of Omaha)  
Evan Schweitz (Metro)  
Mike Kleffner (City of Papillion)\*  
Dave Vermillion (City of Council Bluffs)\*  
Austin Rowser (City of Omaha)  
Damion Stern (NDOT)\*  
Craig Wacker (NDOT)\*  
David Goedecken (City of Bellevue)\*  
Kevin Carder (City of Omaha)\*  
John Krager (City of Bellevue)  
Maurice Hinchey (NDOT)

#### TTAC Non Voting Members & Guests

Alex Sick (HDR)\*  
David Do\*  
Bryan Guy (City of Omaha)\*  
Travis Halm (Iowa DOT)\*  
Jeff Sobczyk (City of Omaha)\*  
Greg Youll (FHU)\*  
Joan Green (E&A)  
Bart Pugh (Schemmer)  
Lee Meyers (AARP)

#### MAPA Staff

Mike Helgerson  
Court Barber  
Jim Boerner  
Owen Stuckey  
Michael Blank  
Laura Heilman  
Carlos Morales\*  
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 10:03 am.

### Action Items

For TTAC Approval

**A. [Approval of the Minutes from the December 08, 2023 Meeting](#)**

As Quorum was not met, approval was pushed back to the next meeting. No comments were made for the minutes.

## Recommendations to MAPA's Board of Directors

### **B. Amendment 3 to the FY2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

Michael Blank presented the amendment, which included changes to the TIP language for when a TIP amendment is triggered for Iowa projects, as well as funding changes to projects sponsored by Iowa DOT, and NDOT.

Williams asked if these funding changes will affect the TIP program. Barber clarified that since the funding changes are from DOT projects, that the fiscal constraint does not affect MAPA's regional funding.

Stern asked how this amendment would proceed to the Board if TTAC did not have a quorum at this meeting to recommend it. Barber clarified that we will still back it to the Board, and it will be their decision whether to approve it.

### **C. Safety Performance Measures**

Jim Boerner reported on progress towards the regional safety performance measures (PM1), and provided the recommended 2024 Safety targets for approval by the MAPA Board. The target set last year by the Board for PM1 was 0 fatalities by 2040. MAPA used crash data from NDOT and Iowa DOT, along with VMT data, to assess trends and set targets. Fatalities are sadly increasing year over year, but serious injuries are decreasing year over year. We met our baseline targets from last year, but we are aiming to bring fatalities to decrease year over year.

## Discussion Items

### **D. Quarterly Federal Funding Update**

Carlos Morales and Court Barber presented the balances of federal funding for all regional apportionment programs and an update on the progress of projects for FY2024. We actually received some STBG money back as a few projects went under in terms of cost than previously estimated. Council Bluffs South Expressway, Pottawattamie County Multi-Use Trail, and Gretna to Wehrspann Trail are sliding back due to a few issues that have arisen.

### **E. Call for Projects & 2025 Transportation Improvement Program - Next Steps**

Court Barber presented a brief summary of the project applications and the 2025 TIP development schedule. Currently we are staying on track in terms of schedule, but we may slide subcommittee recommendations from March/April into May depending on how contentious it is. Otherwise you should know if you are receiving money for your project by July as that is when awards should come out.

Barber explained that the total amount of STBG funding requests is far over the total amount of funding that we have so some projects may only receive partial funding or not funding at all. However, the total amount of TAP and CRP funding requests is closer to how much funding we have so we may be able to fund what was requested. Just under a million dollars in the Heartland 2050 Mini-Grants was requested for planning studies, with about three hundred thousand of that amount being on the Iowa side. The vast majority of funding is going toward roadway projects as that was the majority of projects submitted.

Barber presented that the public comment period opens February 1st. ProSeCom, TAP-C, and the Mini-Grant Committee meetings have already been scheduled in March, April, and May to make recommendations on what projects to be funded.

### **F. Federal Functional Classification Working Group**

Jim Boerner provided background information on MAPA's intended process for collecting updates to the regional Federal Functional Classification (FFC) resulting from urban area boundary changes from the 2020 Census. MAPA requested comments on the process along with volunteers to support the FFC update process.

Boerner explained further that the MPO boundary update should occur in September, with the MAPA LRTP update also ongoing this year. MAPA will be working with an FFC Working Group to provide feedback and work on the FFC update process. MAPA should have drafted FFC changes to TTAC and the MAPA Board in the summer of this year.

Helgerson noted that Josh Corrigan has left MAPA for another position, and that Owen Stuckey has replaced his position at MAPA.

#### **G. Traffic Report**

Owen Stuckey presented the traffic report. Overall 2020 was an outlier amongst the yearly traffic accounts as it was far lower. Post-pandemic traffic counts have increased in the outer parts of the metro, whereas around the urban core and on the lowa side traffic counts have remained similar or decreased slightly. MAPA has a traffic data portal using GIS tools, which gives you data on corridors and intersections, as well as charts that show the data.

Williams asked where the traffic counter data was coming from, and whether we have tried using phones for data. Stuckey clarified that it mostly comes from active traffic counters, and that while we have considered traffic data using phones, it's not as accurate as what we need.

Williams asked if the data is aggregated for each district. Stuckey answered that it is.

#### **H. Member Agency Updates (time permitting)**

Rowser said that not much construction is happening at this moment due to the weather, but the 168th Street project has gone well so far. Wassenaar stated that the Midtown to Medical Center bikeway is going forward. Rowser further explained that Omaha will be changing their snow plowing strategy to try and clear bike lanes as well as the future Streetcar tracks.

Morris noted that several NDOT projects are moving ahead, although some construction wont continue further until the spring.

Pfizer explained that currently the biggest delays on the Countryside is coordination with some of the utilities. That is not because the utilities are trying to delay us, more so they have a lot of challenges on their end that are causing a knock on effect.

Williams stated that a few trail bridges are going forward into planning and construction.

Krager noted that the final properties for 36th Street should be acquired soon, so construction should be able to begin after that. Fiber optic cables are still coming in.

Helgerson explained that many people in the MAPA region were on the call with Bacon for Federal funding requests. MAPA is asking that if any other jurisdictions want to seek this Federal funding to coordinate with MAPA so that we can have it properly in the TIP.

Stern stated that NDOT will be reassessing their fiscal year budgets for the coming years, and will be reaching out to jurisdictions when necessary.

#### **I. Additional Business (time permitting)**

Pfizer motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:12. Motion carried.

## Future Meetings & Events

- **MAPA Board of Directors: Thursday, January 25, 2024**
- **RPAC: Friday, February 2, 2024**
- **TTAC: Friday, February 16, 2024**

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