

Meeting Record

MPO Officials Committee Meeting

Thursday, February 28, 2013; 1:30 p.m.
Mayor's Conference Room
County/City Building, 555 South 10th Street
Lincoln, Nebraska

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Mayor Beutler; Carl Eskridge and Jon Camp, City Council; Larry Hudkins, County Commission; Michael Kleffner, NDOR.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Miki Esposito, Thomas Shafer, Public Works & Utilities; Chris Connolly, City Law; Marvin Krout, David Cary, David Pesnichak, Michael Brienzo and Michele Abendroth, Planning Department

The meeting was called to order at 1:06 p.m. The Nebraska Open Meetings Act was acknowledged.

Review and action on the draft minutes of the September 27, 2012 Officials committee meeting

Hudkins moved approval of the minutes of the September 27, 2012 meeting, seconded by Camp. The motion carried unanimously.

Election of committee officers.

Hudkins moved to elect Eskridge as Chair, seconded by Camp. The motion carried unanimously.

Camp moved to elect Hudkins as Vice Chair, seconded by Beutler. The motion carried unanimously.

Review and action on revisions to the FY 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program.

- a) **Lancaster County: SW 12th Street & Old Cheney Road Safety project**
- b) **City of Lincoln: North 10th Street & Military Bridge Rehabilitation project**
- c) **City of Lincoln: Roadway and Bridge Rehabilitation funding revision**

Brienzo stated that the proposed revisions have been reviewed by the Technical Committee are recommended for approval. He noted that there are two amendments, and one revision. The first amendment is to add a County project at SW 12th Street & Cheney Road Safety project. The second amendment is a City of Lincoln amendment at North 10th Street & Military Bridge Rehabilitation project. The revision is a funding adjustment for a City of Lincoln roadway and bridge rehabilitation project which keeps the TIP fiscally constrained.

Camp moved to approve the proposed amendments and revision to the FY 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program, seconded by Hudkins. The motion carried unanimously.

Briefing on the Lincoln MPO request to allow “Biennial MPO Programs” or a two year program update cycle to match the local budgeting cycle.

Brienzo stated that staff has looked into a two-year cycle for the Transportation Improvement Program and other documents to match the City’s budget cycle. This request was taken to the other MPOs in the state to gain support but it was found that it would not work for all of them. The State has determined that they needed to remain on the annual system to maintain consistency within the State and with adjoining states.

Krout stated that for administrative purposes we can look out another year to determine funding needs, especially for the Unified Planning Work Program.

Review and action on the Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization’s Project Prioritization and Selection Process for the purpose of coordinating priorities and programming projects in the annual update of the Transportation Improvement Program.

Brienzo stated that they have been working on identifying a process for coordinating priorities and programming projects in the TIP for the implementing agencies in Lancaster County. The intent is to make this process more visible and more transparent and provide all agencies a voice in coordinating projects. We have identified a five-step process in projects programming process. The evaluation and technical review is undertaken to ensure our priorities are met. The TIP must be fiscally constrained. They have identified the types of projects in the TIP. The evaluation process uses a project weighting system designed to meet the goals and objectives in the Long Range Transportation Plan. The Congestion Management Process identifies level of service, crash rates, and areas where there are more freight movements. The Transportation Alternatives Program is a new program. Coordination with other agencies is important.

Eskridge asked how the weighted goals were established. Brienzo stated that there was a committee who determined a process and the values to be used.

Hudkins stressed the importance of completing the South Beltway. Brienzo stated that this project is funded through LB84, Build Nebraska Act, and it is scheduled to begin construction in 2020, but it will depend on the funding staying in place. Camp asked what we can do to expedite it. Brienzo stated that we need to make sure that the funding stays on track. Shafer added that Monty Fredrickson has indicated that the process cannot be moved through any faster. Kleffner from NDOR stated that it will take a year or possibly two to go through the environmental assessment. Another big component is the length of time for right-of-way acquisition, which could take up to three to four years. Eskridge asked if design can begin at the same time as the environmental assessment. Kleffner stated that if you rush an engineering project of this magnitude, the project can end up costing a lot more money than anticipated.

Camp moved to approve the Project Prioritization and Selection process, seconded by Hudkins. The motion carried unanimously.

Review and action on the Lincoln MPO Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and program of projects.

Brienzo stated that this is a new program was created through the new MAP-21 legislation and it consolidates the transportation enhancement programs into one program. There is a funding

mechanism set up by the state through formula. Of the funds that Nebraska gets, the State gets 50% and the rest is split among the City/County (7%), MAPA (18%), and smaller populations (25%).

They have gone through all the transportation enhancement projects and tried to find a way to keep all of them active. This took cooperation from the State and the use of the State allocation of TAP funds. We were able to keep all of the projects in the previous program by converting these to TAP funds.

The projects include the Wyuka Stables renovation, the Haymarket Ball Park Trail, the Rosa Parks Way Trail, Cavett Elementary to Grainger Connector, Jamaica North Trail, Stonebridge Trail, Lincoln West "O" Historic Highway Project, Hickman Road Trail Connections, SRTS Pedal to Prescott Infrastructure, and Lincoln Walk to School.

Kleffner requested that \$15,000 be added from the state program to the Jamaica North Trail in the current fiscal year.

Hudkins moved approval of the Transportation Alternatives Program and the amendments to the Transportation Improvement Program, seconded by Camp. The motion carried unanimously.

Review and action on the Memorandum of Agreement between the Lincoln MPO and Nebraska Department of Roads

Brienzo stated a Memorandum of Agreement has been drafted between the MPO and the State. It defines the responsibilities of each organization in carrying out the federal requirements in programming and funding of federal funds. The Management Plan identifies how we manage the MPO, its structure and organization. This updates the previous agreements current and helps keep the process public and transparent. This replaces the former agreement from 1974.

Hudkins moved approval of the Memorandum of Agreement, seconded by Camp. The motion carried unanimously.

Briefing on the development of a regional Transportation demand Management (TDM) Strategy to support individual travel choices as identified in the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan.

The Transportation is a study funded through the MPO's work program. The consultant for the project is Nelson Nygaard. We are currently doing a review or scans of the transportation system. This study looks at transportation alternatives such as bicycle, walking, carpooling, and car sharing. We completed a peer review of other communities to see what works for them and what did not work. And have completed a community survey, from which about 2500 responses were received. In addition, we conducted eight stakeholder meetings with over 50 people from Lincoln. This included bicycle advocates, the business community, and neighborhood associations. They will use this information to create the draft strategy expected in June. This will help provide commuter a choice in transportation.

Other topics for discussion.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:19 p.m.

*** Please note that these minutes will not be formally approved until the next meeting of the Metropolitan Planning Organization Officials Committee. ***

ma/mb