

MEETING MINUTES

Technical Committee Meeting

Thursday, April 26, 2012

1:30 p.m.

Room 113, County/City Building

Members Present: Miki Esposito, Roger Figard, Virendra Singh, Public Works/Utilities/RTSD; Marvin Krout, Nicole Fleck-Tooze, David Cary, Planning; Don Thomas, Doug Pillard, County Engineering; Brian Praeuner, StarTran; Rick Thorson, Health; Ken Smith, Urban Development; Randy Eldorado, Tom Goodbarn, Nebraska Department of Roads; Justin Luther, Federal Highway Administration; Barb Fraser, Pedestrian & Bicycle Advisory Committee.

Others Present: Brad Zumwalt, Kaine McClelland, NDOR; Kyle Fischer, Lincoln Chamber of Commerce; Thomas Shafer, Susie Filipi, Engineering Services; Mike Brienzo, Michele Abendroth, Planning.

The meeting was called to order at 1:32 p.m. The Nebraska Open Meetings Act was acknowledged.

Review and action on the draft minutes of the March 22, 2012 Technical Committee meeting

Thomas moved approval of the March 22, 2012 meeting minutes, seconded by Figard. The motion carried unanimously.

Review and action on the Project Selection Task Force recommendations on project funding and programming for the Specialized Transportation Program, as authorized by the Federal Transit Administration, 49 USC Section 5310.

Brienzo stated the Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization participated in the Nebraska Department of Roads call for proposals to partially fund the purchase of specialized equipment to support transportation services for the elderly and people with disabilities where existing transportation is unavailable or insufficient. This call resulted in three Section 5310 applications requesting assistance in the purchase of a total of ten specialized transit vehicles.

Applications were reviewed and prioritized by the MPO Technical Committee *Project Selection Task Force*. Based upon lower than expected vehicle bids, sufficient funds are available this year to fully fund all three applications for the ten vehicles requested. The Task Force has recommended funding for three applications, as follows: Lincoln Madonna Foundation for \$94,930 for two small buses and one 12-passenger van; Tabitha Foundation for \$26,921 for one mini-van; Region V Foundation for \$161,526 for six minivans. The FTA provides 80% of the capital costs and the remaining 20% must be provided by local funding that is provided by the applicant.

Brienzo stated that staff is asking the Technical Committee to support this funding and amend it to the current Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Figard moved approval of the recommendations of the Project Selection Task Force, seconded by Cary. The motion carried unanimously.

Review and action on a recommendation regarding 2012 Self-Certification review that the Transportation Planning Process for the Lincoln Metropolitan Area complies with applicable federal laws and regulations.

Brienzo stated that the MPO is operating under the federal code of regulations dated February 2007. He outlined the types of activities that address these regulations and performance. The Technical Committee will make a recommendation to the Officials Committee.

Brienzo noted that Section 134 of title 23 USC and Section 5303 of title 49 USC requires a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive (3 C's) transportation planning process and consideration of all modes of transportation. He noted that the MPO meets all these required guidelines. We are under corrective action to update the MPO planning agreements. The MPO Management Plan has been completed and is under review by NDOR. The MPO provides several planning documents to meet the regulations, and these include the Transportation Improvement Program, the Coordinated Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan, the Public Participation Plan, the Long Range Transportation Plan, and the Unified Planning Work Program.

Brienzo noted that based on staff review by participating agencies, the transportation planning process is in compliance with all federal laws and regulations.

Figard asked if FHWA concurs with this report. Brienzo stated that this report is a staff report that is to assist the MPO in this review. The FHWA looks to the MPO along with State to do a self-review and state their findings in a self-certification statement. The FHWA and FTA completed a detailed review on the MPO transportation planning process every 4 years. Their next major review is to take place in 2013. Luther stated that they make their final finding on the State-TIP.

EIDorado stated that NDOR is currently working on a new interlocal agreement to incorporate the new regulations and planning processes. He noted that what was been submitted previously by the MPO was not approved. Brienzo noted that he has not seen the State's version of this agreement and would like time to review the document. Krout requested EIDorado to send a draft copy to city staff.

Fleck-Tooze moved approval of the 2012 Self-Certification, seconded by Singh. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Brienzo stated that the Transportation Improvement Program is compiled every year to comply with the State TIP process. It includes input from the city, county, state, Waverly, Hickman, and all projects within Lancaster County that involve federal funding or projects that are of significant features that would alter the transportation network.

Brienzo noted that there are several adjustments to the distributed draft tip as follows:

State of Nebraska: Highways

Project 5: US-6, West O Street – Cornhusker Hwy, Lincoln (Sun Valley Boulevard); Moved out of the FY 2012-16 program period.

Project 10: US-7, BNSF Viaduct, Lincoln; The segment of US-77 from I-80 to Van Dorn has been reclassified as a "freeway" and therefore, the City has no funding obligations on this project. "LN" funds changed to "NE" funds.

City of Lincoln: Public Works

Project 11: SW 40th Viaduct; The City of Lincoln and Lancaster County SW 40th Viaduct and Middle Creek Bridge (L-218); Project funding is summarized in the City of Lincoln Listing. Funding for this project is to be obligated in FY 2011-12.

Project 13: Sheridan Blvd. Penny Bridge; Tentatively programmed using "Other Funds". PW and NDOR are working to secure funding for this project.

City of Lincoln: StarTran System

Project 1: Purchase/Financing of Full Size Buses; include complete statement of project.

Figard moved approval of the draft FY 2012-2015 TIP, seconded by Thomas. The motion carried unanimously.

Briefing by the Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) on the Lincoln South Beltway Environmental Assessment & Preliminary Engineering Request for Proposals (RFP)

EIDorado stated that they have re-advertised the RFP for the South Beltway. The work includes NEPA re-evaluation. Several selection criteria also changed in the last five years. The agreement with the last firm that was selected has been closed out and audited. The scope of work also has changed. The services include engineering, roadway and bridge engineering, providing a model for traffic number predictions. The RFP's are due May 2. He noted that the city has requested representation from the city or county on the selection committee, and he will pass this along to their staff. They anticipate being under contract in June.

Brienzo noted that they are using the land use model from the City and requested that any changes made to the model be given to the City.

Cary asked how long the project will take. EIDorado stated that they estimate 1.5-2 years.

Figard noted that this project was not included in the TIP.

Brienzo stated that the federal earmarks for this phase of the beltway project have been obligated. The TIP is used only for project programming and used to obligate funding. However, the City is obligated by agreement to financially support the South Beltway Study at 10% of study fees. The estimated cost is between \$1.5 and \$2.0 million which will place the City obligation around \$200,000. This will be billed in FY 2013 and FY 2014 at \$100,000 for each year.

Fischer asked if the RFP covers the same things as in the previous study in terms of engineering. EIDorado stated that they are very similar. Figard stated that it is not a duplication. A lot of work was already done and it just needs to be updated. Fischer asked how much was spent the last time. Figard stated that it was \$1.5-2 million.

Other topics for discussion

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. ***