

MEETING MINUTES

Technical Committee Meeting

Thursday, June 4, 2009

2:30 p.m.

Engineering Services Conference Room

Members Present: Greg MacLean, Thomas Shafer, Public Works/Utilities; Roger Figard, Randy Hoskins, Public Works/Utilities/RTSD; Marvin Krout, David Cary, Planning; Don Thomas, Doug Pillard, County Engineering; Brian Praeuner, StarTran; Ron Schlautman, Nebraska Department of Roads; Rick Thorson, Health; Justin Luther, Federal Highway Administration.

Others Present: Brad Zumwalt, Kaine McClelland, Nebraska Department of Roads; Kent, Morgan, Mike Brienzo, Michele Abendroth, Planning.

Roll call and acknowledge the “Nebraska Open Meeting Act”.

MacLean called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m. The Nebraska Open Meetings Act was acknowledged.

1. Review and action on the draft minutes of the April 30, 2009 Technical Committee meeting

Thomas moved to approve the minutes of the April 30, 2009 Technical Committee meeting, seconded by Krout. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Review and action on the Lincoln-Lancaster FY 2009-2010 Unified Planning Work Program for Transportation Planning within the Lincoln Metropolitan Area.

Brienzo stated that the Unified Planning Work Program is prepared annually to identify key objectives and planning activities that are to be done during the next year. Input is received from various departments and agencies in its development. Primary participants are Public Works, Planning, County Engineering and the Nebraska Department of Roads. This program has a planning focus but is also designed to coordinate planning activities with other departments and agencies. Elements include discussion on system operations, traffic counting, accident monitoring, as well as on transportation and corridor studies, and environmental studies or programs.

The major planning issues and areas of emphasis include the development of a congestion management process (CMP), transportation funding issues, environmental stewardship and coordination with those involved in goods and freight movement.

The two elements of federal funding for the Program are focused on continuing transportation planning and transit planning. The element on continuing transportation planning describes transportation planning activities that will be funded with PL and SPR funding. This forms the

basic transportation planning program to carry out the required MPO planning requirements. The transit planning activities identify FTA funds for Section 5303 and 5307 program funds. The program serves as the basis for grant applications for those funds.

Brienzo noted that this is a working document and is needed for budgeting purposes.

Luther stated that the Officials Committee must forward a final document to him for his approval. He added that amendments to this document are quite common.

Figard moved approval of this report and forward it to the Officials Committee for their review, seconded by Thomas. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Review and action on revisions to the current FY 2009-2014 Transportation Improvement Program to add two new projects to the program.

A. Branched Oak SRA, add project, Equestrian Trailhead and Trail Extension

Brienzo stated that this project is supported by the Games and Parks Commission. Estimated costs are \$64,300 with a local match of \$12,860. They would like to begin work on this project this summer.

B. Lincoln Wyuka Cemetery, add project, Wyuka Stables Renovation

Brienzo stated that this is an enhancement project. They have identified \$500,000 in federal transportation enhancement funds awarded by the Nebraska Department of Roads with a local match of \$128,860.

Brienzo stated that they would like to add these projects to the current TIP and with approval will be included in the State TIP.

Thomas moved approval of the Branched Oak SRA and Lincoln Wyuka Cemetery amendments, seconded by Figard. The motion carried unanimously.

C. City of Lincoln: StarTran, amendments to adjust FTA-Transit Stimulus funding.

Brienzo stated that at the last Tech Committee meeting, there was a question as to whether we were using all the funds. The intent is to program all of the \$3,789,058 funds. He presented a document detailing this funding.

Cary moved approval of the StarTran amendment, seconded by Shafer. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Review and action on the draft Lincoln City/ Lancaster County FY2010-2015 Transportation Improvement Program.

Brienzo stated that staff would like to add three projects to the proposed TIP.

A. City of Lincoln: Public Works, add project, Coddington Avenue project for PE and ROW.

This project is for design, engineering and right-of-way acquisition on Coddington Avenue from south of Van Dorn to north of West A Street. Federal funds are not being used, but it needs to be in the TIP for coordination purposes.

B. City of Lincoln: Public Works, add two projects for STP-Stimulus funding

Public Works would like to add two projects to the proposed TIP. Both projects are rehab projects for mill and overlay work to increase the safety of the public and to prolong the life of the roadway. The first project is at Holdrege Street from 33rd to 47th Street and the second is at Adams Street from 57th to 62nd Street.

Figard moved approval of these three amendments, seconded by Krout. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Corrections, Updates and Revisions to the proposed TIP

Brienzo presented a document identifying revisions to the proposed TIP; a copy of this document is attached. He noted that these revisions are administrative in nature. Brienzo then briefly reviewed the amendments.

In response to a question regarding advance construction in the State TIP, Luther stated that advance construction is a cash management tool for the State. When they authorize a project, that is not an obligation to the federal government. Until the State converts the advance construction, that is when it becomes an obligation to the federal government.

Luther noted that beyond 10 years in long-range planning, you can be more general. For the first 10 years, you should use an inflation factor of 4%.

Brienzo noted that the Planning Commission does not look at funding, but looks at conformance with the Comprehensive Plan. They did find the TIP to be in conformance with the Comp Plan.

Figard moved approval of these corrections, updates and revisions, seconded by Hoskins. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Additional projects

Shafer noted that the projects added do not total what is programmed for Antelope Valley. They would like to add two projects that are federal stimulus eligible. The first project is for mill and overlay work on Holdrege Street from 70th to 79th Street for a total cost of \$622,088. The second project is also for mill and overlay work at 70th Street from Aylesworth to Vine Street for a total cost of \$426,476.

Figard moved approval of these two projects to be added to the proposed TIP, seconded by Shafer. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Review of the Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) organizational structure and related responsibilities.

Morgan began by noting that the MPO is a federally mandated program and has been in place since the 1960's. We operate under a document called the Operations Plan. They feel it is time to make some changes to represent the new federal regulations. Traditionally, MPOs are comprised of Cities, Counties and Authorities. Our structure starts with the Mayor, then the Officials Committee, Planning Commission, Technical Committee and MPO staff.

The proposed changes include the recognition that the MPO Administrative staff is permanently assigned to the Planning Department; the Planning Director becomes the permanent secretary to Technical & Officials Committees; the Planning Director, PW&U Director, and County Engineer annually rotate chairmanship of Tech Committee; and the Tech Committee expands its role to engage the community.

Staff would also like to create four standing subcommittees and others as needed. These include MPO Administration, Programming and Funding, System Management & Operations, MultiModal, and Special Studies & Projects.

The MPO Administration Subcommittee would have Mike Brienzo as lead staff with membership including Planning, Public Works, StarTran, County Engineering, and NDOR. It would meet at least quarterly. Work items include the Unified Planning Work Program, annual self-certification/review, federal Certification, prospectus, public participation plan, natural resource agencies, citizen engagement, and regulation review.

The Programming and Funding Subcommittee would have Mike Brienzo as lead staff and membership would include Planning, Public Works, StarTran, Parks & Recreation, County Engineering, NDOR, Urban Development, and other agencies as appropriate. It would meet quarterly. Work items would include the TIP, project status and funding, funding and program review, and street system condition inventory.

The System Management & Operations Subcommittee would have Randy Hoskins as lead staff. Membership would include Engineering Services, Planning Department, County Engineering, Health, and NDOR. It would meet at least quarterly. Work Items include the congestion management process, ITS, safety and security, crash study, and freight.

The Multi-Modal Transportation Subcommittee would have David Cary as lead staff and membership would include Planning, StarTran, Parks & Recreation, Public Works, and NDOR. It would meet at least quarterly. Work items include the transit system, multi-use trails, bicycle system, pedestrian system, safe routes to school and ADA transition plan for right-of-way facilities.

Staff is also proposing to change the membership of the Officials Committee. Current membership includes the Mayor, City Council Chair, two County Board and the Governor or designee. Staff is proposing that another City Council represented be added.

The next steps include getting comments by the Tech Committee, presenting the plan to the Officials Committee at their next meeting, preparing an updated MPO Management Plan for review by the Tech Committee, and processing the revised MPO Management Plan through the MPO for adoption.

Thorson proposed that Health Department staff be added to the Multi-Modal Subcommittee.

Hoskins asked if there is a contingency plan if Waverly meets the population requirements to be included.

Luther commended the efforts of the MPO and believes it will improve the planning process for Lincoln.

6. Other topics for discussion.

Thorson presented carbon monoxide data during the hot rod show in town recently. There was a spike in the carbon monoxide levels during the three days they were in town. These levels are still far below the standard. He noted the levels illustrate that congestion increases the air pollution levels.

As there was no further discussion, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 4:04 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

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