

SIOUXLAND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION  
PLANNING ASSOCIATION  
Policy Board

Minutes of the Thursday, April 17, 2008 Meeting

11:00 a.m.

SIMPCO, 1122 Pierce Street, Sioux City, Iowa

The Policy Board met on Thursday, April 17, 2008 at 11:00 a.m., at the Meisner Conference Room, SIMPCO, 1122 Pierce Street, Sioux City, Iowa. Jeff Simonsen, Chair, called the meeting to order 11:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jeff Simonsen, Chair	Cherokee County
Allen Hilker	Ida County
Don Kass	Plymouth County
Mark Monson	Woodbury County
Lester Nordaker	Monona County
Jim Peck	City of Cherokee

MEMBERS ABSENT:

John Rexwinkel, Vice Chair	City of Le Mars
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NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dakin Schultz	Iowa DOT
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GUESTS:

Sandra Langel, Director	Siouxland Regional Transit System
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STAFF:

Michelle Bostinelos, Transportation Planning Director	Siouxland Interstate Metropolitan Planning Council
Kellee Boone, Transportation Planning	Siouxland Interstate Metropolitan Planning Council
Dwight Lang, Co-Executive Director	Siouxland Interstate Metropolitan Planning Council
Sharon Burton, Secretary	Siouxland Interstate Metropolitan Planning Council

- I. **Approval of the Agenda** – Chair Jeff Simonsen asked if there were additions, deletions, or corrections to the agenda. ***Don Kass moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Allen Hilker. Motion carried.***
- II. **Approval of the Minutes** – Chair Jeff Simonsen asked if there were additions, deletions, or corrections to the minutes of the February 21, 2008 Policy Board regular meeting. ***Allen Hilker moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Mark Monson. Motion carried.***
- III. **Review Monthly Correspondence** – Michelle Bostinelos gave an overview of the director's report included in the meeting packet. She reported the final FY 2008 – 2012 Passenger Transportation Development Plan (PTDP) has been submitted to the Iowa DOT. Staff attended a National Highway Institute (NHI) "Freight 101" in Ames February 26 and 27. Ms. Bostinelos gave a presentation on the Tri-State Traffic Management Team at the Iowa DOT Safety Conscious Planning Forum on March 10 and 11 in Ames. She also traveled to Ames on March 18 to attend the RPA Directors meeting.
- IV. **Transportation Improvement Progress Report** – Dakin Schultz with Iowa DOT reported the construction on Highway 60 in our area is now complete and Minnesota will be finishing their segment with paving this year. Construction on Iowa 175 is under contract and work will start as soon as weather permits. The I-29 resurfacing project south of Sergeant Bluff down to the state line has been let. PCC overlay will be used for this project rather than asphalt. Within the next month Request For Proposals (RFP) for the Lewis & Clark Trail Study should be released. Interviews with an internal group will then be scheduled, after contract negotiations the organization receiving the award will be identified and this organization will then release a schedule. The House and Senate have approved a

bill based on the funding recommendations of TIME-21. He gave a brief overview of provisions included in the bill, noting official notification has not been received and the Governor has not signed. This bill revises the registration fee system and does not increase fuel tax. Discussion followed.

**V. Surface Transportation Projects (STP), Transportation Enhancements (TE) and Highway Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation Program (HBRRP) Response to Request for Proposals –**

Michelle Bostinelos reported the annual RFP's for STP and TE funding were sent out on November 16, 2007 and due back to SIMPCO staff on January 25, 2008. Staff received thirteen STP requests totaling \$4,530,600, three TE requests totaling \$830,000 and ten HBRRP requesting totaling \$2,420,000.

She explained the TAC made recommendations for funding allocations at their February 13, 2008 meeting and, at that time, FY 2012 targets had not been released by the Iowa DOT. The new targets were not received until the day of the Policy Board meeting, February 21, 2008. It was learned at that time there would be additional STP funding of \$667,600 and TE of \$28,400. The Policy Board approved a motion at their February 21 meeting to have the TAC meet to reexamine the original STP and TE applications received and decide whether to program these additional funds.

The TAC met on March 26, 2008 and reviewed the original STP and TE recommendations. She reported they kept all of the recommended STP allocations from February 13 the same with the exception of programming additional funds of \$660,000 to Woodbury County, L-37/Safford Avenue (project #2). This project had been moved back a couple of times being kept as a high consideration for the next funding cycle.

Ms. Bostinelos reviewed TAC recommendations for FY 2012 STP targets.

1. Siouxland Regional Transit System (SRTS), three (3) 176" LD Buses, total cost of \$234,000 with \$187,200 Federal participant, programmed in FY 2012.  
**TAC recommendation: Approve three buses at a total cost of \$234,000 with \$187,200 Federal participation in FY 2012.**
2. Woodbury County, L-37/Safford Avenue, total cost of \$1,200,000 with \$900,000 Federal participation, programmed in FY 2011.  
**TAC recommendation on February 21, 2008: Not funded, but with high consideration for next application round.**  
**TAC recommendation on March 26, 2008: Approve at a total estimated cost of \$1,200,000 with \$660,000 Federal participation in FY 2012.**
3. City of Cherokee, Lake Street, total cost of \$473,000 with \$378,400 Federal participation, programmed in FY 2012.  
**TAC recommendation: Approve at a total estimated cost of \$473,000 with \$330,000 Federal participation in FY 2012.**
4. Plymouth County, C-60, total cost of \$2,000,000 with \$1,000,000 Federal participation, programmed in FY 2012.  
**TAC recommendation: Approve at a total estimated cost of \$2,000,000 with \$900,000 Federal participation in FY 2012.**
5. Plymouth County, C-38, total cost of \$3,000,000 with \$500,000 Federal participation, programmed in FY 2010.  
**TAC recommendation: Approve at a total estimated cost of \$3,000,000 with \$500,000 Federal participation in FY 2010. This project was already programmed for FY 2009. The request is to move the project at the same funding amount to FY 2010.**
6. City of Le Mars, 18<sup>th</sup> Street SW, total cost of \$150,000 with \$120,000 Federal participation, programmed in FY 2012.  
**TAC recommendation: Not funded.**
7. City of Le Mars, US 75 North, total cost of \$150,000 with \$120,000 Federal participation, programmed in FY 2012.  
**TAC recommendation: Not funded.**

8. City of Le Mars, Lincoln/Lake Avenue SW, total cost of \$300,000 with \$240,000 Federal participation programmed in FY 2012.  
**TAC recommendation: Not funded.**
9. City of Le Mars, 12<sup>th</sup> Street SE, total cost of \$350,000 with \$280,000 Federal participation programmed in FY 2012.  
**TAC recommendation: Not funded.**
10. City of Le Mars, Iowa Highway 3, total cost of \$450,000 with \$360,000 Federal participation programmed in FY 2012.  
**TAC recommendation: Approve at a total estimated cost of \$450,000 with \$315,000 Federal participation in FY 2012.**
11. City of Le Mars, 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE, total cost of \$500,000 with \$400,000 Federal participation programmed in FY 2012.  
**TAC recommendation: Not funded.**

She noted if all recommendations are approved, there will be a STP balance of approximately \$7,600.  
**Mark Monson moved to approve TAC recommendations for allocation of FY 2012 STP funding, seconded by Les Nordaker. Motion carried.**

Ms. Bostinelos reported the only change the TAC made to the original recommended TE allocations of February 13 was the addition of \$10,000 to the city of Cherokee's Spring Lake Park Extension project. With this addition, the project would be funded at the total Federal request, \$140,000 or 80%. The city of Le Mars indicated they plan to submit an application next year requesting additional funding to complete their Recreation Trails Connectors project. She noted if these recommendations are approved, there will be a TE balance of approximately \$18,400.

Ms. Bostinelos reviewed TAC recommendations for FY 2012 TE targets.

City of Ida Grove, West Access, total cost \$800,000 with \$640,000 Federal participation.  
**TAC recommendation: Not funded.**

City of Cherokee, Spring Lake Park Extension, total cost \$175,000 with \$140,000 Federal participation.  
**TAC recommendation of February 21, 2008: Fund at \$130,000**  
**TAC recommendation of March 26, 2008: Fund at \$140,000**

City of Le Mars, Recreation Trail Connectors, total cost \$200,000 with \$150,000 Federal participation.  
**TAC recommendation: Fund at \$50,000**

**Jim Peck moved to approve TAC recommendations for allocation of FY 2012 TE funding, seconded by Don Kass. Motion carried.**

Ms. Bostinelos explained no additional funding was received for HBRRP projects. The TAC approved a recommendation of funding all HBRRP projects as presented at their February 13, 2008 meeting and the Policy Board approved this recommendation at their February 21, 2008 meeting.

- VI. **Final SRTPA Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP) FY 2009** – Michelle Bostinelos explained the TPWP is a listing of staff transportation planning activities and the budget for the fiscal year. She reported at the February 21, 2008 meeting a draft of the FY 2009 TPWP was presented for review and comments. There were no comments received from members of the TAC or Policy Board. A few minor comments were received from the Iowa DOT, but none concerning the budget. The TAC does recommend the approval of the FY 2009 TPWP. **Mark Monson moved to accept the TAC recommendation and approve the FY 2009 Transportation Planning Work Program, seconded by Allen Hilker. Motion carried.**

VII. **Resolution supporting TIME-21 and an increase in State Fuel Tax** – Michelle Bostinelos reported at the March 26, 2008 TAC meeting, members directed staff to draft a resolution concerning TIME-21 funding. They wanted the resolution to emphasize the need of increasing fuel tax to help resolve the shortfall in transportation funding resources. If approved by the Policy Board, it will be submitted to the Governor and area Iowa Legislators. Discussion followed on whether the resolution would be relevant now that the House and Senate have approved a bill that does not include an increase in fuel tax. It was decided it would still be a good idea to reiterate support for this need. ***Don Kass moved to authorize the chair to sign the resolution as presented and submit it to the Governor and area Iowa Legislature members, seconded by Allen Hilker. Motion carried.***

VIII. **Draft Chapter 6 to the SRTPA Long Range Transportation Plan** – Kellee Boone reviewed Chapter 6 – Future Regional Transportation Threats, Solutions and Alternatives of the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). She explained the original outline of the plan was Chapter 6 - Opportunities and Strengths, Chapter 7 - Solutions and Chapter 8 – Alternatives. However, since similar information would be used in each of these chapters, it was decided combining this information into one chapter would be more effective. She noted the Plymouth County Assessor's office was contacted about the value of buildings used in hog confinements and dairy operations, and they will be consulted again to confirm the language of that information is presented accurately in the document. It was noted that under 'Hog confinements and dairy operations taxation issue' the sentence stating operations do not have to pay income taxes should be changed to property taxes. She asked members to continue reviewing Chapter 6 and return comments within the next thirty days.

Michelle Bostinelos explained the next chapters will pertain more to specific projects that need to be programmed in the LRTP. Staff will be working with county engineers on a listing of multi-modal projects that will be applying for federal dollars from 2015 to 2035. Discussion followed. Finalized chapters will be combined into one document and presented to members for review. An open house will be held with a 45 day public comment period following. The final document is scheduled for approval in June 2009.

IX. **Draft Public Participation Plan** – Kellee Boone reported the Public Participation Plan was last updated in 2001 under the TEA-21 transportation bill and has now been revised for compliance with the SAFETEA-LU transportation bill. She gave a brief overview of changes and asked members to review with comments returned within the next 30 days. The final document will be presented for approval in June. She noted this plan will now be updated every five years.

Michelle Bostinelos reported a public open house is being planned for June 18, 2008 from 3:30 until 6:00 p.m. at SIMPCO. However the location may need to be changed due to street construction on 11<sup>th</sup> and Pierce. She noted the location of public open houses have to be accessible to the handicapped and bus routes. A 45 day comment period will follow the open house. She also pointed out on page 17 of the plan there is a quick reference guide listing all documents that will be presented to members for review and approval. The table outlines the required update of each document along with draft development, public meetings/draft availability, public comment period, adoption and availability.

X. **Additional Comments** – The next meeting is scheduled for June 19, 2008. Ms. Bostinelos noted at this meeting the final FY 2009 – 2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) will be presented for approval.

XI. **Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at 12:01 p.m.