

SIouxLAND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ASSOCIATION (SRTPA)
Policy Board

Minutes of the Thursday, February 18, 2010 Meeting

10:00 a.m.

SIMPCO, 1122 Pierce Street, Sioux City, Iowa

MEMBERS PRESENT:

John Rexwinkel, Vice Chair	City of Le Mars
Don Kass	Plymouth County
John McCall	Monona County
Doug Walsh	Woodbury County

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Allen Hilker	Ida County
Jim Peck	City of Cherokee
Jeff Simonsen, Chair	Cherokee County

GUEST:

Mark Monson	Woodbury County
Dakin Schultz	Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT)

STAFF:

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

The Policy Board met at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 18, 2010 at SIMPCO, 1122 Pierce Street, Sioux City, Iowa. John Rexwinkel, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

- I. Approval of the Agenda – Vice Chair John Rexwinkel asked if there were corrections to the agenda. ***Doug Walsh moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Don Kass. No further discussion. Motion carried.***
- II. Approval of the Minutes – Vice Chair John Rexwinkel asked if there were corrections to the minutes of the November 12, 2009 Policy Board regular meeting. ***John McCall moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by John Rexwinkel. No further discussion. Motion carried.***
- III. Review Monthly Correspondence – Michelle Bostinelos provided an overview of the director's report included in the meeting packet. On January 12th she provided a presentation on U.S. Highway 20 to the Merville Chamber of Commerce. Staff held a working meeting with the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on January 21st to discuss projects and prepare for the possibility of a second round of stimulus funding.
- IV. Transportation Improvement Progress Report – Dakin Schultz with Iowa DOT reported the Jobs for Main Street Act of 2010 has been passed by the House but not the Senate. This bill proposes allocation of approximately the same amount of funding for transportation projects as the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009. Notification was sent to all MPOs and RPAs to prepare for distribution of this potential second round of stimulus funding, but at this time, it is unsure how the House and Senate will come together on the proposed bill. The Senate is expected to make the Highway Trust Fund or at least the transportation bill whole through 2010. He noted at this time MPOs and RPAs have been advised to budget using 2009 funding targets.

Mr. Schultz reported work will continue on I-29 in Monona County. Projects which have been let include resurfacing on U.S. Highway 20 in Ida County and Iowa 3 in Cherokee County; and the Oto to Smithland project which was awarded funding through the SRTPA. Progress will continue on the U.S. Highway 20 expansion with paving from Iowa 4 to Moorland, and if weather permits, this section should be open by

the end of the year. Also, seven miles of grading has been let west of Iowa 4 and it is anticipated a contract for 45 miles of remaining grading all the way through U.S. 71 will be awarded by the end of summer. Work on the Port Neal Bridge was completed by the final day of the contract. The deck of the bridge outside of Westfield is ready to be poured when weather permits. Discussion followed on the toll winter weather has had on the roadways and budget concerns.

The Iowa Transportation Commission will tour the area and hold a meeting in Storm Lake the second Tuesday in August. Their tour will include a portion of U.S. Highway 20.

- V. Proposed Revisions to the SRTPA Bylaws – Michelle Bostinelos reviewed each of the proposed revisions, and noted the TAC and Policy Board bylaws mirror each other. Discussion followed. Members were asked to continue looking at the bylaws and email or call with comments. A final draft will be presented for approval at the March meeting.
- VI. FY 2011 – 2014 Draft Passenger Transportation Plan (PTP) – Michelle Bostinelos provided an overview of the PTP. She explained this document is prepared every five years and updated annually for both the SRTPA and Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The goal of the plan is to bring health and human service, public transit and government agencies together to help improve the mobility of the elderly, disabled and people of lower income. Federal funding tied to transit projects must be identified in the PTP.

Ms. Bostinelos reported in order to have health/human agencies become actively involved in applying for Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) Section 5316 and New Freedoms Section 5317 funding, staff worked with the Coordinated Transportation Issues Committee (CTIC) to prepare a Request for Proposals (RFP). The RFP allowed for coordination between one or more health and human services agencies and the public transit agency. She noted several agencies inquired about possible funding, but there were no completed RFPs submitted for consideration.

Ms. Bostinelos discussed the potential project of implementing a mobility manager. She explained the newly created position would provide a centralized professional management of existing transportation services. Currently staff is researching local funding to meet federal match requirements as well as determining long range strategies to keep the position operating when federal funds are no longer provided.

Ms. Bostinelos discussed the recent closing of We Care Wheelchair and Care-a-Van transportation services; and the strain it has put on Sioux City Transit and Siouxland Regional Transit. She noted Royal Charters based in Le Mars has met with Sioux City Transit and Siouxland Regional Transit about filling this gap created in paratransit services.

Ms. Bostinelos reported the Sioux City area is being considered as a pilot program for a Volunteer Transportation Program by Audino & Associates. The idea of this program would be to recruit a group of volunteers that would provide transportation service during hours when transit services are not available. A volunteer transportation summit is tentatively being planned in May for discussions on program development and operations. Discussion followed.

Ms. Bostinelos noted the Iowa DOT is scheduled to return comments on the updated PTP by March 1, 2010. Adjustments will be based on these comments and a final draft will be presented to the Policy Board for approval. Iowa DOT's deadline for submittal of the final approved plan is May 1, 2010.

- VII. FY 2010 – 2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments and Administrative Modifications –

Amendments: Michelle Bostinelos reported the proposed amendments are related to a possible second round of stimulus funding. The TAC recommends amending the FY 2010 – 2013 in include the following projects.

1. C38 (4 miles L51 to L40) in Cherokee County needs to be programmed for a total estimated cost of \$1,800,000 with \$1,000,000 Federal participation (Stimulus II) in FY 2010.

2. K42 (330th St. south to Woodbury/Monona line) in Woodbury County needs to be programmed for a total estimated cost of \$600,000 with \$595,000 Federal participation (Stimulus II) in FY 2010.

Administrative Modifications: Ms. Bostinelos reported administrative modifications 1 and 2 are currently identified in the FY 2010 – 2013 TIP as utilizing Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds. The TAC recommended freeing up STP funds and reprogramming these projects with the potential stimulus funds.

1. C38 (K64 to Plymouth/Cherokee line) in Plymouth County needs to be programmed for a total estimated cost of \$1,600,000 with \$900,000 Federal participation (Stimulus II) in FY 2010.
2. Old US 75 (Iowa 3 to Floyd River Bridge) in Le Mars needs to be programmed for a total estimated cost of \$450,000 with full Federal participation (Stimulus II) in FY 2010.
3. SRTS one 176" LD Bus Replacement (#585) needs to be programmed at a total estimated cost of \$60,893 with \$52,978 Federal participation (ARRA/STP) in FY 2010.
Dwight Lang explained the State is allowing the combination of excess ARRA and STP funding for the purchase one additional bus. Discussion followed.

Doug Walsh moved to accept the recommendation of the TAC and approve the two amendments and administrative modifications 1 and 2 as presented; and to also approve administrative modification 3 as presented, seconded by Don Kass. No further discussion. Motion carried.

- VIII. Additional Comments – Michelle Bostinelos reported the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 18, 2010, 10:00 a.m., 1122 Pierce Street in Sioux City. Although the Iowa DOT has not released STP and Transportation Enhancement (TE) targets, the TAC is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, March 17, 2010 to approve allocations of these funds to the Policy Board.

A Siouxland Regional Transit System Board of Directors meeting will be held immediately following the SRTPA Policy Board meeting.

- IX. Adjournment – ***Don Kass moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by John Rexwinkel. No further discussion. Motion carried.*** The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.