

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

Tuesday, December 28, 2010, 10:00 a.m.  
Walcott City Hall/Fire Station  
128 West Lincoln Street  
Walcott, Iowa

Policy Committee Members Present

Jim Couper	City of Walcott
Joe Hutter	River Bend Transit
Dyann Roby	City of Muscatine
Jon Burgstrum	Scott County
David Watkins	Muscatine County

Others Present

Doug DeLille	Bi-State Regional Commission
Stacy Lentsch	Bi-State Regional Commission
Gena McCullough	Bi-State Regional Commission

1. Approval of the June 9, 2010 Region 9 Transportation Policy Committee Meeting Minutes. Mr. Couper moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Hutter seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as written.
2. Consideration of Region 9 federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) project funding recommendations. Committee members were referred to the project submissions and rankings included with their agenda packets. The four projects submitted for consideration of STP funding includes:
  - 5B Blue Grass Bridge at Y40 (East City Limits of Walcott) Scott County, Iowa – Bridge Replacement: Total cost \$250,000, proposed Federal STP \$200,000 and local share of \$50,000;
  - 5C Blue Grass Bridge at Y40 (East City Limits of Walcott) Scott County, Iowa – Bridge Replacement: Total cost \$225,000 proposed Federal STP \$180,000 and local share of \$45,000;
  - Y14 (North of US61 to Cedar County Line) Muscatine, Iowa – Pavement Overlay: Total cost \$3,000,000, proposed Federal STP \$2,400,000 and local share of \$600,000; and
  - X43 (from Louisa County Line north to G28) Muscatine, Iowa – Pavement Overlay: Total cost \$1,500,000, proposed Federal STP \$800,000 and local share of \$700,000.

The Committee was advised there is an estimated \$4,425,366 in Region 9 STP money available for programming. The estimated amount available is based on funding targets for each federal fiscal year through 2013. The total of the four requests is within the targeted amount of available funds in Region 9. The Region 9 Transportation Technical Committee is recommending the Policy Committee approve funding all four projects and that the four projects be added to the

Region 9 TIP for the FFY they are expected to begin (FFY12 for Y14, 5B and 5C; FFY13 for X43). Ms. Roby moved to approve the recommendation of the Region 9 Transportation Technical Committee for the four projects to funded and programmed into the TIP at the set amounts requested. Mr. Couper seconded the motion and it carried.

3. Status Reports.

• Air Quality

At the one-year mark there are 15 partners in the Clean Air Partnership, with that number looking to increase. New ozone standards have been pushed back again to July 31, 2011. The current standard is set at 75ppb. The monitor at Scott County Park has a 3-year average of 66ppb. If the standard is lowered to 60ppb, only 20 monitors nationwide would meet the standard. There were a number of PM2.5 exceedances at the start of 2010, but there were only a few exceedances at the end of the year. Muscatine monitors have not been meeting the current standard, but Muscatine has not yet been designated as non-attainment. The Muscatine monitors are also not meeting the sulfur dioxide standards. Mr. Hutter inquired why the two largest cities in the area are not on board with the Clean Air Partnership. Ms. McCullough replied that Davenport recently joined and Rock Island is doing green activities but have not returned their pledge form.

• Iowa Passenger Rail Study

The City of Moline received money for a transit center. Illinois received \$230 million for Chicago to Omaha line. Currently waiting to see if Governor Brandstead will accept the money awarded to Iowa for passenger rail. Governor Quinn stated that Illinois will use the funds the state was awarded. Mr. Couper asked what the impact on small towns would be in regards to the high speeds. Ms. McCullough responded that there would be some burdens placed on the towns. Mr. Watkins added that he thought there would be little impact-most likely the burden would be rebuilding some lines. Ms. McCullough noted that upgrading the lines for passenger rail would also benefit freight movement. Mr. Couper commented that he hoped the railroads would be willing to work with cities about infrastructure issues. Mr. Hutter wondered if companies have actually come out and said that this new passenger rail service would benefit their company. Ms. McCullough stated that she did not know of any businesses, but added that the chambers of commerce have been big supporters. Mr. Hutter asked if the passenger rail would create money or be self-sustaining. Ms. McCullough responded that it will bring in tourism, will shuttle university students, and affect small business flow. Mr. Watkins added that there are two things that will make rail more successful 1) do not fund roads; and 2) do not fund river projects. Ms. McCullough stated that Bi-State Regional Commission talked to IL DOT and is working with IA DOT to do a freight commodity study. The last study occurred in the late 1980s/early 1990s.

• Transportation Reauthorization

SAFETEA-LU has been extended through the calendar year. A new transportation bill is not likely for 2011, it may happen in 2012, but most likely in 2013. Currently \$51 billion per year is spent for transportation; the budget can only afford half of that. Raising the gas tax is not a likely option due to strong public opposition. Mr. Watkins stated that the gas tax needs to be raised; people need to keep hammering their legislatures in order to have funding for transportation.

4. Public Comments. No public comments were received.
5. Other Business. Mr. Hutter notified the committee that River Bend Transit began providing service on Sundays through a 3-month grant they received. He stated that transit needs to be more convenient. The gas price next year may climb to \$5/gallon and that transit needs to step up and be able to handle and increase in ridership. Mr. Hutter stated that Medicaid began providing free transportation for seniors.
6. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned by consensus at 10:45 a.m.