

RPA18

Regional Planning Affiliation - Region 18 Policy Board and Technical Committee Meeting

Oct 8, 2025 11:00 AM Training Room ▾ 17501 Eastern Hills Dr, Council Bluffs, IA 51503 ▾

MINUTES

In attendance:

Policy Board Voting Members

- **Charlie Parkhurst** - Shelby County, Chair
- **Susan Miller** - Pottawattamie County, Vice Chair
- **Richard Crouch** - Mills County
- **Angie Winqvist** - City of Glenwood
- **Gervas Mgonja** - City of Harlan
- **Tony Smith** - Harrison County
- **Brian Rife** - Harrison County

Technical Committee Voting Members

- **Jacob Ferro** - Mills County, Chair
- **Chris Fredericksen** - Shelby County, Vice Chair
- **John Rasmussen** - Harrison County
- **Jamey Clark** - City of Glenwood
- **Adam Ring** - Pottawattamie County

Non-Voting/MAPA Staff

- **Lindsey Button** - MAPA
- **Rachel Goettsch** - MAPA
- **Latifa Moro** - MAPA
- **Carlos Morales** - MAPA*
- **Gerri Doyle** - FTA*
- **Scott Suhr** - Iowa DOT

*Virtual attendance**

Charlie Parkhurst called the meeting to order at 11:06 am.

The slides noted the meeting was held in accordance with Chapters 21 and 22 of the Iowa Code and was live-streamed on MAPA's YouTube page.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of the Agenda (Policy)

Charlie Parkhurst called for a motion to approve the agenda. No changes were made to the agenda.

Policy Board: Richard Crouch motioned to approve the agenda. Motion was seconded by Angie Winqvist. Motion passed unanimously.



B. Approval of the Minutes: August 13, 2025 Meeting (Policy)

Charlie Parkhurst called for a motion to approve the minutes. No changes were made to the minutes.

Policy Board: Gervas Mgonja motioned to approve the minutes. Motion was seconded by Tony Smith. Motion passed unanimously.

C. FY26 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment 1

Rachel Goettsch presented the proposed amendment to the FY2026 Transportation Improvement Program. She explained that the amendment removes an Iowa DOT bridge deck overlay project in northern Pottawattamie County (TPMS ID: 55615) from the FY2026 TIP. It was noted that the project had already been let in FY2025, so it no longer needed to be listed in the current program. The project is fully administered by the Iowa DOT and does not include any regional funding. Jacob Ferro asked whether the amendment affects any RPA-18 funds, and Rachel confirmed that it does not.

Technical Committee: Jacob Ferro motioned to

- Amend the FY26 RPA-18 TIP to remove Iowa DOT project TPMS ID: 55615.

Motion was seconded by John Rasmussen. Motion passed unanimously.

Policy Board: Susan Miller motioned to

- Approve the Technical Committee recommendation.

Motion was seconded by Gervas Mgonja. Motion passed unanimously.

D. FY27 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA/TAP) Program Call for Projects

Rachel Goettsch introduced the FY2027 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) Call for Projects, explaining that this program primarily funds pedestrian and bicycle improvements and other non-motorized transportation facilities. She added that the call will open on October 10 and close on January 30, allowing a long application window. The submitted projects will be reviewed at the February RPA-18 meeting, and project selection will be held at the March RPA-18 meeting after scoring.

Based on current estimates, \$844,753 is available through TASA for programming from FY2027-30, reflecting accumulated funds since no applications were received last year. Currently programmed TASA projects consist of the Pottawattamie County multi-use trail, Logan's Safe Routes to School project, and Glenwood's trail improvements, the latter of which may be amended later this fiscal year. She reminded the board that MAPA staff will be available to assist with applications and any related questions.



Technical Committee: John Rasmussen motioned to

- Recommend Policy Board approval to open the FY27 TA Set-Aside Call for Projects.

Motion was seconded by Chris Frederickson. Motion passed unanimously.

Policy Board: Angie Winkvist motioned to

- Approve the Technical Committee recommendation.

Motion was seconded by Richard Crouch. Motion passed unanimously.

E. FY27 Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program Call for Amendments

Rachel Goettsch presented the STBG Program and explained that this round will be a Call for Amendments rather than a call for new projects, noting that STBG is already mostly programmed through FY2029, and many project costs have increased due to inflation. This call is intended to update costs or scopes for projects that are already programmed. Amendments will only apply to projects beyond FY2026 due to Iowa DOT's practice of balancing the STIP (including allotted STBG funds) each year, making it difficult to amend projects in the current fiscal year.

An amendment applies when a project's cost increases by more than \$2 million or 30%, when there is a schedule or funding change, or when the project scope or termini are modified. Smaller adjustments would be processed as administrative modifications.

Carlos Morales noted that there are currently three projects in FY2027: Pottawattamie County (Magnolia Road – L52), Shelby County (F32), and Harrison County (L20 from Missouri Valley north to L23). He added that additional projects in FY2028 and FY2029, including those in Harrison, Mills, and Pottawattamie Counties, could also be reviewed if updates are needed.

Rachel stated that a more detailed discussion will take place at the November meeting, where staff will review project details, amendment materials, and assist members with any questions. John Rasmussen asked whether submissions should be in the form of a memo or an application, and Rachel clarified that an amendment request should include the original approved application, a letter outlining the requested changes (such as cost, scope, or termini adjustments), and any supporting documentation, such as updated maps or designs.

Susan Miller asked whether a project would be removed from the program if its amendment were not approved. Rachel explained that it would remain as currently programmed and only the proposed amendment would not move forward if rejected.

Technical Committee: John Rasmussen motioned to

- Recommend Policy Board approval to open the FY27 STBG Call for Amendments.



Motion was seconded by Jacob Ferro. Motion passed unanimously.

Policy Board: Richard Crouch motioned to

- Approve the Technical Committee recommendation.

Motion was seconded by Susan Miller. Motion passed unanimously

F. Final 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP):

Rachel Goettsch presented the final 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), explaining that the plan covers a minimum of a 20-year horizon and fulfills Iowa DOT requirements for Regional Planning Affiliations. She noted that, unlike the MPO's MTP, the RPA plan does not include a fiscally constrained project list but evaluates the region's existing conditions and long-term transportation needs. The plan is due to Iowa DOT in November. A brief overview of its contents was provided, highlighting the plan's overall goals, safety and system preservation updates, multimodal access expansion, a new land use and growth & sustainability section, and an enhanced resilience chapter addressing flood risk and other regional hazards.

She then went over the public comments received during the comment period. Two of the comments were about Highway 6 and the I-80 interchange, mainly focused on eastbound traffic and accessibility concerns tied to growth and development in that area. These projects fall under Iowa DOT and Pottawattamie County, so the comments will be passed along to those agencies.

Scott Suhr added that MAPA received similar comments on the MPO side and said he had already responded to the resident, letting them know that a signalization project is underway and should be completed by the end of the month, which will help address some of the safety concerns.

The third comment came from a local community leader who asked about rural transportation gaps and the potential for light rail or expanded public transit in the region.

Technical Committee: Jamey Clark motioned to

- Recommend approval of the final 2050 LRTP with incorporation of Iowa DOT comments.

Motion was seconded by John Rasmussen. Motion passed unanimously.

Policy Board: Susan Miller motioned to

- Approve the Technical Committee recommendation.

Motion was seconded by Richard Crouch. Motion passed unanimously.



DISCUSSION ITEMS

G. Public Comment

The floor was opened to give members of the public the opportunity to comment. No remarks were made.

H. Additional Business

a. MAPA Updates

Rachel Goettsch highlighted the Local Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP-Local) funding program available through Iowa DOT, which provides Federal-aid Swap (State) funds to counties and cities for low-cost to medium-cost systemic safety improvements. Applications are due November 15, with more details available on the Iowa DOT program webpage.

Scott Suhr added an example of a project near Treynor, explaining that there had been several crashes, including a fatal one, at the Highway 6 and L55 intersection. Working with the county, they used HSIP funds to lower the grade on L55, add turn lanes on Highway 6, and convert the old Y intersection into a T intersection, which made the area much safer.

b. Safety Updates

Rachel Goettsch reported that the RPA-13/18 Safe Streets for All (SS4A) survey and in-person engagement are complete, with about 100 responses on each of the survey and map activity. The consultant team is now analyzing the data, and a preliminary dashboard showing crashes in the seven participating communities is available on the project website.

The second STAG meeting, presenting the High Risk Network, will be held to review where serious crashes have occurred and where future risks are highest. Members, and especially engineers, were encouraged to participate since the tool will later be available for local use.

I. Adjournment

Charlie Parkhurst called for a motion for the meeting to adjourn.

Angie Winkvist motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:46 pm. Motion was seconded by Richard Crouch.



FUTURE MEETINGS & EVENTS

- **Council of Officials Annual Meeting:** October 8 at 5:00pm
- **STAG #2 - High Risk Network:** October 21 at 10:30am
- **RPA-18 Meeting:** November 12 at 11:00am

