

**Minutes of the**  
**REGION 9**  
**TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE**  
*Serving Rural Scott County and all of Muscatine County*

Wednesday, May 5, 2010, 1:00 p.m.  
Walcott City Hall/Fire Station  
128 West Lincoln Street  
Walcott, Iowa

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jim Couper	City of Walcott
Joe Hutter	River Bend Transit
Doug Rick	Iowa DOT
Dyann Roby	City of Muscatine
Tom Sunderbruch	Scott County
Dave Watkins	Muscatine County

OTHERS PRESENT

Doug DeLille	Bi-State Regional Commission
Stacy Lentsch	Bi-State Regional Commission
Gena McCullough	Bi-State Regional Commission
Kathy Starling	IILIC

1. Approval of the December 18, 2009 Joint Region 9 Transportation Policy and Technical Committees' Meeting Minutes. Mr. Hutter moved to approve the minutes. Ms. Roby seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as written.
2. Consideration of the Request from the City of Muscatine and Muscatine County for Regional Transportation Enhancement Program (TEP) Funds. The Committee was informed of the request from the City of Muscatine and Muscatine County for \$70,000 in unspent Region 9 Transportation Enhancement Program funds. The funds will be used to complete the segment of MRT from Weed Park to Wild Cat Den State Park. The \$70,000 would leave a negative Regional TEP balance for FFY 2010, which will be carried over and covered with FFY 2011 TEP funds. The City of Blue Grass project is still outstanding, and bids came in significantly under the cost estimates, so there is the possibility that Blue Grass will not need the full amount of TEP funds awarded for the project. Region 9 TEP funds are typically awarded through a competitive process; however the Policy Committee has the authority to grant the request. Mr. Watkins motioned to approve \$70,000 of Region 9 TEP funds for the Weed Park to Wild Cat Den State Park MRT project. Ms. Roby seconded the motion, and the motion carried.
3. Discuss Status of Stimulus Funding and Consider Revisions to the Region 9 FFY 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The Committee was informed that another round of transportation stimulus funding is not likely this fiscal year. Copies of the Region 9 FFY 2010-2013 TIP Annual Element pages, with proposed revisions highlighted, are included in the agenda packets. Mr. DeLille informed the Committee that the State of Iowa project number IA-10-02 is

adding \$927,000 in statewide STP funds this requires a TIP amendment. The City of Muscatine project number M-10-05 requires a TIP amendment to add the \$70,000 in Regional TEP funding. Muscatine County is adding project number MC-10-03, and the City of Muscatine is adding project M-10-13. Neither project will be using federal funds, however both are new TIP projects that require TIP amendments. Mr. DeLille also noted that Scott County project number SC-10-09 was moved from FFY 2013 to FFY 2010, and the amount of HBRRP funds was increased to cover the total project cost. The changes to the Scott County project are considered an administrative modification. Ms. Roby moved to recommend the amendments to the FFY 2010-2013 TIP. Mr. Hutter seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

4. Presentation on the FY11 Region 9 Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP). The Policy Committee was referred to the draft FY 11 TPWP included in their agenda packets and provided a handout of a PowerPoint slide presentation on the Region 9 TPWP. The Committee was informed that the TPWP outlines Region 9 activities for FY 11. The purpose of the Transportation Planning Work Program is coordinate transportation planning among local governments; conduct continuing, comprehensive planning; develop budgets for transportation activities and funds; outline requirements for various agencies; and establish products, purposes and general methods for transportation planning activities. The TPWP addresses some of the major transportation issues for Region 9 in FY 11 and identifies accomplishments in FY 10. The Committee was given a summary of Region 9 FY 11 transportation planning funding and the TPWP adoption process. The Bi-State Regional Commission approved the program. The TPWP is presented to the Policy Committee for concurrence with the work activities. The next steps will be to finalize the document and distribute it in June.
5. Status Reports.
  - Air Quality

The monitor in Muscatine at Garfield School is above threshold for fine particulates; the threshold is 35  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . Muscatine is at 38  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  and Blackhawk Foundry in Scott County is at 33  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . USEPA is looking to lower the ozone standard. If the standard is lowered to 60, only 25 of all sites nationally would be in compliance. We should know what the ozone standard will be in August of this year. Bi-State Region Clean Air Partnership is suggesting that communities work with businesses to address air quality. The ozone monitor for this area is out by Scott County Park.
  - Iowa Passenger Rail Study

Iowa and Illinois did not receive funding from the federal High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail (HSIPR) discretionary grant program. The ARRA grants were for new and enhanced passenger rail services, including from Chicago to Iowa City via the Quad Cities. However, the Federal Railroad Administration did have very positive comments and encouraged Iowa to apply again in this next round. The next round will be 80-20 match. Iowa DOT with Illinois DOT are preparing to apply for the next round of federal funding for passenger rail.
  - ARRA

Some funds are going to the State through HIRE.

- **Transportation Reauthorization**  
SAFETEA-LU has been extended through the calendar year. The biggest issue is the solvency of the Highway Trust Fund. The Climate Change Bill is on hold. The Bill proposed an increase in motor fuel tax but the revenue generated from the increase was going to the Highway Trust Fund.

Mr. Watkins added that Muscatine County had lifted the embargo placed on county roads. The embargo had covered all county roads and required permits for use.

6. Public Comments. Mr. Sunderbruch recommended the book *Hot, Flat, and Crowded* by Tom Friedman to the Committee. The book is about ozone, clean-air, and societal changes. Mr. Zobrist mentioned that River Bend is working on ways to improve transportation in rural areas.
7. Other Business. The Committee recommended scheduling the next meeting by e-mail.
8. Adjournment. Mr. Watkins motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Hutter seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m.