

MEETING RECORD

NAME OF GROUP: TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING: September 7, 2017, 1:30 p.m., Conference Room 113, County-City Building, 555 S. 10th St., Lincoln, NE

MEMBERS AND OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: David Cary - Planning Dept., Pam Dingman - Lancaster County Engineer, Lonnie Burklund - Public Works & Utilities, Paul Barnes and Kellee Van Bruggen - Planning Dept., Michael Davis - StarTran, Roger Figard - Railroad Transportation Safety District, Kris Humphrey - Public Works & Utilities, Sara Hartzell - Parks & Recreation, Wynn Hjermsstad - Urban Development, Brendan Lilley - County Engineer, Noel Salac and Paul Gavin - Nebraska Dept. of Transportation, Gary Bergstrom – Health Dept.; (David Haring - Lincoln Airport Authority absent). Holley Salmi - Public Works & Utilities, Lynn Johnson - Parks & Recreation, Brian Praeuner - StarTran, Rick Haden - Felsburg Holt & Ullevig, Daniel Nguyen - Federal Transit Administration, Justin Luther - Federal Highway Administration, Mike Owen – Nebraska Dept. of Transportation, Nancy Hicks - Lincoln Journal Star and other interested parties.

Chair David Cary called the meeting to order and acknowledged the posting of the Open Meetings Act in the room.

Cary then requested a motion approving the minutes of the meeting held June 1, 2017. Motion for approval made by Dingman, seconded by Figard and carried 13-0: Barnes, Burklund, Davis, Dingman, Figard, Gavin, Haring, Hartzell, Humphrey, Hjermsstad, Lilley, Salac and Van Bruggen voting ‘yes’; Bergstrom abstaining; Haring absent.

REVIEW AND ACTION ON REVISIONS TO THE FY 2018-2021 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP), A) NEBRASKA HIGHWAY N-79, AGNEW NORTH & SOUTH OF RAYMOND SPUR NORTH TO VALPARAISO:

Mike Brienzo stated that this is an addition to the proposed TIP. The 2018 TIP doesn’t go into effect October 1, 2018. In working with the State, they noted a project that is under way. They need to convert some funds for the next fiscal year. They want to add this project back into the TIP and use Federal Surface Transportation funds. This will be advanced to the Officials Committee. The scope of the project doesn’t change, just the funding.

ACTION:

Salac moved approval to revise the FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program, a) Nebraska: Highway N-79, Agnew North & South of Raymond Spur north to Valparaiso, reprogram project from FY 2017 and convert advanced construction Nebraska state funding to Federal STP-Flexible funds as part of project funding, seconded by Dingman and carried 14-0: Barnes, Bergstrom, Burklund, Davis, Dingman, Figard, Gavin, Haring, Hartzell, Humphrey, Hjermstad, Lilley, Salac and Van Bruggen voting 'yes'; Haring absent.

BRIEFING ON THE FHWA/FTA MPO CERTIFICATION REPORT:

Cary believes the review was very positive.

Justin Luther wanted to touch base with the committee. Every four years, the Federal Highway Administration does a certification review. This is a special requirement for areas over 200,000 people. The last certification review was in 2013. The MPO is the decision maker for Federal funding. The review covers how coordination is working, how all documents are working together and if feedback is being effective. There are a lot of agencies involved in the MPO process. The MPO planning area is all of Lancaster County. The MPO forecasts the next ten to twenty years. The key documents that come out of the planning process are the Unified Planning Work Program, the Long Range Transportation Plan, the Congestion Management Process, the Transportation Improvement Program and the Public Participation Plan. The outcome of this review was a very successful review. We were pleasantly surprised with all the progress the MPO has made. The certification is through September 30, 2021. We had zero corrective actions. Recommendations are areas where it is not required by statute, but we would recommend some further action. There were four recommendations and two commendations where the FTA felt the Lincoln MPO really went over and above. The four recommendations were 1) documentation of the planning and coordination steps between MPO, StarTran and NDOT; 2) the FHWA/FTA will deliver background and the benefits/costs of implementing a consolidated planning work program; 3) determine how to best ensure individuals who might have a language barrier can effectively access key MPO planning documents online and 4) the Congestion Management Process needs to be updated with all the current activities that the City and the MPO are undertaking. The two commendations were for Lincoln doing an outstanding job with the outreach for the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and using the LRTP to tell the story about the region's priorities and needs when balancing project costs with available revenues.

Cary stated that many people were involved in all efforts, especially the outreach. He thanked the consultants at Felsburg Holt & Ullevig for doing a great job.

Brienzo noted that staff has begun looking at these recommendations. We want to get ahead of the recommendations.

BRIEFING ON THE NEBRASKA DOT LINCOLN SOUTH BELTWAY STUDY:

Mike Owen believes this is exciting. He has been working on this for a long time. Information is starting to go out today. This is the South Beltway, generally ½ mile south of Saltillo Rd. The design phase was started in 2013. The EIS (Environmental Impact Study) was completed in 2002. We have been updating the details of the design along with the environmental pieces. We spent the most time on the wetlands, waters and coordinating with the Corp. of Engineers. He showed a schematic of the current design. There is a system interchange on the west side. There are imbedded interchanges. There is an interchange at 30th Street, one at 68th Street and one at 82nd Street. There is a system interchange at Highway 2. There have been some minor changes since the summer of 2013. We will have the mosaic on the Nebraska DOT website next week. The biggest change is to the intersection at 82nd St. Some minor modifications have been made around Highway 2. This will be a three way divided median.

Lynn Johnson inquired if there will be accommodations for cyclists. Owen stated the plans call for a future trail system. There will be two twin bridges at Homestead Trail. They made a commitment to not close that trail.

Johnson questioned if bicyclists will be allowed on the road. Owen replied that bicycles are not allowed on a freeway.

Owen continued that legal notices are going out today. Public hearing will be on Oct. 3, 2017 at the Sesostri Shrine Center, 1050 Saltillo Rd., Roca, Nebraska. The comment period ends Oct. 7, 2017 and the agency comment resolution is on Oct. 23, 2017. Final design, right-of-way acquisition, permits and construction advertisement will be in 2018 and 2019. Construction is scheduled to be from 2020 to 2025/2027.

Brienzo added that information will be the City website along with the State of Nebraska website.

BRIEFING ON THE LINCOLN TRANSPORTATION IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY:

Lonnie Burklund wanted everyone to know about an exciting project. It is an effort we are undertaking to seek some ideas on how we are going to address current and future infrastructure. Olsson Associates, Burns & McDonnell and EPS are the consultant teams. We are trying to create an action plan. The goals were identified in the LRTP. We are trying to take a fresh look at how we do transportation in Lincoln. System Preservation is things like street maintenance. System Optimization is things like Green Light Lincoln. System Growth is something we are constantly challenged with as our MPO limits expand. There is a big focus on community outreach and engagement. This is a quick six month project. There will be the formation of a Citizens' Transportation Coalition. This is a broad group of people who are invested in helping figure out what are Lincoln's current system preservation, system optimization and growth needs, what level of transportation infrastructure maintenance do citizens expect, what transportation investments are needed, what are those costs and what

are the best options for the city to fund this. There is a meeting next week. We have been doing a lot of work on peer city reviews. We have had a great response rate from these other cities. In October 2017, we will talk about system growth. In November 2017, we will move into more of a preservation optimization and growth. The December 2017 meeting will be details in terms of funding options. January 2018, the consultant team and coalition will come back with recommendations. This will be followed with press releases and briefing packages. There was a bus tour in August 2017 around the city. We drove some interesting stretches of streets and looked at pavement conditions. Yankee Hill Rd. has about every type of road possible. We asked everyone to rate the street and facilities along the way. There is a lot of information sharing to follow as we move forward. We are excited about this effort. He thinks we will learn a lot.

Figard wondered if the group drove Rokeby Rd. from 84th to 98th Streets. Burklund replied we did not.

Hjermstad asked if all meetings are open to the public. Burklund replied yes, they are at the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce. A few folks have shown up. Everyone is welcome.

BRIEFING ON THE LINCOLN MPO ON-STREET BIKE FACILITIES STUDY AND COMMITTEE ACTION ON TECHNICAL COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT:

Kellee Van Bruggen stated that this is an extension of a discussion that started with the LRTP update. This will focus on where the On-Street Bicycle Facilities need to be located. Today she wants to talk about the organizational structure as we move forward. The consultant selection team is a team of five. Once we receive the proposals, we will develop a short list and proceed with interviews. We will review what best fits our needs. From there we will set up a bicycle citizen's advisory committee. Some focus groups may be created on what type of facilities are needed. We will also set up an oversight committee. We more frequently work with the consultant doing more focused and concentrated work. We will bring that work to this group and ask for input. Once the project is nearing completion, we will bring the entire document for review. We expect this to be an eight to twelve month project.

Dingman believes there is a sample bike for Bike Share. Van Bruggen replied yes, we have a bike. It has been taken to a couple of events and seems to generate interest in people who view it. Dingman noted that the bike is in the parking garage if anyone wants to see it.

OTHER:

- Brienzo noted that next Technical Committee meeting will be on November 16, 2017. Staff is putting together a number of agenda items such as performance management. We are coordinating with the State on safety management. The State is sitting on a regional high speed rail committee. There might be reports on the 33rd and Cornhusker Hwy. project as well.

- Dingman stated that the County Board appointed several citizens to an advisory committee, the Lancaster County Infrastructure Financing Task Force. There are many miles of gravel road with high traffic volumes. This is not sustainable, maintainable or safe. There are also 76 bridges that need replaced. Hopefully the task force will find solutions for many issues.
- Brienzo announced that there is a new Assistant Director of Transportation for Public Works & Utilities, Lonnie Burklund.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.