

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: May 10, 2023, 1:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, County-City Building, 555 S. 10th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska.

MEMBERS AND OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Tom Beckius, Ryan Huff, Tammy Ward and Christa Yoakum; Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird and Sean Flowerday absent. David Cary, Paul Barnes, Rachel Christopher, Stephanie Rouse and Teresa McKinstry of the Planning Department; and other interested parties.

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

Yoakum then called for a motion approving the minutes of the regular meeting held February 24, 2023. Motion for approval made by Ward, seconded by Beckius and carried 4-0: Beckius, Huff, Ward and Yoakum voting 'yes'; Mayor Gaylor Baird and Flowerday absent.

Chair Yoakum called for the Consent Agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

PUBLIC HEARING:

May 10, 2023

Members present: Beckius, Huff, Ward and Yoakum; Mayor Gaylor Baird and Flowerday absent.

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following items:

- a. **Review and action on revisions to the FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP):**
 - i. **City of Lincoln Transportation and Utilities – Transportation Program;**
 - 1. **Consolidate the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act funds under the federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds category**
 - 2. **S. 70th and Nebraska Parkway Intersection Improvements – Add control number and project number**
 - ii. **Pedestrian Bike and Trails program**
 - 1. **Waterford Trail – Add control number and project number**

ACTION:

Beckius moved approval of the Consent Agenda, seconded by Ward and carried 4-0: Beckius, Huff, Ward and Yoakum voting 'yes'; Mayor Gaylor Baird and Flowerday absent.

REVIEW AND ACTION ON REVISIONS TO THE FY 2023-2026 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP): A) LANCASTER COUNTY ENGINEERING PROGRAM; I) S. 68TH STREET, HICKMAN TO ROCA ROAD – ADD PROJECT AND PROGRAM FEDERAL FUNDS

PUBLIC HEARING:**May 10, 2023**

Members present: Beckius, Huff, Ward and Yoakum; Mayor Gaylor Baird and Flowerday absent.

Rachel Christopher stated this amendment is for the County Engineer to add a project for S. 68th Street from Hickman to Roca Road. This project has received funding through the State of Nebraska. They are showing the funds being used in combination with a local county match. The project conforms with the Long Range Transportation Program (LRTP). It already appears in the LRTP in the fiscally constrained projects list. This item appeared before Technical Committee in April 2023 and they recommended approval.

ACTION:

Ward moved approval of the amendment to the FY 2023-2026 TIP as recommended by staff:

a. Lancaster County Engineering program:

i. S. 68th Street, Hickman to Roca Road – add project and program federal funds

seconded by Beckius and carried 4-0: Beckius, Huff, Ward and Yoakum voting 'yes'; Mayor Gaylor Baird and Flowerday absent.

REVIEW AND ACTION ON THE PROPOSED FY 2024 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)

PUBLIC HEARING:**May 10, 2023**

Members present: Beckius, Huff, Ward and Yoakum; Mayor Gaylor Baird and Flowerday absent.

Christopher stated that the UPWP is reviewed annually. The document contains the budget for the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The UPWP follows the State fiscal year. It describes various transportation planning activities. In addition to that, it contains information on the StarTran budget. It also includes work done by some other City departments. Activities are outlined in the plan. The document is developed in conjunction with the other departments. The proposed changes were sent to the Administration Committee in March 2023 and no comments were received. In terms of budget, the MPO is funded through a Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) grant with a 80/20 local match. The budget for this year is fairly similar to years past. She called attention to a few new activities to be funded in the upcoming year. One of those is updating the MPO Public Participation Plan, along with staff time serving on the Vision Zero effort that Lincoln Transportation and Utilities (LTU) will be conducting. We want to look at the bike and pedestrian plan as well. Another aspect we think about with our budget is being able to fund the next LRTP Update, which happens every five years. The next update will begin in year or two. We

will need to use a consultant and do quite a bit of modeling work, and need to save funds for that expense. This item was reviewed by the Technical Committee as well. Ultimately, there is a contract to be drawn up and a grant agreement for the new year's budget. The new fiscal year starts on July 1, 2023.

Beckius is really looking forward to the public participation component. He believes that interaction with constituents is very important.

ACTION:

Beckius moved approval of the FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program as recommended by staff, seconded by Ward and carried 4-0: Beckius, Huff, Ward and Yoakum voting 'yes'; Mayor Gaylor Baird and Flowerday absent.

REVIEW AND ACTION ON THE 2023 SELF-CERTIFICATION REVIEW

PUBLIC HEARING:

May 10, 2023

Members present: Beckius, Huff, Ward and Yoakum; Mayor Gaylor Baird and Flowerday absent.

Christopher stated the document is certifying that the MPO meets all federal regulations that apply to our work. This document is signed and included in the TIP. It allows us to continue to receive federal funds.

ACTION:

Beckius moved approval of the 2023 Self Certification Review as recommended by staff, seconded by Ward and carried 4-0: Beckius, Huff, Ward and Yoakum voting 'yes'; Mayor Gaylor Baird and Flowerday absent.

REVIEW AND ACTION ON THE PROPOSED FY 2024-2027 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

PUBLIC HEARING:

May 10, 2023

Members present: Beckius, Huff, Ward and Yoakum; Mayor Gaylor Baird and Flowerday absent.

Christopher stated that the TIP is a four year program of projects in Lancaster County that use federal or state funds. It also lists projects that are regionally funded for information purposes. The TIP is adopted every year. It is a federally required document. We are headed into the new fiscal year of 2024. City, County and State agencies list their applicable projects. The document follows the federal fiscal year. In between, it can be amended as needed. Importantly, all projects in the TIP must be found to be in conformance with the LRTP. It is also important that the TIP must be fiscally constrained. Any funding shown in the TIP must be reasonably anticipated or already awarded. The projects are broken out by phase and year. She showed a map of the area that is covered by the MPO.

Process wise, staff coordinates with many agencies to create the TIP. We also brought it through the Programming and Funding Committee and they provided comments. The Technical Committee reviewed this as well. A briefing was given to the Planning Commission. Comments received must be included in the

document. One comment was received from the City of Waverly. They noted their support for some projects in Lincoln and Lancaster County and their support is appreciated.

The proposed TIP will be forwarded onto the State for inclusion into the State's TIP. In terms of what kinds of projects the tip includes, it covers all transportation modes. The sections include Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT), Lancaster County Engineering, Lincoln Transportation and Utilities, StarTran, Lincoln Airport Authority, Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Sections 5310 and 5311 funds, Pedestrian-Bike and Trails, and Railroad Transportation Safety District.

There are a few things that are new with this year's TIP. There is an online project map. It shows a series of icons noting the different projects. There is the ability to filter projects. Zooming in allows the aerial map to be viewed. You can click on a project and it will show project details. Also new are two aspects of reviewing projects. These come from recommendations that arose out of the four year federal review. Equity and congestion management are the new review areas. These reviews will apply to any projects that are being added to the TIP for most programs except NDOT, Airport and FTA. These reviews integrate the TIP with other MPO plans and processes such as the 2050 LRTP and MPO Congestion Management Process. In the LRTP, one of the eight goals is equity. There is some mapping that was done on overburdened and underserved communities. In addition to that there was project scoring that was done to prioritize projects. This information will be pulled into the review of a project.

Beckius can envision what is intended with equity. He thinks sometimes a lower socioeconomic situation, he thinks how transportation has impacted those communities. He is trying to understand the balance. There is also trying to understand how transportation issues go through neighborhoods and what comes to mind. We have to deal with the built environment as it stands today. Christopher noted that another example could be looking at a road project and if it could include alternative modes of transportation. What ways could this project be more friendly to those who don't get around by car? We aren't requiring them to make changes. We want to start a conversation. For equity and congestion management, this is our first iteration of including these reviews and we will assess in the future whether they can be improved. Beckius is always interested in hearing how the equity discussions go and how they manifest themselves into the built environment.

Christopher continued that the second review element is congestion management. We have a Congestion Management Process (CMP). Relevant information from the MPO Congestion Management Process will also be part of the review in order to assess how a project impacts congestion. We ask applicants if the project is in the Lincoln MPO CMP network, is it on a high congestion segment from the LRTP and lastly identify which CMP strategies the project supports.

Christopher stated that a new project was added to the 2024-2027 TIP for the W. South Street bridge over Salt Creek. This is a new project subject to the new review elements. On equity, this project is on the boundary between high and moderate-to-high underserved communities. Regarding the benefits of this project, LTU identified firstly being able to continue vehicle connectivity. In addition to that there are trails that run either side of the creek. On the east, there is an at-grade trail crossing. With this project, it will ultimately allow for a crossing to go underneath. Another project on the equity side is there are currently no sidewalks. They would be able to add those. As far as congestion management, it is not in the network

but they did note the project would benefit to move goods. She would note the addition of pedestrian facilities on the bridge as well. This was presented to the Programming and Funding Subcommittee, the Technical Committee, and Planning Commission. If approved today, it will be sent to the State for inclusion in the State TIP. She wanted to mention a few changes that have been made to the TIP since it originally went through the Programming and Funding Committee. The proposed amendments on today's agenda will be reflected in the document. There was an administrative modification approved to an LTU project for their Hyperflow traffic management software. Parks and Recreation also had some last minute updates and fixes to their Fletcher Landmark trail project. Those have been incorporated into the draft document.

Huff asked for clarification of the process regarding new projects for the LRTP, as well as amendments. He wondered if there is a separate public process, if they go back to the public. Christopher stated that LRTP amendments go to the Technical Committee along with Planning Commission before the Officials Committee votes on them. Those are all public meetings. Planning Commission has some additional advertisement requirements. The agency or owner of that project also does what they need to do for notification on their side. For example, a county project appearing in the County Road and Bridge Program would have their own notification process.

Beckius wondered sometimes if there is new funding or a new project that draws some public interest, if that is the impetus to getting these items added to a plan. Is there usually public participation on the front end before this is added to the plan? Huff noted it could be for something such as needed road work or a bridge with some deterioration that wasn't anticipated. Paul Barnes pointed out that the County's 68th Street and 148th Street projects have had specific studies done on them. There are other things that happen before the documents are amended and staff moves forward with these.

Huff was curious about the equity piece. Everyone at the State has the Federal process on their mind. They are still trying to figure out how to leverage socioeconomic data on a project. He was curious if staff has used the travel demand model and its origins of destination analysis and trace them back to the neighborhood they come from. He is thinking about how to better identify the users of the road at the state level. Christopher is not aware that the MPO's travel demand model has been used for that specific purpose yet. She thinks that is a good next step. She can also speak to the equity piece as there are performance measures that are tracked every year. We look at the map to see where on-street bike lanes and trails are, along with the frequency of bus service compared to where undeserved communities are located. Huff doesn't think anyone has all the answers yet. They are trying to gather data sets and plug them into all these groups.

Yoakum saw data from the Census yesterday and was just talking about how people get around and how they use the services.

ACTION:

Ward moved approval of the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program as recommended by staff, seconded by Beckius and carried 4-0: Beckius, Huff, Ward and Yoakum voting 'yes'; Mayor Gaylor Baird and Flowerday absent.

ACTION ON AMENDMENT TO THE MPO MANAGEMENT PLAN**PUBLIC HEARING:****May 10, 2023**

Members present: Beckius, Huff, Ward and Yoakum; Mayor Gaylor Baird and Flowerday absent.

Christopher noted that the rules state the members of the Officials Committee are to include the Chair and Vice-Chair of the City Council and County Board. The proposed changes would allow more flexibility for any member of those groups to be a member of this committee. It would also allow for administrative changes to the management plan. In addition, amendments to the plan could also go through just one Officials Committee meeting instead of two. This item was recommended for approval by the Technical Committee.

ACTION:

Beckius moved approval of the proposed amendments to the MPO Management Plan as recommended by staff, seconded by Ward and carried 4-0: Beckius, Huff, Ward and Yoakum voting 'yes'; Mayor Gaylor Baird and Flowerday absent.

REPORT ON THE DEVELOPMENT AND SCHEDULE FOR THE NEW MPO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN:

Christopher stated the MPO Public Participation Plan describes the public processes and what work that staff does for public participation. It uses processes which seek to provide complete information, timely public notice, and full public access to key decisions and the early and continuous involvement of the public. Staff will be doing a major update of the document during calendar year 2023. Work will be done in-house. We will be drawing on MPO subcommittees' input, as well as a broad outreach effort to the community to see what can be done and improved. We want to make the plan more readable, add visuals, look at what new methods of public outreach could be utilized, how we can better reach underserved communities, and monitor how effective our public participation strategies are. She showed the tentative working schedule. Right now, we are in an internal assessment period. The next step will be a 30 day solicitation of input from the public. That will go out to a wide range of community stakeholders. During the month of July, the MPO will review input and compile the draft document. We are required to have a 45-day comment period on the draft. The document will go through the MPO committees for approval. We are currently researching a lot of potential new ideas that can be incorporated, new ways of reaching people, and new kinds of visualizations.

OTHER:

David Cary wanted to take a couple of minutes to thank Councilwoman Ward for her work on this committee. This is one of several committees she serves on. He knows it takes a lot of time and he appreciates the time and effort. Everyone thanked Ward for her time and service. Ward thanked all staff for their efforts. It is always good to learn.

OTHER:

There were no other topics for discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No one appeared.

Beckius made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ward and carried 4-0: Beckius, Huff, Ward and Yoakum voting 'yes'; Mayor Gaylor Baird and Flowerday absent.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.