

RPA18

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

Nov 12, 2025 11:00 AM Training Room ▾ 17501 Eastern Hills Dr, Council Bluffs, IA 51503 ▾

MINUTES

In attendance:

Policy Board Voting Members

- **Richard Crouch** - Mills County
- **Angie Winquist** - City of Glenwood
- **Gervas Mgonja** - City of Harlan

Technical Committee Voting Members

- **Chris Fredericksen** - Shelby County, Vice Chair*
- **Jamey Clark** - City of Glenwood
- **Adam Ring** - Pottawattamie County
- **Jodi Marsh** - Pottawattamie County

Non-Voting/MAPA Staff

- **Lindsey Button** - MAPA*
- **Rachel Goettsch** - MAPA
- **Latifa Moro** - MAPA
- **Carlos Morales** - MAPA*

*Virtual attendance**

Rachel Goettsch 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)

Rachel Goettsch called for a motion to approve the agenda. No changes were made to the agenda.

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



B. Approval of the Minutes: November 12, 2025 Meeting (Policy)

Rachel Goetsch called for a motion to approve the minutes. No changes were made to the minutes.

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS

C. FY27 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA/TAP) Program Information

Rachel Goetsch presented an overview of the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA/TAP) program, the informational meeting required by Iowa DOT guidance. The applications for both TASA and STBG are due on January 30, 2026, at 4:00pm.

In February, after applications are received, the RPA will open the public comment period and review all proposed projects at the meeting that month. In March, staff will have completed the matrix, weighting, and scoring, and will bring the ranked list of projects back to the board. Final project selection will occur at the March meeting, and the selected projects will then be added to the TIP during the June update.

TA-Set Aside Program – Call for Projects

Rachel clarified that today's review applies only to the regional TASA program. The state program operates separately and has distinct timelines. The program focuses on pedestrian and bicyclist facilities, non-motorized transportation, Safe Routes to School, and other alternative-mode projects. The region has approximately \$844,000 available across FY27–30, with an 80/20 federal–local match. Pottawattamie County Conservation, Shelby County, and two Glenwood projects are currently programmed in the FY26 TIP.

Rachel briefly reviewed the three required application forms (Parts A–G) and noted that they have not changed much from last year, except for updates to the Iowa DOT guidance. Forms are available on the Iowa DOT TA Set-Aside webpage and MAPA's Call for Projects page.

Jody asked whether the funding excludes design or construction administration. Rachel clarified that design is an allowable cost, and projects do not need to be at the construction phase to apply.



Angie asked whether the \$844,000 includes the listed Mills County project. Rachel confirmed in the negative and explained that the \$844,000 is spread across four fiscal years (FY27–30), and is not all available in year one. Larger projects may need to be programmed further in advance to allow funds to accumulate. While it is technically possible to program a project beyond FY2030, MAPA generally tries to avoid doing so unless it is coordinated with staff and Iowa DOT.

STBG Program – Call for Amendments

Rachel also provided an update on the STBG program, noting that this year, the RPA will only be opening a call for amendments, not new projects. If a sponsor already has a project in the STBG program and needs to adjust it due to inflation, cost changes, or scope modifications, this call is for them. If a sponsor does not already have an STBG project, then this year’s process is informational only.

She stated that MAPA has approximately \$2,816,501 available for fiscal years 2027–2030. Because STBG projects tend to be larger and more expensive, the region is trying to build up the balance before opening a full call. Rachel noted that it is very difficult to amend any project that is currently programmed in FY26, so amendments for FY26 projects will generally not be accepted. She encouraged jurisdictions with FY27 projects, particularly in Pottawattamie County, to review whether adjustments are needed. All eligible STBG project types, including roadway reconstruction, bridge rehabilitation, safety improvements, transit capital projects, bicycle/pedestrian facilities, and planning/engineering services tied to an eligible project, were reviewed. Angie asked when the next full call for STBG projects would occur. Rachel explained that while there will not be a new call this year, MAPA will reassess for the Fall 2026 cycle.

Adam asked whether there is a threshold for cost increases. Rachel noted that staff have not yet set an internal threshold, but will follow Iowa DOT standards and follow up with him.

Carlos added that if a sponsor requests more money than what is available across the four-year STBG window, staff will have to revisit the program and determine what can be moved or reallocated. He explained that the amendment process allows MAPA to maintain a transparent and public process, stay in conformance with Iowa DOT requirements, and avoid mid-year surprises or unplanned funding shifts.

D. Public Comment

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



E. Additional Business

a. MAPA Updates

Rachel provided a brief MAPA update. She shared that Travis reached out to MAPA regarding the formal documentation that Iowa DOT is preparing on the [Cooperative Process for Non-Metropolitan Local Officials](#). This includes RPAs and other non-metro jurisdictions. She noted that the document is open for public comment until December 5, 2025. Anyone with comments or thoughts should send them to Travis, and he will compile the feedback. The full document is available on the Iowa DOT website, and it is also linked in this month's agenda on the MAPA website for easy access.

b. Safety Updates

Rachel shared that MAPA recently held the second SS4A STAG meeting, where the team reviewed the High Priority Network (HPN) and began looking at initial project recommendations, project options, and locations within the communities. She noted that several counties mentioned that the meeting time conflicted with their meetings, and MAPA wants to ensure that Glenwood, Missouri Valley, Harlan, and all the RPA counties can fully participate, as they play a major role in supporting and delivering safety projects. To address the conflicts, MAPA is coordinating with county officials to reschedule the next STAG meeting. A Doodle poll has been sent out so that participants can select a time that works for everyone.

Lindsey added that MAPA plans to postpone the next meeting until January or early February to give the consultant team more time to develop a comprehensive list of countermeasures and projects. She also noted that MAPA will reach out to city staff and mayors over the coming weeks to gather more detailed input on the high-priority network and discuss next steps toward final plan adoption. She explained that this safety plan is locally driven and originated from requests from cities and counties for assistance in identifying safety needs and securing funding. To access state or federal safety funds, jurisdictions must have a formally adopted safety plan that clearly identifies priority projects. Therefore, MAPA will require a resolution from each city adopting the plan. A draft plan is expected in April, with the final plan anticipated in May or June. She emphasized that MAPA does not want to dictate project priorities; instead, they want communities to be engaged early so that their needs are fully reflected in the final document. She encouraged members to visit the STAG project website to review resources and project materials.

F. Adjournment

Rachel Goetsch called for a motion for the meeting to adjourn.



Angie Winqvist motioned to adjourn the meeting at 12:05 pm. Motion was seconded by Richard Crouch.

FUTURE MEETINGS & EVENTS

- **HSIP-Local Applications Due:** November 15
- **STAG #3 - Countermeasures & Projects:** TBD
- **TASA/STBG Applications Due:** January 30, 2026
- **RPA-18 Meeting:** February 10, 2026 at 11:00am

