

Minutes of the
REGION 9
TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE

Monday, September 25, 2006, 11:00 A.M.
Muscatine City Hall
Lower Level Conference Room
215 Sycamore Street
Muscatine, Iowa

Policy Members Present

Paul Barnes	City of Blue Grass
Larry Minard	Scott County
Lewis Morrison	River Bend Transit
Bill Trent	City of Muscatine
Dave Watkins	Muscatine County

Others Present

Steve Boka	City of Muscatine
Fred Dean	Iowa Department of Transportation
Doug DeLille	Bi-State Regional Commission
Gena McCullough	Bi-State Regional Commission

1. Approval of the Minutes of the August 4, 2006 Region 9 Transportation Policy Committee Meeting and Correction to the June 1, 2006 Minutes. The Committee was informed the June 1, 2006 minutes should be corrected to "Approval of the Minutes of the November 9, 2005 Region 9 Transportation Policy Committee" meeting, instead of the June 23rd meeting. Mr. Minard motioned to approve the minutes of the August 4, 2006 meeting and to approve the correction to the June 1, 2006 meeting minutes Mr. Barnes seconded the motion and it carried.
2. Consideration of FFY07-10 Region 9 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments. The City of Muscatine submitted TIP Amendment requests for two transit projects. They are listed under Muscatine Transit and are identified as items MTS-07-04 and MTS-07-05 in the distributed handout. MTS-07-04 is a capital project for a bench and concrete pad. The total project cost is \$2,000 with a federal share of \$1,600 from Section 5311 funds and a local share of \$400. MTS-07-05 is a capital project for a scope kit and scanner. The total project cost is \$1,500 with a federal share of \$1,200 from Section 5311 funds and a local share of \$300. The City is asking for Policy Committee approval to include the projects if the FFY 07 Annual Element of the FFY07-10 Region 9 TIP. Mr. Watkins motioned to approve the projects for inclusion in the FFY 07 Annual Element of the FFY07-10 Region 9 TIP. Mr. Minard seconded the motion and it carried.

3. Consideration of Resolution for River Bend Transit Regional Commuter Shuttle Proposed for Iowa Clean Air Attainment Program (ICAAP) Funds and Status of Regional Air Quality. River Bend Transit is seeking a Resolution from the Region Policy Committee for inclusion in an ICAAP application. The application would extend the HON commuter pilot program to include first and second shift employees. Approximately 60 employees on the second shift are currently utilizing the service. The River Bend Transit Board has approved submission of the ICAAP grant. The grant would be for two years. The application is due the beginning of October with awards announced in February or March. There was interest from the Committee regarding possible tax benefits to employees using transit. Mr. Morrison motioned for the Policy Committee to approve the Resolution for the River Bend Transit ICAAP application. Mr. Minard seconded and the motion carried.

Ms. McCullough reported on the status of regional air quality stating that Iowa is an attainment state meeting all the current air quality requirements. However, new regulations being considered for fine particulate matter may place portions of eastern Iowa, including Muscatine, in a non-attainment zone. The new standards being proposed would reduce fine particulates from 65 to 35 micrograms per cubic meter. A memorandum of understanding indicates the U.S.EPA will give credit for efforts to reduce emissions locally and voluntarily. Non-attainment would require additional planning and project modeling. The new standards only relate to particulate matter.

4. Discussion of the Iowa Region 9 Long Range Plan Update. Ms. McCullough referred the Committee to the draft table of contents and regional goals included in their agenda packets. She noted the Iowa DOT has provided some general guidelines of what should be included in the update plan. The new plan will focus on movement, land-use, balance, safety, security, special needs, modes, and preservation. Fiscal constraint in the region will also be emphasized. The existing plan will be used as a basis. Bi-State will be facilitating public informational meetings on the Long Range Transportation Plan process. The meetings will be conducted in a focus group style to encourage public participation and input on transportation issues. Interactive discussions will address intermodal issues; interconnections; access between modes; safety and security; and other transportation related topics. Bi-State feels the timeline for completion of the new plan is realistic and attainable. The goal is to complete the plan by the end of Bi-State's current fiscal year.
5. Report on Development of Passenger Transportation Development Plan (PTDP). Ms. McCullough noted the proposed content of the Passenger Transportation Development Plan (PTDP) was in the agenda packets. A transit planning and programming flowchart is also included for reference. Iowa DOT has extended the PTDP deadline from December 15, 2006 to February 15, 2007. This is still a tight schedule since a lot of data is required for the plan. The PTDP will provide more prescriptive and less broad based information. It will be an evolving document and updated every year. A Coordinated Human Services Plan will be an element of the PTDP. Consolidation and coordination have been long standing goals of the Iowa DOT. The PTDP will be both Regional and Urban in scope with the goal being coverage of the five-county Bi-State area.

6. Public Comments. No comments were received.
7. Other Business. The Committee was informed of some upcoming funding opportunities and grant deadlines. Applications for the Rail Revolving Loan are due on October 20, 2006. ICAAP, Federal RTP, Iowa Statewide Enhancements and Safe Routes to Schools applications are all due next Monday October 2, 2006.
8. Adjournment. Mr. Watkins motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Barnes seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.