

Area Transportation Partnership 7 (ATP 7)

Minutes of January 17, 2014 Meeting – MnDOT, Mankato

Members Present:

Mark Anderson, Bob Apitz, Annette Bair, (alt.), Lisa Bigham, Chad Fowlds, Chris Frederick, Terry Genelin, David Henkels, Steve Koehler, Jack Kolars, Greg Ous, Darrell Pettis, and Gordy Regenscheid

Members Absent: Jeff Johnson, Alan Oberloh, Steve Schnieder, and Matt Widboom

Others Present: Ronda Allis, Rebecca Arndt, Seth Greenwood, Jake Huebsch, Mike Laven, Shaun Morrell, Josh Pearson, Serge Phillips, Dan Sarff, Scott Thompson, and Paul Vogel

Legislative/Congressional members present: Rep. Kathy Brynaert, Rep. Paul Torkelson, Rep. Clark Johnson, John Pierce (Congressman Walz's office), Tim Cossalter (Senator Klobuchar's office)

Greg Ous officially welcomed Chris Frederick, representing the Mankato/North Mankato Area Planning Organization (MAPO) and the MAPO Alternate member, Seth Greenwood. Greg also welcomed Darrell Pettis, Le Sueur County Administrator/Engineer, replacing Martin County Engineer, Kevin Peyman.

The attendees introduced themselves.

The minutes of October 25, 2013 were reviewed and approved as presented.

Binders were distributed to ATP members. Ronda Allis provided an overview of the materials that could be found in the binder. An updated membership list was included. A couple modifications are required and a new membership sheet will be distributed at the next ATP meeting.

STIP status

Lisa Bigham presented a summary of the STIP amendments that had been submitted since the October 25, 2013 ATP meeting.

ATP members were also informed of other STIP changes that will be processed. They include:

1. Jackson County trail project – prior to the ATP meeting, members of the TAP subcommittee convened to discuss a proposed change to the Old Mill Trail in Jackson County, programmed for 2014. The TAP subcommittee recommended and ATP approved a scope change to the Jackson County trail project, allowing the project to expand its ending termini.
2. Modifications to the BROS programmed projects – Jackson County had a BROS project in the STIP in 2014, which they have requested to have removed from the STIP. Sibley County had a BROS project programmed in 2015 that they are able to move up to 2014. Rock County has a bridge project that may be moved into 2015 to replace the Sibley County bridge project. The Sibley County bridge project will not require all of the funds dedicated to the Jackson County bridge project. Sibley County would like to use these funds to cover their engineering costs (which are typically not an allowable expense). It was the consensus of the ATP to make the necessary modifications to the STIP to utilize the BROS funds,

including the use of the funds to cover engineering costs on the Sibley County project.

3. HSIP – Martin County pulled a project from 2014 that was funded with HSIP dollars. Watonwan County has a project programmed in 2014 that the funds could be applied toward. It was the consensus of the ATP to make the necessary modifications to the STIP to utilize the HSIP funds.

STIP funding guidance

Lisa Bigham reviewed the STIP funding guidance with ATP members. The guidance sheets were provided to ATP members in their binder.

Status of 2018 solicitation

Ronda Allis noted that solicitations are currently underway for TAP, STP-Rural (counties), STP-Urban (cities), and Transit projects. All applications are due to District 7 by February 1, 2014. Subcommittees will meet in February to review/rank their respective projects. The ATP will meet in March to select projects.

Welcome to Legislators – Introductions and opening remarks

Greg Ous welcomed the Legislative and Congressional representatives that were in attendance. Members were asked to provide opening remarks.

Rep. Paul Torkelson

- Commented that Highway 14 and roundabouts are big topics for his area
- On Legacy committee and supportive of trails
- Asked about Corridors of Commerce going forward – Will the program be incorporated into planning for a parallel effort?

Rep. Kathy Brynaert

- Major concerns are Highway 14, interchange at Nicollet and funding shortfall
- Said there is a need for a multimodal map for Greater MN (i.e. transit) and noted that the Commissioner did not address it in his visits

Rep. Clark Johnson

- Major concern is Highway 14 – he believes the interchange at Nicollet is essential
- Wants to see Highway 14 continue to New Ulm
- On the Transportation Finance Committee
- Asked about ROI – are they based heavily on traffic counts, rural areas will suffer but they have the trucks
- Rural vs Metro – using one set of criteria when they are fundamentally different statewide
- Corridors of Commerce criteria balanced across the state – a good example

Also in attendance were John Pierce (Congressman Walz's office) and Tim Cossalter (Senator Klobuchar's office).

Presentation by Serge Phillips, MnDOT Government Affairs

Serge Phillips, MnDOT Government Affairs, delivered a presentation to the ATP members/legislators titled, "Achieving the Vision". The presentation focused on the disparity between the transportation needs in Minnesota and the available funding.

ATP updates

MnDOT – effects of MAP-21

Greg Ous provided a legislative briefing. The presentation included an overview of District 7's previous investment in expansion projects (e.g. Hwy 14) and the impact that these investments will have on the condition of the pavements in District 7. The presentation also provided an overview of the major projects currently underway in the district and an update on the current "Toward Zero Deaths" initiative that is underway statewide.

Safety

Scott Thompson provided an update on behalf of the safety subcommittee. He noted that there are more "tools" to use (e.g. roundabouts, RCUTS, etc) than we had five years ago. He distributed a draft map of current and planned traffic safety measures throughout District 7. He also discussed the County Highway Safety Plans and how local HSIP projects will be drawn from these plans.

City

Steve Koehler provided an overview of the changes that were made to the city solicitation form. Some of the changes placed a higher emphasis on pavement condition, which is a requirement of MAP-21. They also added language to address complete streets planning.

County

Darrell Pettis discussed the changes that were made to the county ranking form, in order to better comply with the conditions of MAP-21. He also noted that some of the biggest challenges in delivering county projects is dealing with Right of Way and Corps of Engineer permits.

Transit

Bob Apitz also discussed the changes that were made to the transit solicitation form. ATP funds are available to local transit agencies for bus replacement (capital investments). He noted that there are currently 10 public transit services in District 7; however, there are still four counties (Blue Earth, Le Sueur, Nicollet, and Waseca) that do not have county-wide transit.

Mark Anderson, Mankato Transit, informed the ATP members that the Mankato Transit system is in the process of converting from a 5311 (non-urbanized rural) transit system, to a 5307 (urbanized) system. This was required as a result of the Mankato/North Mankato area becoming an urbanized area based on the 2010 Census. The Mankato Transit system will now receive their funds directly from FTA (Federal Transit Administration). They are able to use some of these funds for capital expenditures. Because they are federal funds, the dollars will need to be reflected in the STIP. The city of Mankato will work with MnDOT to submit the necessary STIP amendments, which was supported by ATP members.

MAPO

Paul Vogel provided an overview of the Mankato/North Mankato Area Planning Organization

(MAPO). Paul distributed a handout that highlighted the progress that MAPO has made since it was designated an urbanized area in March 2012.

Next proposed meeting date

Friday, March 14, 2014 - 10:00 a.m.

Subcommittees will meet in February to review and rank projects.