

RPA 2
POLICY BOARD MINUTES
April 8, 2014

Dwight Leerar, Hancock County
Brent Trout, City of Mason City
Stan Walk, Mitchell County
Roy Schwickerath, Floyd County
Terry Durby, Winnebago County
Don McGregor, Kossuth County
Bob Amosson, Cerro Gordo County
David Tollefson, City of St. Ansgar
Ted Hall for Jerry Tlach, Hancock County
Scott Flory for Nelson Crabb, City of Clear
Lake

Ron Holland, City of Forest City
Dave Haugen, Worth County
Mike Nolte, Franklin County
Ron Dunt, Franklin County

Others Present:

Chris Diggins, NIACOG
Jennifer Butler, NIACOG
Krista Rostad, IDOT

The meeting was called to order at 2:35 PM.

A motion was made by McGregor, seconded by Durby, to approve today's agenda and the January 8, 2014 minutes. All present voted aye and the motion passed unanimously.

The public hearing is scheduled for 2:45 PM, so Diggins asked that we move to number 6, on the agenda concerning the STP applications and Technical Committee Recommendations. Diggins had sent out the summary of applications in the agenda packet mailing, with the one change moving Clear Lake in FY 2017. Diggins presented financial sheets showing the effect of these applications on current and future funding and allocations. Every project was accounted for in those sheets. They are not approving projects at this time. That will be done in July for the whole TIP. There were no questions and the Board concurred with the Technical Committee recommendation.

The next item was the draft FY 2015 TPWP. Diggins explained this is the work program of NIACOG for administering the Regional Planning Affiliation and transportation activities for next year. One of the major elements is the proposed completion of a regional Trail plan. This will help with issues that will be brought up in other discussions today. There were no questions on the TPWP and the consensus was to proceed.

The next item on the agenda was the public hearing to amend the FY 2014-FY 2017 TIP/STIP to add a bridge project in the City of Sheffield. Diggins provided information on the project and why this process was necessary as well as where the funding was coming from. Chairman Amosson then opened the Public Hearing. There were no public in attendance and Diggins stated he had received no comments for or against regarding the project. A motion was made by McGregor, seconded by Durby to close the hearing. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Nolte, seconded by Schwickerath to approve the Sheffield bridge project amendment. All present voted aye and the motion passed unanimously.

The next item was the TA Committee applications and recommendations of the TA Committee and Technical Committee. Diggins provided a summary of each application and actions taken by the respective Committees. The applications from Mitchell County, Cerro Gordo County, and City of Clear Lake were all recommended for funding as follows:

Taking each project individually based on the previous discussions, Diggins stated that if the Cerro Gordo project was funded as requested, Mitchell County would have to wait until FY 2017. Since Mitchell County is connecting existing pavement, and is including previously programmed funds, most thought it better to fund Mitchell County in FY 2016. A motion was made by Etnyre, seconded by Weigel to fund an additional \$138,370 to be added to the \$100,000 already approved in Mitchell County in FY 2016. The motion passed unanimously.

Diggins stated that since fewer funds were available in FY 2016, Cerro Gordo County could either reduce their request in 2016, or move their request to FY 2017. Since their original request was based on funding availability in FY 2016, they may want to request the full amount shown on the application. Webb agreed and asked that their request be amended to \$372,600. A motion was made by Etnyre, seconded by Weigel for \$372,600 in FY 2017. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Gooder, seconded by Schwartz to fund Clear Lake and Algona in FY 2018. Clear Lake at the \$70,000 asking and Algona after their project cost estimates are revised to reflect only one route to the schools. Diggins will forward the new numbers for confirmation that the action is still approved. All present voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Subsequent to the meeting, the City of Algona resubmitted the application with no reduction if the funding request. The TA Committee then voted no on the application. The Technical Committee provided a recommendation to the Policy Board as follows:

A motion was made by Kelly to forward the TA Committee funding recommendations to the Policy Board as they stand regarding the Mitchell County, Cerro Gordo and City of Clear Lake applications and the Algona application not be recommended for funding at this time per the vote of TA Committee, but encouraged to apply next year so any extraneous issues can be resolved, seconded by Fallis. Doug Miller abstained from voting due to his involvement with the Algona Trail Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

Diggins then presented the financial sheets showing how this action affects the funding in RPA 2. Trout questioned whether or not an application was funded for FY 15. Diggins stated the only project in FY 15 was the Phase II Algona project approved in last year's TIP. This year's recommendations show up in FY16, FY17, and FY18. There is still a balance to carry over for FY 19. Trout questioned more on the Algona application as to what the funding should have been and if that issue was resolved, could it be funded. Diggins requested that the project not be funded at this time and that the Policy Board concur with the previous two committee's recommendations for the City of Algona to apply next year.

Since no action was necessary, Diggins asked for a simple concurrence to proceed with the development of the draft TIP based on what was just presented. All agreed.

Diggins discussed the overall process of TAP funding. A suggestion of a committee of "dis-interested" persons could look at projects. While good projects have been funded, can we improve the process somehow?? Attendees generally are those that have a project. As the Trail plan is developed, hopefully good projects can be identified and prioritized for funding which can further improve the process.

Rostad provided information from IDOT regarding the federal/state funding swap, shortfall in federal funds expected in June or July, IDOT's upcoming construction projects, the INRIX data and apps, and a brief comment that the next transportation bills is a long ways off.

The next meeting will be July 9, 2014 at 2:30 PM.

A motion was made by Walk, seconded by Schwickerath to adjourn, the Motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 3:35 PM.

Respectfully,

Christopher A. Diggins,
Local Assistance Director