

**MINUTES
OF THE
EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
Thursday, September 28, 2023, 1:30 p.m.
Zoom/2nd Floor Circle of Friends Community Room
Rapid City, South Dakota**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sarah Gilkerson via proxy for Jafar Karim – South Dakota Transportation Commission, Vicki Fisher via proxy for Jason Salamun – Mayor of Rapid City, Larry Larson – Mayor of Box Elder, Talbot Wieczorek and Richard Liggett – Meade County Commission and Gary Drewes and Lloyd LaCroix – Pennington County Commission

MEMBERS ABSENT: Patrick Dame – Rapid City Regional Airport, John Roberts and Greg Strommen – Rapid City City Council and Michael Knight – Box Elder City Council

STAFF PRESENT: Kelly Brennan and Melissa Bloomberg – Rapid City Department of Community Development

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Palmer and Larry Dean – South Dakota Department of Transportation and Greg Heitmann – Federal Highway Administration

Chairman Larson called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Meeting quorum was met.

General Public Comment

No General Public Comment.

Business

Drewes moved, Wieczorek seconded and motion carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the August 17, 2023 meeting.

23TP019 – Approve the 2024 Unified Planning Work Program – Draft Report. Brennan reviewed the 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) draft report. This document includes the annual activities, planning studies, and products to be developed by the Metropolitan Planning Organization for 2024. The Unified Planning Work Program also identifies funding and staffing for conducting these tasks.

Fisher moved, Gilkerson seconded and motion carried unanimously to approve the 2024 Unified Planning Work Program - Draft Report.

23TP020 – Approve the Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Draft Operations Plan. The Operations Plan is a guiding document for all transportation products and plans required through the Metropolitan Planning Organization process. Brennan reviewed the revisions to this plan.

Fisher moved, Drewes seconded and motion carried unanimously to approve the Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Draft Operations Plan.

23TP021 – Approve the Citizens Advisory Committee Bylaw Update. Staff is currently in the process of revising Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization’s Operations Plan to update language that references the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), the new highway bill signed by the President on November 15, 2021. As part of the Operations Plan changes, staff is also proposing revisions to the Citizens Advisory Committee Bylaws. These changes ensure that the process used by Meade County to appoint committee representation is accurately reflected, and that any member of the public participating in a committee meeting that is not a “voting member” is considered a “non-voting member.” Brennan reviewed this update.

Drewes moved, Wieczorek seconded and motion carried unanimously to approve the Citizens Advisory Committee Bylaw Update.

23TP022 – Approve the Technical Coordinating Committee Bylaw Update. Staff is currently in the process of revising Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization’s Operations Plan to update language that references the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), the new highway bill signed by the President on November 15, 2021. As part of the Operations Plan changes, staff is also proposing revisions to the Technical Coordinating Committee Bylaws. These changes include updating the names of departments and titles where applicable, and removal of outdated staff positions. Brennan reviewed this update.

LaCroix moved, Fisher seconded and motion carried unanimously to approve the Technical Coordinating Committee Bylaw Update.

23TP023 – Approve the Executive Policy Committee Bylaw Update. Staff is currently in the process of revising Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization’s Operations Plan to update language that references the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), the new highway bill signed by the President on November 15, 2021. As part of the Operations Plan changes, staff is also proposing revisions to the Executive Policy Committee Bylaws. These changes include updating the names of departments and titles where applicable. Brennan reviewed this update.

Fisher moved, Liggett seconded and motion carried unanimously to approve the Executive Policy Committee Bylaw Update.

23TP024 – Approve the Letter of Support for the City of Rapid City’s Transportation Alternatives Grant Application. The City of Rapid City is submitting an application to assist with funding the reconstruction of trails in Mary Hall Park. The estimated cost of the project is \$1,075,786.61. Through this SDDOT grant program, the City of Rapid City could receive 81.95% of the project cost, or \$881,607.30, with the City providing matching funds in the amount of \$194,179.51. The MPO’s support may enhance the City’s potential to receive this grant. Brennan reviewed this letter of support.

Gilkerson moved, Wieczorek seconded and motion carried unanimously to approve the Letter of Support for the City of Rapid City's Transportation Alternatives Grant Application.

23TP025 – Acknowledge the Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan 2023 Annual Update. The Coordinated Public Transit - Human Services Transportation Plan was approved in March 2019 and identifies the gaps and needs in transportation related to persons with disabilities, seniors and individuals with low incomes. The plan provides strategies to fix these gaps and needs, followed by priorities for implementing these strategies. An inventory of participating transportation providers was also provided. Agencies interested in receiving federal funds to help pay for vehicles, such as buses or vans, participated in this locally developed, coordinated public transit - human services transportation plan. This Annual Update identifies the 2023 accomplishments and on-going tasks as well as those not yet initiated and/or scheduled for the coming years. The Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan will be updated in 2024 per the 2024 Unified Planning Work Program. Brennan reviewed this update.

No action was taken on this item.

23TP026 – Approve the Urbanized Area Boundary – Final Map. The attached map identifies the proposed Rapid City Urban Boundary. Based on the new criteria, this new boundary incorporates additional areas in the cities of Rapid City, Piedmont, Summerset, Box Elder, the Black Hawk community, and Ellsworth Air Force Base. Some additional minor adjustments were also made to incorporate the anticipated twenty-year growth areas. The urbanized area boundary, once finalized, provides the boundary for the Functional Class Map, which in turn will identify which road projects can utilize Federal funding allocated to the Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization. Once the Rapid City Urbanized Boundary is approved, changes to the Functional Class Map and the Metropolitan Planning Organization boundary are forthcoming. Dean reviewed this map. Discussion ensued.

Wieczorek moved, Fisher seconded and motion carried unanimously to approve the Urbanized Area Boundary – Final Map.

23TP027 – Acknowledge the 2023-2023 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #23-004A . This amendment implements a staff recommended change from a statewide project to a region-wide project to install dynamic message boards along the Interstate Highway system. There is no change in the proposed funding for Project CR 000S(418) in the Interstate Maintenance category in FY2023. Brennan reviewed this amendment.

No action was taken on this item.

23TP028 – Approve the Letter of Support for SDDOT Exit 46 Reconnecting Communities Grant Application. The SDDOT is seeking Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Grant Program funding for the Interstate 90 Exit 46 Bridge Reconstruction Project. The current interchange at Elk Creek Road is a considerable barrier to access and mobility for the rural communities of Piedmont and Summerset, in

Meade County. The project includes reconstructing the Exit 46 (Elk Creek Road) bridge to include multimodal facilities for those walking and biking, eliminating an at-grade railroad crossing of Elk Creek Road, as well as regrading and resurfacing both directions of I-90 from east of Exit 44 to west of Exit 48. The new structure will address and correct existing unsafe conditions at the ramp terminals and intersections and accommodate future expansion of I-90. The total construction cost of the project is estimated to be \$56.3 million and is scheduled for letting in 2025. The Department is seeking 80% (\$45 million) of the project cost from the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Grant Program and providing 20% (\$11.3 million) in local match.

Fisher moved, Wieczorek seconded and motion carried unanimously to approve the Letter of Support for the SDDOT Exit 46 Reconnecting Communities Grant Application.

Update on Construction Projects

Palmer provided information on the current construction projects within the Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization area. Brennan provided information on current Rapid City construction projects.

Update on Planning Projects

Brennan provided information on the current planning projects within the Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization area.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:02 p.m.