

# Area Transportation Partnership 7 (ATP 7)

Minutes of December 19, 2014 Meeting – MnDOT, Mankato

## Members Present:

Bob Apitz, Lisa Bigham, Chad Fowlds, Terry Genelin, David Henkels, Jeff Johnson, Steve Koehler, Greg Ous, Darrell Pettis, Gordy Regenscheid, Steve Schnieder, and Matt Widboom

**Members Absent:** Mark Anderson, Chris Frederick, Jack Kolars, and Alan Oberloh

**Others Present:** Ronda Allis, Rebecca Arndt, Annette Fiedler, Seth Greenwood, Nicole Griensewic, Jake Huebsch, Byron Jost, Shaun Morrell, Josh Pearson, Bobbi Retzlaff, Dan Sarff, Paul Vogel, and Debra Yates

**Elected Officials:** Rep. Paul Torkelson; Rep. Bob Gunther; Rep. Clark Johnson; John Pierce, Congressman Walz's Office; Tim Cossalter, Senator Klobuchar's Office

Steve Koehler welcomed everyone; attendees introduced themselves.

The minutes of October 10, 2014 were reviewed and approved as presented.

## 2014 project updates

ATP members provided an overview of their federally funded 2014 projects. Steve Koehler (STP-Small Urban – city of New Ulm), Steve Schnieder (STP-Rural – Brown County and Jackson County), and Darrell Pettis (TAP – Jackson County and Sibley County) discussed their respective projects. Greg Ous provided an overview of a couple of 2014 MnDOT projects (Hwy 22 roundabouts and the Hwy 169 flood project from St. Peter to Le Sueur).

## 2015 project map

Chad Fowlds reviewed the 2015 MnDOT project map with ATP members, which includes over \$135M in projects. Highlights include the Hwy 14 expansion project from North Mankato to Nicollet, the Hwy 60 middle gap expansion (Mountain Lake to Butterfield), resurfacing work on I90, and the TH 22 flood prevention (south of St. Peter).

## 2015 – 2018 project map

Chad Fowlds also reviewed the 2015-2018 project map. Highlighted projects included:

2016

- Flood mitigation on Hwy 169 (Federal EDA funds \$9.8M)
- St. James reconstruction project – mini-roundabouts and back-in-diagonal parking

2017

- Hwy 60 west gap (Windom to Mountain Lake)
- Hwy 22 – Mapleton to Mankato (full reconstruction is needed due to the extent of deterioration of existing concrete)

2018

- New Ulm bridges

## 2015 – 2018 Local project map

Ronda Allis reviewed the 2015-2018 local project map with committee members. This map reflects all of the local projects in the current STIP that have federal funds associated with them.

### **2015 – 2018 STIP**

ATP members received a copy of the current STIP (2015-2018). Ronda Allis notified ATP members that, since the October ATP meeting, FHWA had officially approved the 2015-2018 STIP. All members were provided with a copy.

### **STIP amendments**

Ronda Allis reviewed a summary of Administrative Modifications and STIP amendments that have occurred since the last ATP meeting in October. There were three Admin Modifications and one STIP amendment.

### **2016 – 2019 STIP funding guidance**

Lisa Bigham provided an overview of the 2016-2019 STIP funding guidance. Lisa reviewed each of the handouts and discussed the change in funding from 2018 to 2019 (4<sup>th</sup> year of STIP that will be programmed this year).

**STP – Small Urban** – Steve Koehler discussed the STP-Small Urban program (for cities over 5,000 in population). The solicitation is currently open, with applications due January 9, 2015. Steve also shared an overview of projects funded with STP-Small Urban funds that are currently in the 2015-2018 STIP.

**STP – Rural** – Steve Schnieder shared that the STP-Rural solicitation, for the 13-counties, is also currently accepting application for FY 19 until January 9, 2015. He then shared a list of the STP-Rural projects that are in the current STIP.

**Transit** – Bob Apitz provided an update on the transit systems in District 7. There are eight 5311 systems and the Mankato system is now funded with 5307 funds. Bob noted that the capital purchases for the 2015 bus systems were covered by MVST funds. In 2016 they anticipate 7 buses needed replacement at a total cost of approximately \$520,000. Funding for the buses purchases is typically provided by the ATP. Over the past few years, \$320,000 has been made available from the STP-Small Urban program.

**TAP** – Darrell Pettis talked about the Transportation Alternatives Program (formerly Transportation Enhancement program). Darrell shared a list of projects that are TAP eligible (e.g. trails, safe routes to school, etc.). He also shared a list of TAP projects that are in the current 2015-2018 STIP.

### **2019 – 2024 – 10-year plan**

Greg Ous presented a legislative briefing power point presentation to the ATP. The briefing focused on District 7's investment history and future needs. Greg also shared a copy of the latest District 7 10-year plan with ATP members.

**MN Dept. of Transportation Financial Snapshot** – In addition to the legislative briefing, Greg Ous also reviewed a handout with ATP members that provided a “financial snapshot” of MnDOT's revenues and appropriations.

### **Regional transportation updates**

**MAPO** – Paul Vogel, MAPO Executive Director, distributed a one-page handout to ATP members. The handout was an overview of MAPO's recent activities. Paul provided an overview of MAPO, why they were formed, and some of their recent projects, including the development of a long range transportation plan.

**RDC** - Josh Pearson, Region Nine Development Commission and Annette Fiedler, Southwest Regional Development Commission both provided an update of their current work activities. Both RDC's are busy with Safe Routes to School planning, SHIP Active Living planning, and the statewide functional classification update.

### **Legislative feedback/Federal update**

Greg Ous invited the legislative members and congressional staffers to say a few words.

Representative Bob Gunther:

- Transportation funding is a priority
- priority is roads and bridges and not trains
- Debate this session will be gas tax vs. bond (\$500M)

Representative Paul Torkelson

- Transportation funding is an important topic and will get a lot of attention this session
- Rail issues need to be addressed (increased oil shipping = safety issues)
- EPA – possible change in ozone levels could result in transportation issues (not meeting standards)

Representative Clark Johnson

- Transportation funding is a priority for him
- Maintenance and expansion projects are both important
- Wants long-term, stable, dedicated funds

John Pierce, Congressman Walz's office

- Congressman Walz is committed to transportation
- Hwy 14 is a priority for the Congressman
- Wants to see a longer-term fix with the next federal transportation bill

Tim Cossalter, Senator Klobuchar's Office

- Senator Klobuchar also wants a longer federal transportation bill
- The Senator also wants to be able to fund earmarks again

Discussion with the elected officials centered around the need for new funding sources, with an emphasis by the cities and counties on additional funding sources for local units of government.

### **Next proposed meeting date**

Friday, March 13, 2015 - 10:00 a.m.

Subcommittees will meet in January/February