

TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Apr 19, 2024 10:00 AM

Boardroom - Main Level of the Metro Transit Building

MINUTES

Attendance

In attendance:

TTAC Voting Members

Sherri Levers (Metro)
Krista Wassenaar (City of Omaha)
Pat Dowse (City of La Vista)
John Krager (City of Bellevue)
Kevin Carder (City of Omaha)
Matt Cox (City of Council Bluffs)
Scot Suhr (Iowa DOT)*
Austin Rowser (City of Omaha)*
Eric Williams (PMRNRD)
Curtis Nosal (NDOT)
Damion Stern (NDOT)
David Goedecken (City of Bellevue)*

TTAC Non-Voting Members, Virtual Attendees, & Guests

Travis Halm (Iowa DOT)*
Vicki Kramer (NDOT)
Rich McFall (Nebraska VR)
Jarrod Walker (NDOT)
Lee Meyers (AARP)
Melanie Davis (UNO)
Joan Green (E&A)
Dakin Schultz (FHWA Iowa)
Kaine McClelland (NDOT)
Maurice Hinchey (NDOT)

MAPA Staff

Mike Helgerson
Carlos Morales
Court Barber
Michael Blank
Rachel Goettsch
Laura Heilman
Christina Brownell
Mia Haschenburger
Lindsey Button*
Jim Boerner*

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

Barber called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.
Quorum was not met.

Action Items

For TTAC Approval

A. Approval of the Minutes from the [March 22, 2024 Meeting](#)

Barber and Krager discussed adding the name of the new Bellevue PWks member to the previous meeting minutes.

B. [Update to the Bylaws of the Coordinated Transit Committee \(CTC\)](#)

Court Barber presented the changes recommended by the CTC, which noted that it is being delayed to the next TTAC meeting.

Recommendations to MAPA's Board of Directors

C. [Amendment 5 to the FY2024 Transportation Improvement Program \(TIP\)](#)

Michael Blank presented the amendment, which included changes to projects sponsored by the City of Council Bluffs and the City of Bellevue.

D. [Project Prioritization Pilot Program Application](#)

Court Barber and Rachel Goetsch presented the new grant opportunity and requested support to pursue the grant. Rowser noted the concern from ProSeCom about whether the PPPP grant would take away ProSeCom's capacity to make sure funding is going toward regional focuses of increasing capacity for vehicle and freight traffic. Barber clarified that NDOT has no intention of taking away regional power, but rather will work with MAPA to better align data and resources toward helping TTAC.

Kramer explained that NDOT wants to help make sure the region and the state are in better alignment to be able to receive more federal funding and go after discretionary funding. She further clarified that we all ultimately have the ability to decide what the outcome of the PPPP grant is, the risk is small, but the reward could be significant as the amount of funding that could come into the region could be beneficial. Therefore it would make sense from a cost-benefit analysis to pursue the grant opportunity, and we are excited to support jurisdictions in the region. Walker noted that this grant would allow us to get better data to be more competitive for federal funds. Meyers asked whether we would buy new software. Barber clarified that this would be decided during the project process.

Helgerson noted that the big takeaway of TTAC from the visit to Salt Lake City was the alignment of the local jurisdictions and the state DOT, and other regional organizations, and that we should seek to do something similar to allow us to be more competitive with federal funds. This grant opportunity would help us reach this goal of alignment with NDOT and to be more competitive to serve our region.

Wassenaar noted that as Omaha is receiving federal funds, they are running out of people to manage projects, so there is a staffing shortage. Helgerson responded that this is a regional issue that NDOT is facing as well, and this is something that we can look at, a more effective staffing structure. Kramer stated that this grant can allow us to figure out how to work this out, and if we all work together with this project, we can be more efficient with staffing. If we all go through this process alone without any tools that allow us to work together, it can take more staff time.

Barber asked for any other input from TTAC that will go to the Board. Williams noted that TAP-C is supportive of MAPA going after this award. Helgerson clarified that this will not be the end of the conversation, that after applying we will still discuss what we do if we are chosen for the award and we accept. Wassenaar asked if we are not accepted for this award what do we do next? Helgerson and Kramer noted that this is not the end, there are a lot of grant opportunities and other issues regarding staffing that we can take toward state legislatures for state support. Kramer noted that ultimately she sees no harm in pursuing these opportunities, only benefits for the region, and there are ways NDOT can come in and be a good partner for jurisdictions to support their projects. Barber clarified that we will probably come back to TTAC over the next few months regarding what the process will look like, and he is open to receiving questions or comments for how we should shape this process.

Carder said that this sounds like a good opportunity. Halm noted that Iowa DOT will give MAPA a letter of support.

Discussion Items

E. Omaha Airport Authority - Airport Modernization

Barber stated that Owens was not able to make it, so we will be skipping this discussion item.

F. Quarterly Funding Report

Court Barber presented the status of regional federal aid.

G. Member Agency Updates (time permitting)

The following members provided updates on transportation-related issues:

Levers - Metro construction project updates & transit service updates.

Hinchey - NDOT District 2 construction project updates.

Wassenaar - Omaha federal funding award and construction project updates.

Krager - Bellevue construction project updates.

Williams - PMRNRD construction project updates.

Dowse - La Vista construction project updates.

Stern - MTIS construction project updates.

Cox - Council Bluffs construction project updates.

Carder - Omaha planning updates.

McFall - CTC updates.

Morales - MAPA planning and federal grant updates.

Helgerson - MAPA planning and regional funding updates.

Kramer - NDOT federal funding process updates.

H. Additional Business (time permitting)

Future Meetings & Events

- **MAPA Board of Directors: April 25, 2024**
- **RPAC: June 7, 2024**
- **TTAC: May 17, 2024**

Barber moved to adjourn, Hinchey seconded. Meeting adjourned at 11:06 a.m.

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