

## MEETING RECORD

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

<b>NAME OF GROUP:</b>	OFFICIALS COMMITTEE MEETING
<b>DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING:</b>	December 8, 2023, 2:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, County-City Building, 555 S. 10 <sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, Nebraska.
<b>MEMBERS AND OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:</b>	Tom Beckius, Ryan Huff, Christa Yoakum and Sändra Washington; Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird and Sean Flowerday absent. Paul Barnes, Rachel Christopher and Teresa McKinstry of the Planning Department; Pam Dingman, Lancaster County Treasurer; 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 September 12, 2023. Motion for approval made by Beckius, seconded by Washington and carried 4-0: Beckius, Huff, Yoakum and Washington voting 'yes'; Mayor Gaylor Baird and Flowerday absent.

**REVIEW AND ACTION ON REVISIONS TO THE LINCOLN MPO 2050 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (LRTP): A) REFLECT THE PARTIAL RECISSION OF FEDERAL CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE AND RELIEF ACT FUNDS; B) SALTILLO ROAD, S. 27<sup>TH</sup> STREET TO S. 68<sup>TH</sup> STREET – UPDATE PROJECT COST UNDER THE FISCALLY CONSTRAINED RURAL ROAD & BRIDGE CAPITAL PROJECTS TABLE; C) ADD THE B STREET BICYCLE BOULEVARD PROJECT UNDER A NEW TABLE AND FIGURE FOR OTHER ON-STREET BIKE PROJECTS; E) REFLECT THE NEW FEDERAL CARDON REDUCTION PROGRAM (CRP) FUNDS AND ADD PROPOSED CRP-FUNDED PROJECTS UNDER THE FUNDING OUTLOOK AND FISCALLY CONSTRAINED PLAN: i) ROCK ISLAND TRAIL UNDERCROSSING AT OLD CHENEY RD. – UPDATE PROJECT COST IN THE PRIORITY TRAILS PROJECTS TABLE; ii) ROCK ISLAND TRAIL WIDENING – ADD PROJECT UNDER A NEW TABLE AND FIGURE FOR TRAIL WIDENING PROJECTS; iii) MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION CENTER – ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENTS – ADD PROJECT AND PROGRAM FEDERAL FUNDS (PROJECT AND COST ARE INCLUDED UNDER THE MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION CENTER PROJECT LISTING)**

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

**December 8, 2023**

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

Rachel Christopher stated this amendment is being proposed by staff. Rachel Christopher stated that the MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization) had a partial recission of its coronavirus funds as well as new federal Carbon Reduction Funds (CRP) being reflected in the LRTP Funding Outlook. The CRP funds are a new funding source from the federal government in the amount of about \$4.4 million over 5 years. CRP

funds are to be used for transportation projects that reduce carbon emissions and do not need to go through a competitive project selection process. Some of the biggest constraints for use of these funds is that they must be spent within four years, must provide a 20% local match, and must meet eligibility criteria. We also focused on projects that didn't already have an identified funding source. We are showing several projects in the LRTP that would use CRP funds, which are the Rock Island Trail Grade Separated Crossing at Old Cheney Road, Rock Island Trail Widening, and Active Transportation Enhancements for the Multimodal Transportation Center. These projects were identified through internal conversations with staff. We were not required to go through a competitive process in choosing the projects. In addition, the Lancaster County project of Saltillo Road has cost increase due to changes to the intersection improvements and inflation. The proposed LRTP amendment was reviewed and recommended for approval by the Technical Committee and Planning Commission.

Washington had questions regarding the new funding source. She inquired if we have spent all the funds during the first five years. Christopher replied yes, we are programming all of the five years of funds and slightly more, which would require further renewal of these funds at the federal level.

**ACTION:**

Washington moved approval of the revisions to the Lincoln MPO 2050 LRTP as recommended by staff, seconded by Beckius and carried 4-0: Beckius, Huff, Yoakum and Washington; Mayor Gaylor Baird and Flowerday absent.

**REVIEW AND ACTION ON REVISIONS TO THE FY 2024-2027 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP): A) PEDESTRAIN, BIKE & TRAILS PROGRAM; i) ROCK ISLAND TRAIL UNDERCROSSING AT OLD CHENEY RD. – ADD PROJECT AND PROGRAM FEDERAL FUNDS; ii) ROCK ISLAND TRAIL WIDENING – ADD PROJECT AND PROGRAM FEDERAL FUNDS; iii) MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION CENTER – ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENTS – ADD PROJECT AND PROGRAM FEDERAL FUNDS**

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

**December 8, 2023**

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

Christopher stated this is a proposed revision to the TIP. She reminded everyone that it is a four year program of transportation projects. This is an amendment to program the proposed CRP-funded projects that were discussed under agenda item 2e.

**ACTION:**

Beckius moved approval of the amendments to the FY 2024-2027 TIP as recommended by staff, seconded by Washington and carried 4-0: Beckius, Huff, Yoakum and Washington; Mayor Gaylor Baird and Flowerday absent.

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

Christopher stated this is a federally required document. The current report is from 2014. It was due for an update. Staff wanted to update the goals, add visuals and graphics, consider new methods of public involvement, and focus on monitoring the plan's effectiveness and addressing equity. The latter two items were recommendations from FHWA and FTA at the MPO's four-year certification in 2021. She showed an overview of the structure of the plan. It includes goals, strategies, metrics, monitoring and evaluation. These will aid in informing us how effective the plan is any updates that are needed in the future. The MPO plans to reevaluate this plan at least every 5 years. The process included public solicitation of input with a survey. The initial plan was drafted and open for public review for 45 days with the comment period through the end of November. Staff is working to respond and incorporate comments and will publish a final draft in early 2024 for adoption by the MPO committees in January and February. She showed a summary of the voluntary demographic information provided through the survey. The aim in the future is to obtain input that is representative of the population in Lincoln and Lancaster County. 76 people completed the survey, with 71 people completing the optional demographics section. Following the initial solicitation of input, additional outreach was done through the Cultural Centers of Lincoln. They assisted with obtaining additional completed surveys. They also had a few suggestions for strategies that the MPO could do in the future.

Yoakum has worked with MyCity Academy. It is a very good and active organization. She believes they would be very likely participants.

Washington stated that the last couple of years, she has been working on an equity tool. It is being beta tested.

Paul Barnes stated that staff used an equity lens for the development of the Comprehensive Plan and LRTP.

Washington believes that Parks and Recreation likely has the most experience with the equity tool she mentioned. She will share the final tool.

Christopher continued with the survey results. She stated that most people weren't very familiar with what the MPO does, which is why an Education goal and strategies were included. She showed a map of commenters zip codes. There weren't as many comments received from county zip codes but relatively good representation across the Lincoln area.

Yoakum wondered about techniques of outreach. The local centers have community organizers that might be helpful to utilize such as NeighborWorks to reach county residents. Christopher believes that is a great idea and also mentioned a hybrid approach in terms of in person and virtual meetings.

Christopher continued with key elements of the draft plan, which is available online: <https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/City/Departments/Planning-Department/MPO/Public-Participation-Plan-Update>. Key population groups that were mentioned are the elderly and new Americans. Partnerships with other organizations is also suggested. The use of equity lens questions based on the Comprehensive Plan equity questions has been put into the draft, as well as equity mapping layer(s), tracking the location of comments, and collecting the optional demographic information when we can. We believe this will give us a good view of those groups we aren't hearing from. The draft plan also includes Equity and Accommodation goals. The Equity goal looks primarily at reaching minority and low income persons. Accommodation focuses on Title VI and language accommodation. However, it is important to note that there is overlap between these goals and people don't fall neatly into these categories. Regarding monitoring, we plan to publish a monitoring report every two years. This would identify how well we meet the metrics of the plan. We will use an accommodation checklist to assess how well considerations like ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) are met for MPO meetings. Doing more in terms of follow-through was a suggestion received from the survey, meaning we should take better credit for things we are accomplishing and show the public what is being done with the funding that we receive. This could be placed on the MPO website more prominently. We also want to publish a newsletter twice per year. One of the suggestions received from the Cultural Centers of Lincoln was to provide compensation for input on MPO plans and processes. We will explore the idea of compensation, although it appears that using federal funds for compensation would be challenging so we will likely explore the use of local funds.

Yoakum knows there are communities who have a quite robust system for compensation. Christopher has been looking into case studies where other MPOs used compensation.

Washington suggested looking into how far we can push federal funding for refreshments or bus passes perhaps. There might be other ways for access or hospitality. Christopher noted that in the initial exchange, FHWA didn't say no but they indicated would need to demonstrate how this is necessary to receive full public input. Washington stated that may mean moving the meetings to a more accessible location in a way that doesn't necessitate paying someone. She mentioned Lincoln Vital Signs as possible data set. They have been looking at a racial and equity dataset along with a number of transportation issues. She suggested speaking with the University's Public Policy Office.

**BRIEFING ON THE 2022 MPO ANNUAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM PERFORMANCE REPORT:**

Christopher stated this is a report that the MPO publishes every year. The latest report is for calendar year 2022. It looks at a variety of transportation indicators based on the goals of the LRTP. Under each goal corresponds to a set of performance measures and targets. The MPO works with City and County departments and the State of Nebraska to pull the data together. Most of the reporting in this is voluntary, with the exception of several federal performance measures that we are required to track. There are no consequences for not meeting the targets. The intent of the report is to provide information to the public on how well we are implementing the LRTP and inform decision-making. She highlighted a few performance measures in the new report. StarTran ridership increased but still has not reached pre-pandemic levels. One of the performance measures on transportation equity shows the percentage of roads in poor or very poor road conditions in overburdened and underserved communities. She believes improving street conditions across all of the communities identified is due to Lincoln on the Move funding. Lincoln Transportation and Utilities determines road conditions for Lincoln by looking at different indicators that are placed into a system and assigned values. Staff hopes to release this report more widely to the public soon.

Yoakum asked if this report will be released yet this year. Christopher did not know when approval to release the report will be granted by the Mayor's Office, but she will keep the group informed.

**OTHER:**

There were no other topics for discussion.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

No one appeared.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.