

MEETING MINUTES

Technical Committee Meeting

Thursday, September 10, 2009

11:30 a.m.

Mayor's 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; Ken Smith, Urban Development; Ron Schlautman, Nebraska Department of Roads; Charlotte Burke, Health; Justin Luther, Federal Highway Administration.

Others Present: Melissa Maiefski, Federal Highway Administration; Randy ElDorado, Jim Miller, Brad Zumwalt, Kaine McClelland, Nebraska Department of Roads; Linda Beacham, Schemmer Associates; Carolyn Brandle, Eastridge Neighborhood Association; Mike Brienzo, Rashi Jain, Michele Abendroth, Planning.

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

MacLean called the meeting to order at 11:36 a.m. The Nebraska Open Meetings Act was acknowledged.

1. Review and action on the *draft* minutes of the June 4, 2009 Technical Committee meetings.

Thomas moved approval of the June 4, 2009 Technical Committee meeting minutes; seconded by Hoskins. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Review and action on *revisions* to the current *FY 2009-2014 Transportation Improvement Program* to reallocate City of Lincoln: StarTran funding to an existing project.

Brienzo stated that this is a request from StarTran to change the current 2008-09 Transportation Improvement Program to add \$180,100 of federal transit aid funds and \$45,000 special reserve funds from an old project to project #8, Automated Vehicle Location Enhancements, for a total of \$375,100.

Schlautman asked if this is a modification or an amendment. Brienzo stated that this is a major revision that requires an amendment.

Praeuner stated that this is simply transferring unspent prior funds from a 2004-05 project to a similar already approved project. This is more than the 15% threshold set by the MPO and therefore necessitates an amendment.

Brienzo stated that these funds are already obligated, they are just being reassigned.

Thomas moved approval of the transfer of funds to the FY 2008-2009 StarTran section of the TIP, seconded by Schlautman. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Review and action on revisions to the FY 2009-2014 and FY 2010-2015 Transportation Improvement Programs to move the PE/NEPA phase and STP-Stimulus project funding for four (4) City of Lincoln: Public Works projects from FY 2009-10 to FY 2008-09.

Brienzo stated that this a request through the State to bring together as many stimulus funded projects as possible to package them to undertake the preliminary engineering and NEPA review and planning elements of the projects. These are programmed in FY 2009-10 in the proposed TIP, but in order to move them forward we have to move them to the next TIP. The portion of the funding being moved is minor compared to the overall cost of the project. There are four projects, which are all stimulus funded projects, and include: mill and overlay work on Holdrege Street from 33rd Street to 47th Street; on Adams Street from 57th Street to 62nd Street; on North 70th Street from Aylesworth to Vine Street; and on Holdrege Street from 70th Street to 79th Street.

Shafer moved approval of the four amendments to the FY 2008-09 Public Works section of the TIP, seconded by Figard. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Review and action on the adding RTSD funds to an existing City of Lincoln: Public Works project in the Lincoln/Lancaster County FY 2010-2015 Transportation Improvement Program.

Brienzo stated that this is a request from the Railroad Transportation Safety District and the Public Works Department to revise the proposed TIP. This will add RTSD funds to two projects as follows: \$900,000 to construct a viaduct at SW 40th Street over the BNSF railroad; and \$3,500,000 on 33rd Street at the BNSF railroad crossing for grade separation.

Figard stated that the addition of the \$900,000 is adding the unspent funds from last year to the \$1.5 million from last year. Appropriated funds do not carry forward in the RTSD budget, and that is why action is required.

Cary moved approval of the addition of the RTSD funds in the FY 2010-15 Public Works section of the TIP, seconded by Thomas. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Review of the Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) draft “Public Participation Plan” and action to initiate the 45 day stakeholder and public review period.

Brienzo stated that according to federal regulation, the MPO shall adopt and use a Public Participation Plan. This is a major revision of the previous plan from 1994. In establishing the new plan, Rashi Jain was the primary lead staff on the project. The public review period is 45 days, and staff is requesting the Technical Committee to initiate that. Copies of the plan will be at the library, the Planning Department, County Engineer’s Office, and the Health Department. Stakeholders will have an opportunity to comment, and each comment will receive a response from staff.

The plan has been restructured and is more proactive. There will be many opportunities for public input. There will be an ongoing evaluation process, and the plan is designed to meet the Nebraska Open Meetings Act.

MacLean made a motion to authorize the chair of the Technical Committee to initiate the 45-day comment period beginning on September 18; it was seconded by Thomas.

Luther asked if the 45-day comment period would start over if there are revisions to the document. Brienzo stated that if there are major changes, then it is possible the 45-day period could start over. Luther stated that he has several questions and possible revisions.

Luther pointed out his concerns with the proposed plan as follows: coordinating with the statewide public involvement process; coordinating with the affected agencies planning process; Lincoln is a TMA (Transportation Management Area) and should be stated as such; the involvement of tribal land; identify the agency involved with public lands; the specific timeframe of public involvement on key decisions; and identify the stakeholders and indicate how the stakeholders were involved in the development of the Public Participation Plan. He added that he feels this is a great start, but more specific processes need to be put in place

MacLean asked if there were any comments from the public. Linda Beacham stated that one of the things she noticed is missing is why you want to engage the public and what you do with that information. Also, she would like to know how the public involvement will expand the process.

MacLean withdrew his motion.

MacLean moved to initiate the public agency and stakeholder participation involvement phase of the preparation of the draft in anticipation of the 45-day comment period. Comments from the Technical Committee regarding the draft Plan are due by September 16. The motion was seconded by Thomas and carried unanimously.

6. Review and action of the proposed Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) "Management Plan" (prospectus) and related organizational structure.

Brienzo stated that the Management Plan outlines the core elements in promoting the transportation planning process. The MPO will continue to operate under the existing Memorandum of Understanding and will look closely at this in the near future. The Plan identifies the key elements of the MPO process including the Transportation Improvement Program, the Unified Planning Work Program, the Congestion Management Plan, and the Public Participation Plan. This document clearly defines the Metropolitan Planning Area. The proposed Plan makes adjustments to the Technical and Officials Committee membership with the addition of another two Technical Committee members and one additional City Council member.

Schlautman stated that reference is made to UMTA (Urban Mass Transportation Administration), but it is no longer in existence and was replaced by the FTA (Federal Transit Administration). Brienzo said that this change will be noted in the Management Plan. The name of the UMTA was changed to the Federal Transit Administration in 1991, and all references to the "Urban Mass Transportation Act" were changed to the "Federal Transit Act" at that time.

Schlautman asked about the bylaws and the rotating chair. Brienzo stated that the existing bylaws state that the Public Works Director serves as chair. The new bylaws state that it will be a rotating Tri-Chair between Public Works, Planning and County Engineering. The Planning Department will serve as secretary. Schlautman asked that a date be put on the bylaws so it is clear what is current. Brienzo stated that the new date will be noted upon adoption.

Luther stated that this is a good document and will help out in the future a great deal.

MacLean asked if there were any comments from the public. There were none.

Shafer moved approval of the Management Plan, seconded by Hoskins. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Briefing and request for Technical Committee review of the proposed Lincoln MPO Congestion Management Process (CMP).

Hoskins stated that they have had a subcommittee of the membership reviewing the Congestion Management Plan. They took the existing congestion management system and turned it into a process using the federal requirements. They used the 8 step process that the federal government requires. The indicators and performance measures have been contained, and there is a lot of continuity in the document. One of the biggest changes is that they will now be required to create an annual report on the statistics they have been maintaining. The data collected will be used to look at projects that will help address the congestion in town. It is a continuing effort and must be updated regularly.

Luther asked if this will be in the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Hoskins stated that they intend to include the congestion management system in the LRTP.

MacLean asked if there were any comments from the public. There were none.

Hoskins moved to approve the Congestion Management Plan, seconded by Figard. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Other topics for discussion.

Luther stated that he would like to make a presentation on the certification review at the Officials Committee on September 24.

Brienzo noted that the next Technical Committee meeting is November 10th.

As there was no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 12:43 p.m.

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