

# Area Transportation Partnership 7 (ATP 7)

Minutes of September 25, 2015 Meeting – MnDOT, Mankato

## **Members Present:**

Lisa Bigham, Terry Genelin, David Henkels, Steve Koehler, Jack Kolars, Greg Ous, Darrell Pettis, Gordy Regenscheid, and Fred Salisbury

**Members Absent:** Mark Anderson, Bob Apitz, Chad Fowlds, Chris Frederick, Jeff Johnson, JinYeene Neumann, and Matt Widboom

**Others Present:** Ronda Allis, Annette Fiedler, Seth Greenwood, Jake Huebsch, Bobbi Retzlaff, Dan Sarff, Paul Vogel, Dave Wentzel, and Debra Yates

Steve Koehler welcomed everyone. JinYeene Neumann was unable to attend the meeting, but her term officially began on September 1, 2015.

The minutes of July 17, 2015 were reviewed and approved as presented.

Ronda Allis reviewed the changes to the ATP Operating Procedures, which were supported by ATP members. The newly modified procedures will be distributed at the next ATP meeting.

According to the ATP Operating Procedures, “Each year the ATP-7 shall select a chair and vice-chair from their membership at the first meeting after September 1.” Steve Koehler is currently serving as the Chair and Jack Kolars as Vice-Chair. Both were willing to continue serving in that capacity for another year. Greg Ous asked members if anyone else was interested in serving as chair or vice-chair. Hearing no other interest, Greg thanked Steve and Jack for their willingness to serve and reconfirmed their appointments for another term.

## **STIP status**

Lisa Bigham reminded ATP members that we are currently operating under the federally approved 2015-2018 STIP. The 2016-2019 STIP was approved by TPIC in August and is on its way to FHWA and FTA for approval. It is anticipated that the 2016-2019 STIP will be federally approved sometime in October or November 2015. Lisa also noted that the STIP funding guidance for 2017-2020 should be available in November 2015.

### **STIP Amendments/Admin Modifications – Deb Yates**

Deb Yates reviewed the list of STIP amendments and Administrative Modifications that have been processed since ATP-7 met in July.

## **Review 2020 solicitation process**

Ronda Allis reviewed the “ATP meeting schedule and timeline for ATIP development” with ATP members. If 2017-2020 STIP funding guidance is available in November 2015, the FY 20 solicitation would kick off on November 16, 2015 and applications would be due January 8, 2016.

All of the ATP subcommittees have met to review/update their forms in preparation for the FY 20 solicitation. Subcommittee representatives provided an overview of the changes that were made to their respective forms.

### **STP-Small Urban – Steve Koehler**

Steve Koehler noted that the STP-Small Urban subcommittee performed a thorough review of the application two years ago after the implementation of MAP-21. This year, in preparation for the FY 20 solicitation, the form only required minor modifications. The form was also converted from Microsoft Word to Microsoft Excel so that it is more user-friendly.

### **STP-Rural – Darrell Pettis**

Darrell Pettis provided an overview of the STP-Rural application. Similar to the STP-Small Urban application, a major update was completed two years ago as a result of MAP-21. The form was updated for the FY 20 solicitation to include similar changes as the city form. The STP-Rural forms were also converted to Microsoft Excel so that certain information could be automatically calculated based upon user input.

### **TAP – Darrell Pettis**

Darrell Pettis provided an overview of the changes to the FY 20 TAP application/process. The Letter of Intent and first four sections of the full application are consistent statewide, so those were reviewed/modified by Central Office. The TAP subcommittee focused on sections 5 – 8 of the full application. Darrell reviewed the changes with ATP members. TAP subcommittee members would like to recommend the following changes to the FY 20 solicitation:

- Project minimum increased from \$50,000 to \$100,000
- The \$400,000 maximum was removed
- TAP subcommittee could choose to fund a project over two years (applicant is taking a risk that funding would be available in year 2)

ATP members supported the changes that were recommended by the TAP subcommittee.

### **Transit – Annette Fiedler**

Annette Fiedler noted that the Transit subcommittee has modified their application in preparation for the FY 20 solicitation.

### **SRTS - Statewide – Ronda Allis**

Ronda Allis informed ATP members that there will be a statewide SRTS solicitation running concurrently with the TAP solicitation. There will be \$1.7M available for infrastructure projects (FY 17) and \$500,000 for SRTS planning assistance.

Ronda also informed ATP members about a new eligibility requirement for accessing statewide SRTS funds. In 2015, the following eligibility requirement was added to the state SRTS program:

M.S. §174.40, subd. 4a – Eligibility. A statutory or home rule charter city, county, or town is eligible to receive funding under this section only if it has adopted subdivision regulations that **require safe routes to school infrastructure** in developments authorized on or after June 1, 2016.

Ronda will provide more information as it becomes available.

### **Presentation – MPO/ATP relationship – Bobbi Retzlaff and Paul Vogel**

Bobbi Retzlaff, MnDOT MPO Liaison, and Paul Vogel, MAPO Executive Director, delivered a presentation to ATP members on the relationships between the MAPO TIP development process and the ATP STIP development process.

## **Other ATP business**

### **TH 22 corridor study – Lisa Bigham/Paul Vogel**

Lisa Bigham is currently working with MAPO on a potential TH 22 corridor study. Paul Vogel noted that MAPO sees value in the study, but MAPO needs to work with MnDOT District 7 to define the scope and determine how the study would be funded. District 7 is interested in expanding the scope of the project beyond the MAPO planning boundaries (both north and south) to include everything from Mapleton to St. Peter. Lisa Bigham will work with MAPO staff and hope to kick off the study in 2016 or 2017.

### **Audit of project selection process**

Greg Ous informed ATP members that the Office of Legislative Auditors is currently completing an audit on the process used to select trunk highway construction projects. Greg noted that District 7 has a very good, mature selection process and he thanked ATP members for their dedicated participation.

### **US 14 (New Ulm) project update**

At the July 15, 2015 ATP meeting, Steve Koehler shared information with members on the work of the Highway 14 Special Task Force. The Task Force recommendation to Commissioner Zelle included:

- Improve truck turning at the Highway 14/15 intersection at Broadway,
- Rebuilt two-lane bridges over Front Street and the Minnesota River, and
- Build a new, grade-separated interchange at Highway 14/15/CR21

Greg Ous informed ATP members that Commissioner Zelle approved the Task Force recommendations as long as the work can be completed within the same budget (\$42.7M).

### **US 14 expansion project – North Mankato to Nicollet**

Greg Ous provided an update on the status of the expansion project between North Mankato and Nicollet. The project is slightly behind schedule due to rain delays, but the detour should be removed by mid-October.

## **Next proposed meeting date**

Friday, November 13, 2015 - 10:00 a.m. (tentative – pending 2017-2020 STIP funding guidance)