

SIOUXLAND INTERSTATE METROPOLITAN PLANNING COUNCIL  
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
Transportation Technical Committee

Minutes of the September 3, 2008 Meeting

1:30 P.M.

SIMPCO, 1122 Pierce Street, Sioux City, Iowa

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chris Payer, Chair	City of Sioux City, Iowa
Paul Nolan, Vice Chair	City of South Sioux City, Nebraska
Jim Ferneau	City of Sergeant Bluff, Iowa
Curt Miller	City of Sioux City, Iowa / Transit System
Bob Peters	City of Dakota City, Nebraska
Richard Storm	Woodbury County, Iowa
Jill Wanderscheid	City of Sioux City, Iowa

MEMBERS ABSENT

Jeff Dooley	Dakota Dunes CID, South Dakota
Kory Menken	City of North Sioux City, South Dakota
Raymond Roggow	Union County, South Dakota
Tom Rohe	Plymouth County, Iowa
Elizabeth Smart	City of Sioux City, Iowa / Sioux Gateway Airport –Colonel Bud Day
Field	
Vacant	Dakota County, Nebraska

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Dakin Schultz	Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT)
Kaine McClelland	Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR)
Ron Schlautman	Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR)
Brad Zumwalt	Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR)

GUESTS

Jason Klemme	Howard R. Green
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STAFF

Michelle Bostinelos, Transportation Planning Director	Siouxland Interstate Metropolitan Planning Council (SIMPCO)
Kellee Van Bruggen, Transportation Planner	Siouxland Interstate Metropolitan Planning Council (SIMPCO)
Eric Sanders, Transportation Planner	Siouxland Interstate Metropolitan Planning Council (SIMPCO)
Jane Gilbert, Co-Executive Director	Siouxland Interstate Metropolitan Planning Council (SIMPCO)
Dwight Lang, Co-Executive Director	Siouxland Interstate Metropolitan Planning Council (SIMPCO)
Sharon Burton, Secretary	Siouxland Interstate Metropolitan Planning Council (SIMPCO)

The Transportation Technical Committee met on Wednesday, September 3, 2008 at 1:30 p.m., at SIMPCO, 1122 Pierce Street, Sioux City, Iowa. Chris Payer, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

- I. **Approval of the Agenda** – Chair Chris Payer asked if there were any deletions or corrections to the agenda. *Jill Wanderscheid moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Curt Miller. Motion carried.*
  
- II. **Approval of the Minutes** – Chair Chris Payer asked if there were any deletions or corrections to the minutes of July 10, 2008 Combined Policy Board and Transportation Technical Committee meeting. *Paul Nolan moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Richard Storm. Motion carried.*

III. **Review Monthly Correspondence** – Michelle Bostinelos gave a brief overview of the director's report included in the meeting packet. She reported the Bike and Pedestrian Roundtable met in August, and Milly Ortiz from Iowa DOT gave an informative presentation on the Complete Streets Concept.

A representative from the Iowa Bike Coalition will speak on the Complete Streets Concept at the January meetings of the Transportation Technical Committee and Policy Board.

In August Ms. Bostinelos attended a passenger rail meeting in Ames. She explained Iowa DOT is forming a new committee to develop and promote potential passenger rail service in Iowa. Discussions included connecting Chicago to Dubuque or Davenport and over to Des Moines, Iowa City and Cedar Rapids.

Staff is working with the Iowa DOT and Tri-State Traffic Management on incident management and drafting of detour maps for the I-29 reconstruction project.

IV. **Transportation Improvement Progress Report** – Chris Payer with the city of Sioux City reported the railroad agreement for Outer Drive has been finalized and approved by the council. Lettings should begin this fall starting with the railroad realignment and bridge over the Floyd Channel.

Curt Miller with the city of Sioux City Transit System reported two route buses have been ordered and the tentative delivery date is March. Funding was awarded to purchase video equipment for buses and this has also been ordered.

Ron Schlautman with the Nebraska Department of Roads reported comments were received from the Federal Highway Administration on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Highway 35 are being addressed. Next summer two concrete repair projects will be completed on Highway 20 and 77.

Dakin Schultz with Iowa DOT reported Segment 3 of the I-29 Improvement Project has started with work underway on the Riverside Boulevard Interchange. A field exam has been completed for Segment 2 and the environmental document should be finished by the end of the year.

Iowa DOT is in the process of developing incident management training to be offered this fall.

A contract is being negotiated with RDG Planning and Design to complete a study to identify a safe, scenic, recreation, and cost efficient trail alignment alternative for the Lewis and Clark Multi-Use Trail in western Iowa.

The Gordon Drive Viaduct is in the last stage of overlay and the remaining rail and median work should be completed this year.

If weather permits, the I-29 rehabilitation work south of Sioux City down to the Woodbury County line should be complete this fall.

Mr. Schultz gave a brief overview of the progress on U.S. Highway 20. The grading on Iowa 4 east of the 4 lanes should be completed this year, if weather permits. The public hearing held on August 26 for the west section from Merville over to U.S. 71 was well attended. He noted the alternative to go through the town of Correctionville was supported. Due to environmental issues the expansion from Correctionville over to Merville was switched from the southside to the northside.

Paul Nolan with the city of South Sioux City reported the overlay project on Dakota Avenue and the street improvements on 15th, 16th, and 17th should be finished by the end of this year's construction season.

Bob Peters with the city of Dakota City reported the exterior renovation of the railroad depot should be finished this month. The city is now in the process of submitting a grant for funding to renovate the interior of the building.

Jill Wandersheid with the city of Sioux City reported the public acquisition process has started for the Unity Elementary School Trail. Funding for this project was received through the Safe Routes to School program. She noted hopefully authorization to expend funds would be received in October.

Jim Ferneau with the city of Sergeant Bluff reported plans are underway to revamp the interchange of old 75 and 1<sup>st</sup> Street, bid letting is scheduled for January with construction to be completed by November of 2009.

V. **Addendum to the Public Participation Plan** – Kellee Van Bruggen reported notification was received from the Federal Highway Administration stating in order to meet SAFETEA-LU compliance a section would need to be added to the Public Participation Plan addressing how each environmental and cultural agency and other interested parties would like to be notified about transportation projects in the MPO area. In June,

staff sent surveys to seventy-nine agencies listed under the Individuals and Organizations section of the plan and thirty-one responses were received. In July, staff started conducting follow-up calls to the agencies that did not respond to the initial survey and only fifteen agencies have not answered. Ms. Van Bruggen reviewed a chart included in the addendum that outlines each organization's response to the survey. Discussion followed. **Bob Peters moved to recommend to the Policy Board approval of the addendum to the Public Participation Plan, seconded by Curt Miller. Motion carried.**

**VI. Safe Routes to School Taskforce and Request for Support** – Michelle Bostinelos reported Safe Routes to School Taskforce meetings were held on April 29 and July 29. This group has been focusing on submitting applications for non-infrastructure grants through the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program. SIMPCO transportation planning staff has prepared two non-infrastructure grant applications through the Iowa DOT SRTS program, one for the Sergeant Bluff School District and the other for Sioux City eastside schools. If awarded, staff would complete comprehensive bicycle and pedestrian safety plans which would include an inventory of current conditions within a two-mile radius of schools, mapping, traffic counts, crash data, sidewalk deficiencies, crosswalks, and a look at how children could be educated regarding walking and biking to school. Plans will include project recommendations, prioritization and cost estimates for individual schools. The city and school can use this information for future SRTS projects and federal funding applications. Ms. Bostinelos handed out for review a copy of the applications prepared by staff and noted the deadline for submittal to Iowa DOT is October 1, 2008.

Ms. Bostinelos reported staff will also prepare an application through the Nebraska DOR for a similar project with the Dakota City and South Sioux City schools. A letter of intent to apply is required by September 5, 2008 with the final application due on December 5, 2008.

Staff is requesting support of these applications from the Transportation Technical Committee. Discussion followed. A suggestion was made to use the title 'Safe Routes to School Infrastructure Master Plan' for the city of Sioux City school applications. It was decided that since the plan would not only make infrastructure proposals but also non-infrastructure proposals a more inclusive title would be 'Safe Routes to School Comprehensive Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Plan'. **Paul Nolan moved to recommend to the Policy Board support for the Iowa DOT Safe Routes to School applications for the cities of Sergeant Bluff and Sioux City and Nebraska DOR Safe Routes to School application for the cities of South Sioux City and Dakota City, seconded by Bob Peters. Motion carried.**

**VII. MPO Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) FY 2009 – 2012 Highway Element Amendment –**

1. NDOR Maintenance costs for an estimate cost of \$392,800 for FY 2009, \$447,800 for FY 2010, \$510,500 for FY 2011 and \$518,950 in FY 2012.

Michelle Bostinelos explained one new requirement of SAFETEA-LU is the inclusion of street operations and maintenance expenditure reports. The FY 2009 – 2012 Transportation Improvement Program was approved at the combined TTC and Policy meeting held on July 10, 2008, however, Nebraska DOR's reports were not included at that time. **Jill Wanderscheid moved to recommend to the Policy Board approval of the highway element amendment to the FY 2009 – 2012 Transportation Improvement Program as presented, seconded by Richard Storm. Motion carried.**

**VIII. Passenger Transportation Development Plan (PTDP) and MPO Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) FY 2009 – 2012 Transit Element Amendments and Revisions –**

Amendments:

1. Sioux City Transit System 176" LD bus upgrade to 28' MD low-floor diesel bus (#1063) needs to be programmed at a total estimated cost of \$68,000 with \$56,440 Federal participation (5317) in FY 2009.
2. Sioux City Transit System JARC Program with Alorica needs to be programmed at a total estimated cost of \$100,000 with \$50,000 Federal participation (5316) in FY 2009.
3. Sioux City Transit System weather coverings within the Martin Luther King, Jr. Transportation Center needs to be programmed at a total estimated cost of \$10,000 with \$8,000 Federal participation (Intercity Bus Program) in FY 2009.

***Paul Nolan moved to recommend to the Policy Board approval of the amendments to the Passenger Transportation Development Plan and to the FY 2009 – 2012 Transportation Improvement Program as presented, seconded by Jill Wanderscheid. Motion carried.***

Revisions:

1. Sioux City Transit System three 35' HD ADA buses (#1077, 1079, 1081) with cameras needs to be programmed at a total estimated cost of \$1,023,000 with \$849,090 Federal participation (5309) in FY 2009.
2. Sioux City Transit System four 40' HD ADA buses (#1334, 1335, 1336, 1337) with cameras needs to be programmed at a total estimated cost of \$1,416,000 with \$1,175,280 Federal participation (5309) in FY 2009.

***Curt Miller moved to recommend to the Policy Board approval of the revisions to the Passenger Transportation Development Plan and to the FY 2009 -2012 Transportation Improvement Program as presented, seconded by Jill Wanderscheid. Motion carried.***

- IX. **Sioux City Transit System Routes Study** – Curt Miller with Sioux City Transit gave a brief overview of the transit route system study. He explained a comprehensive system analysis is required under federal guidelines every five years. The objective is to identify areas for improvement, determine if the expectations of users are being met and evaluate the efficiency of operations. He showed maps illustrating existing routes and suggested improvements. Discussion followed.
- X. **Additional Comments** – The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 5, 2008, 1:30 p.m., SIMPCO, 1122 Pierce Street, Sioux City, Iowa.
- XI. **Adjournment** – ***Paul Nolan moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jill Wanderscheid. Motion carried.*** The meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.