

MEETING MINUTES

Technical Committee Meeting

Thursday, May 19, 2011

1:30 p.m.

Room 113, County/City Building

Members Present: Dennis Bartels, Public Works/Utilities; Virendra Singh, Public Works/Utilities/RTSD; Nicole Fleck-Tooze, David Cary, Planning; Don Thomas, Doug Pillard, County Engineering; Lynn Johnson, Parks & Recreation; Brian Praeuner, StarTran; Ken Smith, Urban Development; Chris Schroeder, Health Department; Brad Zumwalt, Tom Goodbarn, Nebraska Department of Roads; Justin Luther, Federal Highway Administration.

Others Present: Kaine McClelland, Larry Legg, Nebraska Department of Roads; Thomas Shafer, Public Works/Utilities; Mike Brienzo, Sara Hartzell, Michele Abendroth, Planning.

The meeting was called to order at 1:33 p.m. The Nebraska Open Meetings Act was acknowledged.

1. Review and action on the draft minutes of the April 28, 2011 Technical Committee meetings

Singh moved approval of the April 28, 2011 Technical Committee meeting minutes, seconded by Pillard. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Review and action on a revision to the FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program to add a State resurfacing project, I-80 Air Park to West Jct US-77.

Brienzo stated that this is an amendment to the current TIP. It is State resurfacing project at I-80 Air Park to West Junction US-77.

Zumwalt moved approval of the revision to the FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program to add a State resurfacing project, I-80 Air Park to West Jct US-77; it was seconded by Smith. The motion carried unanimously with Cary abstaining.

3. Review and action on a recommendation regarding 2011 Self-Certification review that the Transportation Planning Process for the Lincoln Metropolitan Area complies with applicable federal laws and regulations.

Brienzo stated every year the MPO conducts a self-certification. Each of the key regulatory items are reviewed to show that we are operating under the 3C process. In a cooperative agreement, we have put together an interlocal agreement between the City, County and State. The City and County have reviewed that draft, and it has been forwarded to the State for review. Zumwalt stated they will be reviewing it internally soon.

Brienzo stated that there is a Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) that we are currently updating. Many of the corrective actions are within that document. Of the 12 corrective actions, 8 are connected directly with the LRTP. We have made changes to the TIP. Some of these are tied to the LRTP in terms of expenditures, projects costs and prioritizing projects.

Other items for corrective action are the Public Participation Plan (PPP) which was adopted in 2010. In terms of the coordinated transportation plan, we are considering the plan current; we have not been

notified of any funding for this year. We are in the process of updating the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

Staff is recommending that we are in compliance with the certification process. We are asking the Technical Committee to forward a recommendation for approval to the Officials Committee that the MPO is in compliance with the certification process.

Singh moved approval of the 2011 Self-Certification, seconded by Fleck-Tooze. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Review and action on the draft Lincoln City/Lancaster County FY 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program.

Brienzo stated that the Transportation Improvement Program is updated annually to tie in with the schedule in updating the State TIP to review programming for several agencies including the City, County, Parks & Recreation, StarTran, the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District, and other agencies. Projects are included in the TIP for federal funding and projects of regional significance. We have been working with the State on this draft. There are revisions in reference to funding source or fiscal year; there are no changes in the scope of the projects. Brienzo briefly reviewed the proposed changes to the TIP.

Brienzo noted that there will be a public hearing on the TIP at the Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Commission next Wednesday, May 25, 2011.

Staff is recommending that the Technical Committee approve the TIP including the stated corrections; this recommendation will be forwarded to the Officials Committee.

Cary moved approval of the FY 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program, seconded by Pillard. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Briefing on the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) update activities, planning schedule, and LPAC recommendations.

Cary stated that the LPlan 2040 Advisory Committee (LPAC) gave approval at their meeting yesterday to move forward with the proposed transportation plan. This is an important milestone in the process.

Next, Cary reviewed the information that we used to get here today. Staff has developed background data and a land use plan; conducted community surveys and used that input; developed goals and objectives and a transportation model. We have also focused on the financial side as we must have a financially constrained plan. We do not have enough money to fund the needs based plan. Staff has used the Mayor's Road Design Task Force findings in the process as well as discussion and input from LPAC. LSA Associates has been our consultant during this process.

Cary stated that the plan will include three transportation packages: the needs based plan, the capital emphasis plan and the maintenance emphasis plan. Through input from the public and LPAC, they found that maintenance of roads ranked as the highest priority. There has been a shift from capital outlay to maintain roadways at an acceptable level.

For the bicycle and pedestrian program, the Plan proposes a slight increase in rehabilitation funding and a minimal budget for capital projects. The bicycle and pedestrian funding is about one-third the needs. For trails, the proposed financially constrained plan annual funding remains the same as the current funding, but with a minor shift from capital to rehabilitation. The total trails funding is about one-half the needs. For transit, funding would need to increase to \$20 million annually to support the future

population at a level equal to our peer cities. The objectives for the transit plan are to redeploy the existing transit service to target higher density development and major transportation corridors.

Cary noted that there are three components to the roadway system which include the State, County and City projects. The State projects include the interstate system, the Highway US-34 and Sun Valley Boulevard (US-6) projects, and the South Beltway as an illustrative project. The county improvement projects are also shown in the plan. The roadway financially constrained plan generally retains the current funding, but significantly shifts from capital projects to rehabilitation.

The needs for the roadway program are \$20 million, but the proposed roadway program identifies \$12 million in funding. Improvements include: intersection capacity improvements for \$1 million annually; two plus center turn lanes in the built environment; Intelligent Transportation Systems for \$1 million annually; safety projects; Travel Demand Management for \$200,000 annually; developer commitments; and capital projects for \$ 8.775 million annually.

Cary stated that the needs based plan is based on forecast travel modeling. Projects were evaluated using eight planning goals and weights. The alternatives/corridors were refined based on additional modeling. The future road network list includes rural road improvements in outlying growth areas that will be within the future City limits.

Next, Cary reviewed several maps including the Existing + Committed Projects, Proposed 2025, 2040 & Post 2040 Illustrative Projects and projected congestion with the proposed plan.

One of the questions on the recent survey asked the respondents if they were willing to pay an additional \$12 per month over the current \$40 per month for transportation improvements; a large majority of the respondents stated that they 'agree' or 'strongly agree'.

Cary noted that the draft preferred plan will be finalized in June.

6. Other topics for discussion

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

*** Please note that these minutes will not be formally approved until the next meeting of the Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Committee. ***

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