

## MEETING RECORD

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

<b>NAME OF GROUP:</b>	TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
<b>DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING:</b>	April 9, 2025, 10:00 a.m., Conference Room 113, County-City Building, 555 S. 10 <sup>th</sup> St., Lincoln, NE
<b>MEMBERS AND OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:</b>	Paul Barnes – Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Department; Pam Dingman and Larry Legg - Lancaster County Engineering; Stephanie Fisher - City of Waverly; Stephanie Rouse and Jennifer Hiatt - Urban Development; Kelly Oelke - City of Hickman; Thomas Shafer and Kris Humphrey - Lincoln Transportation and Utilities; Carla Cosier - StarTran; Chad Lay - Lincoln Airport Authority; Jarrod Walker - Nebraska Department of Transportation; Gary Bergstrom - Lincoln/Lancaster County Health Department; Sue Bilstoft – City of Bennet; Roger Figard – Railroad Transportation Safety District; Rachel Christopher, Kristi Merfeld and Clara McCully of the Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Department; and other interested citizens.

Pam Dingman called the meeting to order and acknowledged the posting of the Open Meetings Act in the room.

Dingman then requested a motion approving the minutes of the meeting held January 15, 2025. Motion for approval made by Shafer, seconded by Legg and carried 12-0: Dingman, Barnes, Cosier, Figard, Fisher, Hiatt, Lay, Legg, Bilstoft, Rouse, Shafer, and Walker voting 'yes'; Humphrey abstain; Cary, Elliott, Bergstrom, Oelke, Stuckey-Ross, and Varilek absent.

### **PUBLIC HEARING:**

**April 9, 2025**

Members Present: Barnes, Dingman, Cosier, Figard, Fisher, Hiatt, Lay, Legg, Bilstoft, Oelke (arrived at 10:05 am), Rouse, Shafer, Humphrey, and Walker. Cary, Elliott, Bergstrom, Stuckey-Ross, and Varilek absent.

**REVIEW AND ACTION ON REVISIONS TO THE 2050 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (LRTP)****April 9, 2025**

Members Present: Barnes, Dingman, Cosier, Figard, Fisher, Hiatt, Lay, Legg, Biltoft, Oelke, Rouse, Shafer, Humphrey, and Walker. Cary, Elliott, Bergstrom, Stuckey-Ross, and Varilek absent.

**Rachel Christopher with the Lincoln MPO and Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Department, 555 S. 10<sup>th</sup> Street**, stated that there is a proposed amendment to the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) under the Fiscally Constrained Urban Roadway Capital Projects which belong to Lincoln Transportation and Utilities (LTU). This is a fiscally constrained project list in the LRTP and this project is located on N. 14<sup>th</sup> Street. The proposal would update the project cost and extents. The proposed extents will be from Adams Street South to Salt Creek, which is an expansion of the extents, and the project cost would be significantly increased based on the most recent estimate. This project is also proposed to be added into the TIP under another item on this agenda because LTU wants to bring this project forward.

Christopher showed the proposed revisions along with other adjustments to the table that will be needed, which is a further reduction of the partially funded last project in this table to accommodate the cost increase. This project will involve rehabilitation and/or replacement of bridges, intersection improvements at Adams Street, and improvements to pedestrian facilities. This project is ranked first in LTU's project list, so there are no problems with LRTP conformance.

Barnes commented that Urban Development and others are working on a subarea plan for Belmont neighborhood and the project area is within Belmont.

Hiatt commented that part of the subarea plan includes potential enhancements with a pedestrian bridge along the 14<sup>th</sup> Street bridge that goes over Cornhusker Highway and using Tax Increment Financing (TIF) to assist with that expense. The subarea plan is not expected until July 2025 and the redevelopment plan would come in August 2025.

Shafer said he would let the project manager Craig Aldridge know of this update.

**ACTION:**

Motion for approval by Legg, seconded by Figard, and carried 14-0: Dingman, Barnes, Cosier, Figard, Fisher, Hiatt, Lay, Legg, Biltoft, Oelke, Rouse, Shafer, Humphrey and Walker voting 'yes'; Cary, Elliott, Bergstrom, Stuckey-Ross, and Varilek absent.

**REVIEW AND ACTION ON REVISIONS TO THE FY2025-2028 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)****April 9, 2025**

Christopher stated that this item includes a couple of revisions to the LTU program. The first is to add the N. 14<sup>th</sup> project that was just discussed as a new project to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The construction would be in Fiscal Year 2029 and this project

will use LTU's federal Surface Transportation Block Grant funds. It will be for the most part completed with Advanced Construction (AC), which means it would be an upfront cost with local funds and paid back with federal funds at a later date. This is due to the constraints that are anticipated for the funds for LTU's portion of STBG funding. The second revision for LTU is to the Cotner Boulevard, O Street to Starr Street project. This is an amendment to modify the schedule. The construction will be delayed a bit from what was shown before, so the schedule will change from Fiscal Year 2027 to 2028. This change will also help ensure that funds will be available for other LTU projects.

**ACTION:**

Figard moved approval, seconded by Rouse, and carried 14-0: Dingman, Barnes, Cosier, Figard, Fisher, Hiatt, Lay, Legg, Biltoft, Oelke, Rouse, Shafer, Humphrey and Walker voting 'yes'; Cary, Bergstrom, Elliott, Stuckey-Ross, and Varilek absent.

**REVIEW AND ACTION ON THE PROPOSED FY2026 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM(UPWP)****April 9, 2025**

Christopher stated this is a review and action on the proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). This is the first of several annual work items that come in for the MPO and includes the budgeting documents and activities that we identify for the metropolitan area in the upcoming year. Most of the work in the work program is funded through the MPO's planning (PL) funds from the Federal Highway Administration at an 80/20 rate, meaning that 80% of the eligible activities for transportation planning are funded through PL, with a local match of 20% that is covered by the City. The UPWP describes transportation planning activities and covers all of those activities that occur in the MPO's boundary of Lancaster County. Many of the agencies represented on the Technical Committee such as Lincoln Airport Authority, LTU, Lancaster County Engineering, Planning Department, Health Department, and others contribute to the UPWP. The UPWP also includes LTU-Star Tran transportation planning activities that are also funded federally.

The total PL budget for Fiscal Year 2026 is about \$1.5 million. The federal share is about \$1.2 million, which includes some carryover that was de-obligated from prior Fiscal Year 2024 and rolled into this budget. Some of the activities anticipated for this year include MPO time working on LTU's Vision Zero Action Plan, Long Range Transportation Plan Update, and Lincoln Mobility Plan. Another new cost billed to the PL fund is use of a new software called ClearGov that was used to create the TIP. It is around \$20,000 per year as a subscription. The Fiscal Year of 2026 applying to the UPWP is the State Fiscal Year that begins on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

This document is created in cooperation with many of the committee members and has been sent to the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration for review of the draft. Following Technical Committee action, the Officials Committee will act on the UPWP. Christopher added that certain language in the document has been updated to follow recent U.S. Department of Transportation policy under the new presidential administration.

Bergstrom arrived at 10:15 a.m.

**ACTION:**

Motion for approval by Cosier, seconded by Hiatt, and carried 15-0; Dingman, Barnes, Bergstrom, Cosier, Figard, Fisher, Hiatt, Lay, Legg, Biltoft, Oelke, Rouse, Shafer, Humphrey and Walker voting yes; Cary, Elliott, Stuckey-Ross, and Varilek absent.

**REVIEW AND ACTION ON THE 2025 SELF-CERTIFICATION REVIEW****April 9, 2025**

Christopher stated that this item is for annual review assuring that the MPO follows all federal requirements that apply. The document is signed by the Mayor and the State of Nebraska. The federal code sections are outlined and apply to the work that is done by the MPO. This includes the Civil Rights Act and other various regulations that are listed.

Shafer noted a formatting issue where it lists the Mayor under NDOT. Christopher commented that this will be fixed before the Officials meeting.

**ACTION:**

Motion for approval with the formatting change by Shafer, seconded by Figard, and carried 15-0; Dingman, Barnes, Bergstrom, Cosier, Figard, Fisher, Hiatt, Lay, Legg, Biltoft, Oelke, Rouse, Shafer, Humphrey and Walker voting yes; Cary, Elliott, Stuckey- Ross, and Varilek absent.

**REVIEW AND ACTION ON THE PROPOSED FY 2026-2029 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)****April 9, 2025**

Christopher stated that this is the annual Transportation Improvement Program or the TIP for the Lincoln MPO area. It covers the next four fiscal years from 2026-2029, and is a federally required document. Christopher gave an overview of the MPO. The TIP identifies those transportation plans and costs that will be coming up over the next four years.

The TIP follows the federal fiscal year, which starts October 1, 2025. The projects in the TIP are drawn from and need to be consistent with the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). It is coordinated with the Lincoln CIP, County capital improvements plan, and with the State TIP. These will include federally and state funded and locally-funded regionally significant projects. The projects are generally divided by department or agency who manages and oversees these projects. Within the annual TIP, any changes can be made as needed, and projects can be added or removed. Most projects will be carried forward year to year.

The MPO Programming and Funding Sub-Committee met on March 10 to review and recommend the TIP. On April 9, the Planning Commission held a briefing and on April 16 the

Planning Commission hearing will take place for action and recommendation. The Officials Committee hearing on this item will be in May. The State will then advertise for public comment as part of the State's TIP and it goes to Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration for approval. If approved, the TIP will go into effect on October 1, 2025. The new format for this year's TIP is in ClearGov. ClearGov generated a digital version of the TIP and is already used by the Finance Department for the Lincoln CIP. Christopher demonstrated the use of the tool. There is also a PDF version in addition to the web version.

Christopher went on to note TIP projects that have been added or taken out from this year's TIP. A Snow Removal Equipment Building for the Lincoln Airport Authority has been removed because it will be locally funded only and does not need to appear in the TIP. The B Street Bicycle Boulevard has been removed because there is no staff available at this time to oversee it. The Airport Authority has an item that was combined under another project for Runway 18/36. Several NDOT projects were removed due to lack of funds and the schedule has been moved out quite a bit. Lastly, this TIP also incorporates the current TIP amendments that were just mentioned.

Cosier asked about removal of the CNG Station for StarTran from the materials.

Christopher commented that item should be removed and will ensure it is done before Officials Committee. She added that certain language in the TIP has been revised, as with the UPWP, to meet current USDOT policy.

Figard asked whether the TIP will include the funding with the year, total and types.

Christopher stated the project costs by phase appear in the digital version. This is not in the PDF version due to technical issues with ClearGov but hopefully will in the future.

Figard asked when his submitted revisions for the RTSD will appear in the draft.

Christopher said it is not reflected in today's documents because of the timing of submission but the changes will be part of the Planning Commission version and also the Officials Committee version to be acted upon on May 2, 2025.

Figard clarified for the group that the RTSD has updated project numbers to include in the TIP.

Barnes clarified that this is referencing the 33<sup>rd</sup> and Cornhusker project.

Figard agreed.

Christopher said she received other belated revisions from LTU they, too, will be part of the final version.

Figard added that he thinks the 33<sup>rd</sup> & Cornhusker project grant of \$66.7 million is back on track with the Federal Railroad Administration.

Legg asked whether the project changes were significant or just minor adjustments.

Figard stated that the numbers were the same project costs, but the years in the expenditure will change within the four years of the TIP.

Barnes confirmed the deadlines involved and that these changes will be highlighted at the Planning Commission and Officials Commission meeting.

Shafer said the anticipated Lincoln on the Move funding will also need to be updated going forward on this project.

**ACTION:**

Motion for approval by Figard, seconded by Legg, and carried 15-0; Dingman, Barnes, Bergstrom, Cosier, Figard, Fisher, Hiatt, Lay, Legg, Biltoft, Oelke, Rouse, Shafer, Humphrey and Walker voting yes; Cary, Elliott, Stuckey-Ross, and Varilek absent.

**OTHER TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:**

- a. Staff update on the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan Update and Lincoln Mobility Plan

Barnes stated that the MPO is working on the contract for the LRTP Update and Lincoln Mobility Plan and are almost nearing the end of the negotiations. There should be contracts in place soon and everyone will be kept posted. This LRTP Update is something that is completed every five years.

**Public Comment:**

Anyone wishing to address the committee on a matter not on this agenda, and not planned to appear on a future agenda, may do so.

There was no public comment.

Shafer moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Hiatt, and carried 15-0; Dingman, Barnes, Bergstrom, Cosier, Figard, Fisher, Hiatt, Lay, Legg, Biltoft, Oelke, Rouse, Shafer, Humphrey and Walker voting 'yes'; Cary, Elliott, Stucky- Ross, and Varilek absent.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.