

Area Transportation Partnership 7 (ATP 7)

Minutes of January 8, 2016 Meeting – MnDOT, Mankato

Members Present:

Mark Anderson, Bob Apitz, Lisa Bigham, Annette Fiedler, Terry Genelin, David Henkels, Jeff Johnson, Steve Koehler, Jack Kolars, JinYeene Neumann, Greg Ous, Darrell Pettis, Gordy Regenscheid, and Fred Salsbury

Members Absent: Chad Fowlds, Chris Frederick, and Matt Widboom

Others Present: Ronda Allis, Nick Frentz, Seth Greenwood, Jake Huebsch, Representative Clark Johnson, Bree Maki (Senator Franken's Office), Sam Parker, Dan Sarff, and Paul Vogel

Steve Koehler welcomed everyone.

The minutes of November 13, 2015 were reviewed and approved as presented.

Steve Koehler welcomed our Congressional and Legislative guests. He also expressed appreciation for the passage of the FAST Act, which provides 5-years of stability in transportation planning.

2015 project updates

Greg Ous gave an overview of some of the 2015 construction projects. Greg noted that 2015 was a very productive year with District 7 delivering over \$100M in projects.

Jack Kolars asked about the impact that a large program has on the District's ability to deliver the projects. Greg Ous noted that the District has had to consult out a lot of our work, and that the District is working on identifying ways to deliver the program.

2016-2019 STIP map

Lisa Bigham summarized some of the changes that have been made to projects in the current STIP (2016-2019). The Highway 169 flood mitigation project (Mankato to St. Peter) letting was \$4.4M over the programmed amount. The District will need to figure out how to cover the overage. Other changes include:

- Waseca turnback project on TH 14 was moved from 2016 to 2017
- TH 15 – Fairmont – moved from 2016 to 2017
- US 169 from St. Peter to Le Sueur (north bound) – looking to upscope the project from a bituminous overlay to a concrete overlay
- TH 14 from Springfield to Sleepy Eye will be coming out of the STIP (shelf project); these funds will be used toward the upscoping of the US 169 project (St. Peter to Le Sueur)

Lisa Bigham noted that the new Federal Surface Transportation bill (FAST-Act) will change the way the TAP program operates (no longer its own dedicated program). She encouraged ATP members to consider the TAP program and be prepared to give District 7 feedback about the importance of the program to their communities.

2016-2019 Local Project map – Gordy Regenscheid provided an overview of the local projects that are in the current STIP.

STIP Amendments/Admin Modifications – Ronda Allis reviewed the STIP amendments and Administrative Modifications that have been processed since the ATP met on November 13, 2015.

2017-2020 STIP funding guidance

Lisa Bigham directed members to a handout in the packet that provided an overview of the STIP funding guidance (2017-2020). ATP-7 will receive the same funding amounts for 2020 that they received for 2019.

- **STP-Small Urban** – Steve Koehler discussed the STP-Small Urban program (cities over 5,000) and gave an overview of the STP-Small Urban projects that are currently in the STIP.
- **STP-Rural** – JinYeene Neumann provided a similar overview for the STP-Rural projects. All 13 counties in District 7 are eligible to apply. She provided an overview of the STP-Rural projects that are in the current STIP.
- **TAP** – Darrell Pettis described the TAP program and the types of projects that are eligible. He summarized the TAP projects that are in the current STIP.
- **Transit** – Bob Apitz thanked the ATP for their continued support of transit bus replacements. He also talked about some of the changes that are happening in District 7 as it relates to transit: Faribault County and Martin County combined systems; Waseca County now has transit (SMART); and Blue Earth, Le Sueur, and Nicollet counties are considering a Joint Powers Board to operate a regional transit system.

Applications for FY 20 funding (STP-Small Urban, STP-Rural, and TAP) are due by the end of the business day on Friday, January 8, 2016.

Transit applications were due at the same time; however, due to a miscommunication Ronda asked the ATP if the deadline for transit applications could be extended to January 13, 2016. ATP members supported this extension. The current solicitation for bus replacement applications is for FY 17 funding.

Mark Anderson, Mankato Transit, shared pictures of the new Mankato bus facility (located on Victory Drive), which was partially funded with ATP-7 funds. Mark would like to coordinate a future ATP meeting at the new transit facility, at which time ATP members will be provided a tour.

Mn Dept of Transportation Financial Snapshot

Greg Ous reviewed the handout titled, “Minnesota Department of Transportation Financial Snapshot”, which provides an overview of MnDOT’s revenues and appropriations.

Federal Transportation bill update

Greg Ous also reviewed a handout with ATP members titled, “Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act of 2015”. The FAST Act is the new Federal Surface Transportation bill, which provides \$281B over five years in contract authority.

Legislative Feedback/Federal update

Bree Maki, Senator Franken’s office, talked about the FAST Act. She encouraged members to contact her if they

needed letters of support for competitive programs under the new FAST Act. She noted that they are also having conversations about how to better coordinate infrastructure installation (e.g. conduit) when a roadway is torn up for construction.

Jack Kolars asked how the new transportation bill will be funded. Bree Maki was uncertain about the funding sources and would get information back to the ATP.

Representative Clark Johnson stated that transportation will be a top priority this coming legislative session. The legislature needs to identify a dedicated funding source for transportation, and this will be Representatives Clark's top priority. He also talked about the new county sales tax provision and the disparity that this could cause. He is concerned that wealthier counties will be able to invest more in their transportation system than those counties that are struggling financially (population loss, etc.).

2016-2025 – 10-year plan

Ronda Allis shared the District 7 10-year Capital Highway Investment Proposal (CHIP) with ATP members. This document includes projects in the current STIP (2016-2019) as well as proposed projects for 2020 – 2025. The document is updated annually and the next iteration, which should be available in the Fall of 2016, will include the 2017 – 2020 STIP and proposed projects for 2021 – 2026.

Regional transportation updates

- MAPO – Paul Vogel, Executive Director, was happy to report that the MAPO Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) was adopted in December 2015. MAPO staff are currently working on the 2016-2019 TIP (Transportation Improvement Program) and on various studies identified in their work plan.

Greg Ous congratulated Paul Vogel and Jake Huebsch on the good work they have done getting MAPO up and running.

- RDC – Sam Parker introduced himself as the new Transportation Planner for Region Nine Development Commission. Region Nine has been busy completing a number of Safe Routes to School and Active Living plans. Annette Fielder, Southwest Regional Development Commission, said they are also busy with Safe Routes to School and Active Living plans. They are also gearing up to begin updating the Public Transit Human Services Coordination Plan, which will be kicking off in 2016.

Next proposed meeting date

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for Friday, March 11, 2016; however, some ATP members have a conflict. Staff will identify an alternate meeting date.