

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

- **Angie Winquist** - City of Glenwood
- **Gervas Mgonja** - City of Harlan
- **John Rasmussen** - Harrison County
- **Richard Crouch** - Mills County
- **Susan Miller** - Pottawattamie County, Vice Chair
- **Charlie Parkhurst** - Shelby County, Chair

Technical Committee Voting Members

- **Jamey Clark** - City of Glenwood
- **Rich Gochenour** - City of Missouri Valley
- **Andy Wicks** - Pottawattamie County
- **Chris Fredericksen** - Shelby County, Vice Chair

Non-Voting/MAPA Staff

- **Rachel Goettsch** - MAPA
- **Latifa Moro** - MAPA
- **Lindsey Button** - MAPA*
- **Scott Suhr** - Iowa DOT*
- **Travis Halm** - Iowa DOT*

*Virtual attendance**

Charlie Parkhurst called the meeting to order at 11:05 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 Winquist. Motion passed unanimously.



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

Charlie Parkhurst 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 Susan Miller. Motion passed unanimously.

C. FY26 Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP) Amendment 1

Rachel Goettsch presented Amendment 1 to the FY2026 Transportation Planning Work Program. She clarified that this amendment applies to the current program, not the upcoming FY 2027 program that will be considered next month.

The purpose of the amendment is to adjust the budget while keeping the total amount unchanged. The amendment reallocates funding by moving the Complete Streets portion to Regional Transportation Planning, since this year was an LRTP year and there was a lot of work in the 4020 section, while relatively little was being completed under the Complete Streets category, which led to the adjustment.

Technical Committee: Chris Fredericksen motioned to

- Approve the Transportation Planning Work Program Amendment 1.

Motion was seconded by Jamey Clark. Motion passed unanimously.

Policy Board: John Rasmussen motioned to

- Approve the Technical Committee recommendation.

Motion was seconded by Susan Miller. Motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

D. FY27 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA/TAP) and Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Applications

Rachel Goettsch presented an overview of the FY 2027 TASA/TAP and STBG programs. She noted that the call for applications was open from November through January, and one TA-Set Aside application was received. The total amount available within the TA-Set Aside program is a little over \$800,000, and four projects are currently programmed in FY 2026, including one by the Pottawattamie County Conservation Board for a multi-use trail. She added that public comment is currently open, and that the projects received are in the review portion of the timeline.



Project selection will occur in March to officially program projects into the FY 2027 TIP. The application received from Pottawattamie County Conservation was for the Great American Rail Trail segment from Weston to Underwood, requesting \$500,000 to develop a 10-foot-wide trail along the railroad corridor. Rachel noted that additional grant funding has already been awarded and will also be used for the project, with an estimated total project cost of approximately \$4,500,000. Project approval and scoring will be completed in March and presented to the committee.

For the STBG program, Rachel stated that one amendment was received from Harrison County. Because it is an amendment to an existing project, it will not be scored in the same manner as the TAP program. Instead, staff will evaluate how the amendment differs from the original application and how it improves the overall project. She noted that approximately \$2,816,501 is available within the STBG program, and the request is to increase funding from \$1,145,000 to \$3,400,000, which fits within the program's available funding.

John Rasmussen clarified that the Harrison County amendment consolidates three existing projects that were not funded and that they will be consolidated into a single project. He explained that the \$3.4 million request includes approximately \$800,000 in new funding, with about \$2.679 million already allocated to Harrison County from previously programmed projects.

Rachel asked whether this information had been included in the application, noting that she did not see that clarification. John responded that it was not specified in the application, which is why he is providing the clarification during the meeting and continued to provide project consolidation documentation to MAPA staff to program the correct amounts and projects.

E. Public Comment

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

F. Additional Business

a. MAPA Updates

Rachel Goettsch shared information on AARP's Community Challenge Grant program that was previously distributed by Travis. She noted that AARP is currently accepting applications, with a deadline of March 4. She explained that there are several types of grants available, though they are relatively small, and they are open to nonprofits and government entities. Also, she added that more information will be provided during the upcoming MPO/RPA quarterly meeting, and a webinar is also available for those interested.



b. Safety Updates

Rachel Goettsch provided an update on the SS4A engagement efforts for RPA-13 and RPA-18. She noted that meetings have been held with Harlan, Glenwood, Missouri Valley, and other participating communities, with one remaining meeting scheduled with Shenandoah. The meetings were intended to connect with local leadership, including police, fire, and EMS, to validate crash and network data and identify transportation safety needs and local planning context. This information will be incorporated into the draft and final plans.

The draft plan will be reviewed at the final STAG meeting on April 14, which will serve as the last major touchpoint for the SS4A process. Following that meeting, staff will conduct follow-up meetings with communities to address final questions and make adjustments prior to plan adoption. The goal is to complete the final plan by May or June.

Travis Halm asked whether any major findings or projects had emerged from the county safety action plan processes, and several members responded that none had yet been identified.

G. Adjournment

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

John Rasmussen motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:28 am. Motion was seconded by Richard Crouch.

FUTURE MEETINGS & EVENTS

- **RPA-18 Meeting - Project Selection:** March 11 at 11:00am
- **MAPA Quarterly Council of Officials:** March 11 at 11:30am
- **STAG #4: Draft/Final Plan:** April 14 at 1:30-3:00pm
- **Heartland 2050 Learning Site Visit - Detroit:** Spring 2026

