

MEETING MINUTES

Technical Committee Meeting
Thursday, September 15, 2011
1:30 p.m.
Room 113, County/City Building

Members Present: Miki Esposito, Public Works/Utilities; Roger Figard, 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; Chris Schroeder, Health Department; Brad Zumwalt, Nebraska Department of Roads; Barb Fraser, Pedestrian & Bicycle Advisory Committee.

Others Present: Kyle Fischer, Chamber of Commerce; Kim Beil, Benesch; Kaine McClelland, Nebraska Department of Roads; Mike Brienzo, Michele Abendroth, Planning.

The meeting was called to order at 1:34 p.m. The Nebraska Open Meetings Act was acknowledged.

1. Review and action on the draft minutes of the August 2, 2011 Technical Committee meetings

Figard moved approval of the August 2, 2011 Technical Committee meeting minutes, seconded by Cary. The motion carried unanimously with Fleck-Tooze abstaining.

2. Review and action on the Project Selection Task Force recommendations on project funding and programming for the Federal Transit Administration Job Access/Reverse Commute (Section 5316) and New Freedom (Section 5317) Programs. Action is to include amending the proposed FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program to add these projects and federal funding.

Brienzo addressed the Federal Transit Administration Job Access & Reverse Commute (Section 5316) and New Freedom (Section 5317) programs for which federal funds are received. The MPO is required to select projects through a competitive application process that are derived from a locally developed *Coordinated Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan*. Based upon the Lincoln MPO Plan, a call for projects for JARC and New Freedom proposals was issued on June 15, 2011, lasting approximately six weeks. During that time, five applications were received seeking funding from the two programs. The Technical Committee is assigned the responsibility to the Project Selection Task Force, which reviewed applications and is making recommendations based on available funding. The MPO is receiving slightly less funding than last year and at the same time the requests have increased. We received three applications under the JARC program, which include the Lincoln Literacy Council, StarTran, and the Center for People in Need. There is not sufficient funding to support the entire request of all three applications. All three applications support very good programs with each having a different role in providing transportation services in the community. The Task Force wanted to keep each program whole, so looked to the performance of each based upon funding provided last year. Based upon available funds, we are able to support these programs at a 97% level of last year's funding levels.

For the New Freedom program, we received two applications which include the League of Human Dignity and the Seniors Foundation of Lincoln and Lancaster County. There are sufficient funds to support both of these programs.

Brienzo noted that committee action will include an amendment to the 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program to add these projects.

Cary moved approval of the Job Access & Reverse Commute and New Freedom project funding, seconded by Fleck-Tooze. The motion carried unanimously with Praeuner abstaining.

3. Review and action on revising the MPO Transportation Improvement Program amendment policy to better reflect the State STIP revision criteria.

Brienzo stated that the Technical Committee reviewed this amendment policy in June, but requested staff to take a look at the Emergency Amendment process with the concern that this may not work. This revised policy is the same with a new section on an Expedited Amendment process. Formal amendments will continue to require approval by the Officials Committee and submission to the Nebraska Department of Roads for approval. This policy includes better clarification for Administrative Modifications which are minor revisions made by the Lincoln MPO staff to a project already included in the TIP. Administrative modifications do not require public review and comment but notification and concurrence with NDOR of these changes will allow these changes to be included in the STIP. Brienzo reviewed the Expedited Amendment process whereby the proposed amendment will be posted on the MPO web page for public review, and email notices will be sent to those who have requested direct notification. Upon completion of the seven day review period, the Technical and Officials Committees will be asked to vote on the proposed TIP amendment through written correspondence via email.

Next, Brienzo briefly reviewed the schedule for adoption of the TIP.

Figard asked who determines if a project would impact social and environmental analysis. Brienzo stated staff would undertake a preliminary social and environmental analysis and if a project is found to have significant enough impacts, then that would require a formal amendment.

Figard moved approval of the Transportation Improvement Program amendment policy, seconded by Zumwalt. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Briefing on the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) update planning activities, planning schedule and Planning Commission recommendations.

Brienzo stated that the Planning Commission held three public hearings on the draft 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and are recommending this LRTP along with the Technical Documentation as revised at the September 7th meeting. That draft LRTP will be provided to all Technical Committee members and posted on the MPO website. The Technical Committee will formally review this plan at their October meeting. The recommendation will be forwarded to the Officials Committee for review and adoption.

Cary reviewed a handout on the 2040 LRTP Funding Summary. The first column shows the annual investment of bike/ped rehabilitation, bike/ped capital, trails rehabilitation, trails capital, transit, roadway program of operations, rehabilitation, and roadway capital. In today's dollars, the total investment is \$49.875 million, the Draft Financially Constrained Plan has a total of \$49.875 million, the Revised Financially Constrained Plan has a total of \$56.975 million and the Needs Based Plan has a total of \$67.925 million. He noted that the bike/ped rehabilitation has decreased from \$1 million to \$500,000, but the Mayor has made a commitment to work on funding for sidewalk rehabilitation.

Cary then reviewed the handout on the 2040 LRTP Capital Roadway Projects and Prioritizations. This is a complete project list for the urban area and the State.

Fraser stated that she testified at the Planning Commission hearing on behalf of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee. They prefer that the bike/ped rehabilitation stay at \$1 million, and they voted to submit a letter to the Mayor's Office stating that they work to find additional funding for sidewalk rehabilitation.

5. Other topics for discussion

Singh informed the Committee of the upcoming Traffic Incident Management workshop on October 14. He encouraged the Committee's attendance at the workshop.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:21 p.m.

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

Q:\MPO\Technical Committee\Minutes\2011\Technical Committee_Sep 15 2011.doc

ma/mb