

MEETING MINUTES

Technical Committee Meeting

Thursday, August 9, 2012

1:30 p.m.

Room 113, County/City Building

Members Present: Miki Esposito, Roger Figard, Randy Hoskins, Public Works/Utilities/RTSD; Marvin Krout, Nicole Fleck-Tooze, David Cary, Planning; Don Thomas, Doug Pillard, County Engineering; Chris Schroeder, Health; Randy Eldorado, Tom Goodbarn, Nebraska Department of Roads.

Others Present: Justin Luther, FHWA; Kaine McClelland, Brad Zumwalt, NDOR; Barb Fraser, PBAC; Allen Jambor, Benesch; Maggie Thompson Doll, Lisa Kern, Karl Fredrickson, Parsons Brinckerhoff; Susie Filipi, Thomas Shafer, Engineering Services; Haden, Felsburg Holt & Ullevig; Mike Brienzo, Michele Abendroth, Planning.

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. The Nebraska Open Meetings Act was acknowledged.

Review and action on the draft minutes of the May 24, 2012 Technical Committee meeting

Thomas moved approval of the meeting minutes of the May 24, 2012, seconded by Cary. The motion carried unanimously.

Review and action on two amendments to:

A. The current FY 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program

B. The proposed FY 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program

Brienzo stated there are two sets of amendments that need to be acted upon separately. The first set of amendments is for the current TIP covering fiscal years 2011-12 through 2014-15 which covers the four years of the program. The second set of amendments is for the proposed TIP for FY 2012-13 through FY 2015-16 which has been approved by the MPO but not approved by the FHWA. Actually, this program along with the STIP is under public review now. The two sets of amendments are identical, and are being brought to the committee together to make sure the funding in the two programs are coordinated and fiscal constraint is maintained.

In the current TIP, we have adjusted funds so we can obligate project funding in the first year of the program. In order to cover the programs in the first year, we had to move funds from the out-years into the first. I am asking for action on the amendments to the current FY 2012-2015 TIP. A second Committee action is called for on the proposed TIP for FY 2013-16. The MPO is asked to act on these separately because the two amendments will take slightly different paths. The program will not be acted upon by the State and FHWA until after the proposal TIP is adopted which will be in October.

A) Figard moved approval of the amendments to the current FY 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program, seconded by Thomas. The motion carried unanimously.

B) Fleck-Tooze moved approval of the amendments to the proposed FY 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program, seconded by Figard. The motion carried unanimously.

Committee discussion on the possibility of initiating Biennial MPO Programs for the Transportation Improvement Program and Unified Planning Work Program to match the local two-year budgeting cycle

Brienzo explained that at the last MPO Officials Committee, staff was asked to look into and consider the development of "Biennial MPO Programs" to match the local two-year budgeting cycle. According to federal regulations, the development of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) on a two-year cycle is allowed. However, there are conditions and requirements for Federal, State and MPO coordination and approvals. The TIP covers no less than a four year period. Projects come from the Long Range Transportation Plan, and we programmed for funding and construction in the TIP. The document is currently updated every year, compatible with the state TIP process. We would like to get feedback from this committee and from the state on the possibility of developing biennial or two-year programs.

EIDorado stated that they have been talking about this, and there are several things to think about. These comments should not be construed as saying yes or no. We would like to continue discussion on this.

EIDorado continued by stating that the state has to coordinate the TIP with the STIP. They have a \$270 million program they are juggling. They have a large program that requires a great deal of oversight.

He noted that MAP-21 will end in FY14. One of the concerns is that we could go into another extended length of continuing resolutions, which means they will have a hard time knowing what funding is available. This will be a burden on the biennial TIP. The TIP still needs to be financially constrained by year. They discussed with Justin Luther other states that are doing this. Florida has a biennial TIP, and they mentioned that one of the issues is that there were numerous revisions in the second year. They need to do more research on this. They would like the Lincoln MPO to demonstrate why they want to move to this biennial TIP. They would like to see know what efficiencies are gained.

EIDorado stated that they would like this discussed at the annual MPO coordination meeting in December. Lincoln could present their case and see if the other MPOs can adopt the same process.

Figard asked who will make the final decision on this. Luther stated that this is allowed in the federal regulations, so it would be a matter of how it fits with the state. EIDorado stated that it centers around logistics. They want to make sure it is in everyone's best interest.

Krout asked Luther if he could provide some information on how this has worked for other states. Luther acknowledged that he would do that. He said he already has some of that information put together. He noted that there are some efficiencies to be gained, but it is a matter of logistics.

Other topics for discussion

Brienzo stated that they just received a draft of the Memorandum of Agreement, and he will prepare comments to send back to the State.

Brienzo stated that a traffic model agreement was developed for consultants to sign so they can use the MPO model in their work on the 14th/Old Cheney/Warlick interchange study.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:07 p.m.

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