

Minutes of the
REGION 9
TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL AND POLICY COMMITTEES

Friday, January 25, 2008, 11:00 A.M.

River Bend Transit
7440 Vine Street Court
Davenport, Iowa

Policy Committee Members Present

Paul Barnes	City of Blue Grass
Dawn Roby	City of Muscatine
Vic Saldivar	River Bend Transit
Tom Sunderbruch	Scott County
Dave Watkins	Muscatine County

Technical Committee Members Present

Mark Anderson	City of Wilton
Steve Boka	City of Muscatine
Jon Burgstrum	Scott County
Ann Harrison	City of Muscatine Transit
Randy Hill	City of Muscatine
Keith L. White	Muscatine County
Randy Zobrist	River Bend Transit

Others Present

Doug DeLille	Bi-State Regional Commission
Gena McCullough	Bi-State Regional Commission
Becky Passman	Bi-State Regional Commission
Chelsey Waterman	Bi-State Regional Commission

1. Nominations and Election of Region 9 Transportation Policy Committee Chair and Vice-Chair and Approval of Minutes for the July 7, 2007 Region 9 Transportation Policy Committee and the December 12, 2007 Region 9 Technical Committee Meetings. Ms. McCullough called the meeting to order and asked the Policy Committee for nominations to elect a new chair and vice-chair of the Committee. Mr. Watkins motioned to nominate Mr. Barnes as the chair of the Region 9 Policy Committee. Mr. Sunderbruch seconded the nomination. Hearing no other nominations Mr. Barnes was approved unanimously as the new chair. Mr. Barnes motioned to nominate Mr. Sunderbruch as the vice-chair of the Region 9 Policy Committee. Mr. Watkins seconded the nomination. Hearing no other nominations Mr. Sunderbruch was approved unanimously as the vice-chair.

Mr. Watkins made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 7, 2007 Region 9 Transportation Policy Committee meeting. Mr. Saldivar seconded the motion. The Policy Committee minutes were approved as written. Mr. Boka made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2007 Technical Committee meeting. Mr. Burgstrum seconded the motion. The Technical Committee minutes were approved as written.

2. Presentation on Regional Transit Development Plan (TDP). Ms. McCullough provided some background information on the TDP. The document is a requirement of the SAFETEA-LU federal transportation bill and covers urban and rural areas. Ms. Waterman used Power Point slides to present information on the TDP contents and process to committee representatives. The presentation included the proposed timeline for adopting the TDP, main revisions, needs and policy directions, passenger transportation priority strategy, and Region 9 projects. County profiles have been added to the TDP. The majority of the revisions were to Chapter 4, the Needs and Policy Direction chapter of the Plan, including Map 4.1 Opportunities for Job Access and Reverse Commute and Map 4.2 Mobility Options. It was noted that Chapter 4 addresses issues and Chapter 5 identifies ways to carry issues forward and addresses coordination. There was a consensus of both committees to move the plan forward and release information that the TDP is available for public review and comment. Final adoption of the TDP is anticipated for March.
3. Discussion of Region 9 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan Draft Chapters. Ms. McCullough presented the draft Introduction Chapter of the Region 9 Long Range Transportation Plan to the committees. The Introduction Chapter contains background information about Region 9. It outlines regional goals, covers the planning process and organization, contains a regional demographic profile, and addresses land use considerations. The existing and future land use maps from the Scott County Comprehensive Plan will be incorporated into this plan.

Ms. Waterman updated the committees on the latest version of the Regional Transit Network Chapter. She discussed itemized needs for the fixed route systems in Muscatine and noted rider-ship is projected to grow over time. The section on future regional transit network priorities covers network and system preservation and expansion. Among the issues addressed in this section are management, operating, and capital needs.

Mr. DeLille provided the committees with an update on the Trails and Pedestrian Network Chapter. Based on comments received, more detailed information has been added for both the Mississippi River Trail (MRT) and the American Discovery Trail (ADT). Criteria were added for estimating trail maintenance and operating costs. The trails funding policy approved by the Scott County Board was also added to the Chapter.

4. Public Comments. No public comments were received.
5. Other Business. Ms. McCullough informed the committees that Bi-State had just received the guidance for the Region 9 Transportation Work Program. The DOT would like to see a draft by March. A final draft of the Region 9 Long Range Transportation Plan is also anticipated

for March along with the final adoption of the TDP. Both the Technical and Policy Committee meetings will be scheduled for March to address these issues.

The committees were informed that the AMTRAK study is under review. The study includes route alternatives and costs. The preferred route is the less expensive alternative and mirrors the one proposed in the Passenger Rail Plan. It is estimated it would take about two years to implement the route. There is a smaller study evaluating possible stations and considering options for relocating the Iowa Interstate Railroad transfer yards from behind Abbey Station.

The current federal transportation bill is set to expire at the end of FFY 2009. Reauthorization should occur within the next two years. It is possible continuing resolution will extend the current bill beyond 2009. Current projections indicate a possible 38% reduction in funding allocations for the remaining two years of the SAFETEA-LU federal transportation bill. Ms. McCullough stated she is planning to prepare a letter to the DOT regarding fiscal constraint of regional transportation funds. She is recommending the DOT consider regional funds be fiscally constrained at the state level rather than within each region. This would not impact the amount of funding allocated to each region, but would allow flexibility to shift funding to ready-to-go projects. The current method requires projects to be delayed until the federal fiscal year in which adequate funding would be available within each region.

6. Adjournment. Mr. Watkins motioned to adjourn. Mr. Saldivar seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.