

MEETING RECORD

Advanced public notice of the Officials Committee meeting was posted on the County-City bulletin board and the Planning Department's website.

NAME OF GROUP: OFFICIALS COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING: February 24, 2021, 10:00 a.m., City Council Chambers, County-City Building, 555 S. 10th Street, Lincoln, NE

MEMBERS AND OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird, James Michael Bowers, Sean Flowerday, Ryan Huff and Rick Vest; Richard Meginnis absent. Paul Barnes, Allan Zafft and Teresa McKinstry of the Planning Department.

Chair Rick Vest called the meeting to order and acknowledged the posting of the Open Meetings Act in the room.

Vest then called for a motion approving the minutes of the regular meeting held November 16, 2020. Motion for approval made by Flowerday, seconded by Mayor Gaylor Baird and carried 5-0: Mayor Gaylor Baird, Bowers, Flowerday, Huff and Vest voting 'yes'; Meginnis absent.

REVIEW AND ACTION ON AMENDMENT TO THE MPO MANAGEMENT PLAN:

Allan Zafft stated that this is regarding proposed amendments to the MPO Management Plan. The proposal entails changing the Lincoln City Engineer/RTSD (Railroad Transportation Safety District) membership of the Technical Committee. These will be split into two positions of Lincoln Transportation and Utilities Assistant City Engineer and RTSD. The City of Hickman and City of Waverly will be added to the membership. The quorum will be changed to a simple majority of ten. This will raise the total number of members from fifteen to eighteen. Six of the ten would be needed to pass a motion.

Mayor Gaylor Baird expressed concern about only six people needed to change policy. Zafft responded that under the current rules, a quorum would be eight of the fifteen members with a simple majority of five needed to pass a motion.

Paul Barnes stated they had conversations with both Hickman and Waverly. City staff is supportive of this change. We wanted to have the RTSD and City Engineer both represented. They are excited to have Hickman and Waverly represented as well.

ACTION:

Bowers moved approval of the amendment to the MPO Management Plan, seconded by Flowerday and carried 5-0: Mayor Gaylor Baird, Bowers, Flowerday, Huff and Vest voting 'yes'; Meginnis absent.

REVIEW AND ACTION ON REVISIONS TO THE FY 2021-2024 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) TO ADD THE 148TH STREET AND HOLDREGE STREET INTERSECTION PROJECT, WHICH PROGRAMS FEDERAL FUNDING FOR PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING, ROW, UTILITIES, CONSTRUCTION AND CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING PHASES:

Zafft stated this is for an amendment to the TIP to add a project at the 148th St. and Holdrege intersection. This project is receiving Federal transportation funds. This appeared before Technical Committee and was recommended for approval.

Vest inquired if this involves additional funding. Zafft replied yes.

ACTION:

Mayor Gaylor Baird moved approval of the proposed revision to add the 148th Street and Holdrege Street intersection project, which programs funding for Preliminary Engineering, ROW, Utilities, Construction and Construction Engineering phases to the FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program, seconded by Bowers and carried 5-0: Mayor Gaylor Baird, Bowers, Flowerday, Huff and Vest voting 'yes'; Meginnis absent.

REPORT ON THE DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW SCHEDULE FOR FY 2022-2025 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM:

Zafft wanted to review the schedule for the TIP. This is updated annually. He sent a request to the different agencies to request their projects. He reviewed information around mid-January 2021. He is in the process of compiling the draft TIP. The MPO Project Selection Committee has already met a few times. The FY 2022-2025 TIP will appear before Planning Commission on April 14, 2021. This will go on to the Technical Committee on April 19, 2021 and then to Officials Committee on May 19, 2021. It is then submitted to the State of Nebraska to be incorporated into their State TIP. Finally, it goes to the Federal Highway Administration in September 2021 for final approval.

Vest inquired how long approval by the Federal Highway Administration usually takes. Zafft responded that it usually happens pretty quickly. He has never heard of any difficulties with our TIP.

Vest asked if we have a draft TIP yet. Zafft responded that staff is putting it together now. There will be one more meeting with the MPO Project Selection Committee to review everything. Vest asked when Officials Committee members will receive a copy of it. It would be helpful to have it sooner. Zafft responded that we can send it to members as early as possible, perhaps in April.

REPORT ON THE 2050 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN:

Zafft stated that this project was started last year. There are categories to the projects. They are maintenance activities, alternative modes, road construction and other programs. These each have different subcategories. There are projects that are scored and prioritized. There is a subcommittee that has been involved in helping with the prioritization. It is staff from Planning, Lincoln Transportation and Utilities, County Engineer and the consultant, Felsburg Holt & Ullevig. Parks and Recreation is involved in trails projects. We start with the current Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). We look at the projects, remove completed projects, and identify developer and Lincoln On The Move projects. We overlay bike and trail projects for bundling. We consider public input and use the model. There are 200 road projects consisting of 110 in Lincoln, 80 in Lancaster County and 10 Nebraska Dept. of Transportation (NDOT) projects. He showed a map of the trail projects. There are 64 trail projects. The projects are based on eight transportation goals. Each transportation goal has a metric and community input. The projects are rated. He believes this will be a more objective approach.

Vest noted 98th St. as an example. It is not paved. Zafft stated it will score high. It is not paved and it is needed.

Zafft continued that each of the goals is weighted. Based on the categories, the projects will be scored. As we go through the LRTP process, we review the existing goals. Transportation Equity was added for a total of eight goals. There are 16 objectives for the 8 goals. There are 40 performance measures. These are Federally mandated. There are 137 actions steps or strategies. These are from the current Comprehensive Plan, LRTP, the focus groups and scenario planning. Public engagement is Phase 2. This will be on March 5 through April 5, 2021. The website is www.LRTPLincolnMPO.com. There will be a virtual public meeting, a survey and focus groups. We will use social media posts and emails to encourage participation. The purpose of the public meeting is to affirm the transportation goals. The LRTP Phase 2 survey will be online. We will ask people to vote on projects. We are looking for input from all corners of the community. There will be project maps on the website. There will be YouTube video demonstrations on how to recommend projects. Focus groups will be held from March 10 to 12, 2021. 137 participants have been invited. There will be blended groups this summer to discuss the summary of Phase 1 input, gain input about funding tradeoffs, discuss action steps, timing, funding and policies; and encourage others to complete the survey. The LRTP will go through the process and be approved at the end of this year.

Vest inquired if the survey will be open to all and publicized. Zafft responded yes. We will utilize the newspaper, social media advertising and send an email blast. It will be available countywide.

Mayor Gaylor Baird thanked everyone for the above and beyond efforts to engage with the public in these conditions. She believes it is very important to get feedback. It takes more effort these days.

Vest will be looking forward to receiving a draft of the TIP. Zafft will see about sending it out the first week of April.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.