

MEETING MINUTES

Technical Committee Meeting

Thursday, August 26, 2010

1:30 p.m.

Room 303, County/City Building

Members Present: Thomas Shafer, Erin Sokolik, Public Works/Utilities/RTSD; Marvin Krout, Nicole Fleck-Tooze, David Cary, Planning; Brian Praeuner, StarTran; Rick Thorson, Health Department; Ken Smith, Urban Development; Don Thomas, Doug Pillard, County Engineering; Randy Eldorado, Rich Ruby, Nebraska Department of Roads.

Others Present: Brad Zumwalt, Larry Legg, Anthony Dirks, Nebraska Department of Roads; Diane Rolfsmeyer, Seniors Foundation; Bill Morrisen, Easter Seals of Nebraska; Mark Intermill, Nebraska Public Transit Coalition; Jeff Weak, EMJ Consulting; Mike Brienzo, Michele Abendroth, Planning.

The meeting was called to order at 1:32 p.m. The Nebraska Open Meetings Act was acknowledged.

1. Review and action on the draft minutes of the June 15, 2010 and August 14, 2010 Technical Committee meetings

Thomas moved approval of the June 15, 2010 and August 14, 2010 Technical Committee meeting minutes, seconded by Shafer. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Review and action to amend the proposed FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program to add four new Transportation Enhancement Projects and identify federal funding.

- A. Lincoln West "O" Historic Highway Project – Phase 1 – Add for FY 2011 project letting and construction
- B. Lincoln West "O" Historic Highway Project – Phase 2 – Add for FY 2012 project letting and construction
- C. Hickman Road Trail Connection – West – Add for FY 2011 project letting and construction
- D. Hickman Road Trail Connection – East – Add for FY 2011 project letting and construction

Brienzo stated that there are four amendments to the proposed 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program. Two of the projects are to add transportation enhancement funds in FY2011 for the West "O" Historic Highway Project, Phase 1 and 2. The other two projects are to add transportation enhancement funds in FY2011 for the Hickman Road Trail Connection, West and East.

Fleck-Tooze moved approval of the proposed four amendments to the proposed 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program, seconded by Cary. The motion carried unanimously.

Brienzo stated that there are two additional projects that need to be added to the proposed 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program. The amendments are to add transportation enhancement projects in FY2011 for the 1) Jamaica North Trail (Phase 2) and 2) Lincoln Wyuka Stables Renovation. These projects are listed in previous TIPs but the funds were not obligated. They have had public review but need to be kept in the TIP by moving them back one year. In order to let these projects for construction this fiscal year, they need to be added to FY 2011 of the proposed TIP.

ElDorado moved approval of the proposed two amendments to the proposed 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program, seconded by Thomas. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Review and action on the project selection task force recommendations on project funding and programming for the Federal Transit Administration Job Access/Reverse Commute and New Freedom programs and amend these to the proposed FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program.

Brienzo stated that the first “call for projects” for the Job Access/Reverse Commute and New Freedom projects for program funding came out in February 2008. The second call for projects took place in February 2009 to obligate 2009 FTA funds. The 2010 call for projects was delayed waiting for notification of federal funding and was completed in June 2010. Five proposals were received this year and reviewed by the Technical Committee Task Force. These recommendations are in your packet.

The three project proposals requesting funding under the Job Access & Reverse Commute Program are 1) Lincoln Literacy Council for Transportation Support for new Americans Preparing for Workforce Entry; 2) StarTran/City of Lincoln to subsidize the StarTran Bus Route; and 3) Center for People in Need for a Driver Voucher Program. The Task Force recommendation is to fund the Lincoln Literacy Council project and the StarTran/City of Lincoln project. The recommendation is to defer action on the Center for People in Need Driver Voucher Program. A review of the CFPIN program that has been funded for the past two years shows that this program is not currently meeting its goals. Based upon this review, it is the recommendation that this additional funding not to be obligated for FY2011 and the performance criteria be re-evaluated in 6 months. If this program is on track and meeting its stated performance criteria, then these funds would be recommended for this program.

Two program proposals are requesting funding under the New Freedom Program. These are 1) the League of Human Dignity, Extended Hours Service Transportation program and 2) the Lincoln Seniors Foundation Transportation program to fund a “Mobility Manager” position. Both programs have been partially funded under the New Freedom program over the past two years.

Brienzo noted that the Nebraska Department of Roads sent a letter to the Federal Transit Administration questioning the eligibility of the Lincoln Seniors Foundation Transportation program application. This application is under review by the FTA but we have not heard their final answer. However, staff discussions with FTA administrators indicate the issue is in one of providing a better clarification of what the program is actually funding. Support for a “Mobility Manager” position is clearly identified in federal regulations and is supported by the MPO’s “Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan.” This should not be a problem since we are already been operating with a clear definition.

Cary asked what happens to the funding if this application is denied. Brienzo stated that there were no other applications, so the money would carry over and become available for other projects. These funds would be available for up to three years. Brienzo stated that he believes the Technical Committee should proceed on the Lincoln Seniors Foundation application with a recommendation of approval. If FTA finds fault with this program, they can stop it from being approved for funding.

Diane Rolfmeier, Executive Director for the Lincoln Seniors Foundation, spoke on behalf of continuing the funding for this program and stated that they are seeking funding for the “Mobility Coordinator” position. This individual is very aware of all the transportation systems in Lincoln and assesses the best transportation option for each rider. All of the drivers are volunteers. Intermill with the Nebraska Public Transit Coalition added that this program is at a critical point in its development and is now being expanded to the county.

Brienzo stated that staff recommendation is to approve funding for all but the Center for People in Need application. Brienzo also noted that the recommendation of these applications will include a recommendation to be included in the TIP with an amendment

Praeuner stated that he will recuse himself from the vote because StarTran has submitted an application for funding.

Fleck-Tooze moved approval of the four applications received for funding under the Job Access & Reverse Commute and New Freedom programs, seconded by Thomas. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Other topics for discussion

Shafer stated that according to federal regulations, the MPO must appoint a Local Public Agency Responsible Charge (RC) person to oversee all federal-aid projects. For the MPO, the RC will oversee the Transportation Model Update. Shafer moved to appoint Brienzo to serve in this capacity, seconded by Cary. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:31 p.m.

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