

**MINUTES
MPO TECHNICAL STAFF
JACKSON AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)
CITY HALL – FIRST FLOOR BEN LANGFORD MEETING ROOM – 111 EAST MAIN STREET
NOVEMBER 17, 2022 – 10:30 A.M.**

Staff/Others Present:

Stan Pilant, Planning Director

Antoine Hawkins, TDOT

Ashley Owens, TDOT

Thiera Taylor, TDOT

Andrew Webster, TDOT

Wes Williams, TDOT

Thomas Wolf, Engineering Department

Hannah Mathis, Planning Department

Austin Brown, Planning Department

Bill Moore, Gresham Smith

Mark Holloran, Gresham Smith

Shelton Merrell, SWTDD

Barry Michael, County Sheriff

Bart Walls, County Highway Department

Stan Pilant, Chairman of the MPO Technical Staff, called the meeting to order upon making a determination of a quorum of members present. Mr. Pilant welcomed the public and officials in attendance and opened the floor to any member of the public wishing to speak. There was no one present wishing to make a public comment. The minutes of June 9, 2022 were unanimously approved on motion of Barry Michael and seconded by Shelton Merrell. Afterwards, Mr. Pilant began reviewing the agenda business items.

Adoption of the 2050 Long Rang Transportation Plan (LRTP) – Mr. Pilant presented the 2050 LRTP and explained that the MPO is required by federal law to update it every five years and is vetted through the state and federal government of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

Afterwards, a motion was made by Bart Walls, seconded by Barry Michael to recommend approval of the 2050 Long Rang Transportation Plan (LRTP) to the MPO Executive Board. The motion was unanimously approved.

Adoption of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for FY 2023-2026 – Mr. Pilant presented the TIP for FY 2023-2026 to the Technical Staff and briefly discussed the different short range projects currently listed within the TIP.

Afterwards, Bart Walls expressed his concern towards the prioritization of projects listed within the TIP. He strongly believes that the projects should be prioritized based on locations where there were fatalities to encourage the safety of citizens.

Mr. Pilant explained that certain projects are already existing projects with funds committed that are moving forward. Mr. Pilant stated that the problem is not a new one and is caused by insufficient resources to meet every need.

After the discussion, a motion was made by Antoine Hawkins, seconded by Barry Michael to recommend approval of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for FY 2023-2026 to the MPO Executive Board. The motion was unanimously approved.

Adoption of the PM1 Safety Targets – Mr. Pilant presented the PM1 Safety Targets to the Technical Staff. The safety targets are done on an annual basis which allows the MPO to either create their own safety targets or adopt TDOT’s safety targets. Mr. Pilant stated that the MPO has selected to accept and adopt TDOT’s safety targets because of their consistency and research. Once the PM2 and PM3 safety targets are ready, they will be presented to the Technical Staff.

Afterwards, a motion was made by Shelton Merrell, seconded by Barry Michael to recommend approval of the PM1 Safety Targets to the MPO Executive Board. The motion was unanimously approved.

Annual Listing of Federally Obligated Projects – Chairman Stan Pilant presented the annual listing of federally obligated projects for review and explained that by federal law, the MPO is required to prioritize these projects each year that are managed by TDOT. The annual listing of federally obligated projects were prioritized and ranked as follows:

1. (Southern Bypass) SR-186 from SR-1 (Airways Boulevard) to SR-5 (South Highland Avenue) in Jackson (IA)
2. From North of Jared Lane to North of Medon-Malesus Road (IA)
3. Bolivar Highway), From North of Medon-Malesus Road to US-45 (SR-5) in Jackson (***) (IA)

Afterwards, a motion was made by Bart Walls, seconded by Shelton Merrell to recommend approval of the annual listing of federally obligated projects to the MPO Executive Board. The motion was unanimously approved.

Proposed Amendment to the Public Participation Plan (PPP) for comment period from 45 days to 30 days – Mr. Pilant presented the amendment to the Technical Staff and stated that a massive update was recently completed to the Public Participation Plan. A portion that needed to be updated was the public comment period. Currently, the federal law requires 45 days for public comment, which seems excessive and has caused issues. As a result, amending the public comment period from 45 days to 30 days will seem more adequate.

Afterwards, a motion was made by Barry Michael, seconded by Shelton Merrell to recommend approval of the amendment to the Public Participation Plan (PPP) for comment period from 45 days to 30 days to the MPO Executive Board. The motion was unanimously approved.

Updates – Bart Walls stated that the Madison County Highway Department has applied for funding with the Bridge Investment Program (BIP) for \$4.7 million to replace two bridges in Madison County, located on Christmasville Road and Huntersville Denmark Road. Also, the Madison County Highway Department has applied for funding within the American Rescue Plan (ARP) for \$5.2 million. Currently, there has not been any notification towards the status of both applications.

Antoine Hawkins stated that the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (TEVI) Deployment Plan was approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) which unlocks access to \$88.3 million over the next five years for the construction of electric vehicle charging stations. TDOT is looking into placing the charging stations within the Jackson area along Interstate 40, however, evaluations are currently underway towards the best location to place them.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.