

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

Wednesday, April 19, 2006, 2:00 P.M.
Scott County Annex
518 W. Fourth Street
Davenport, Iowa

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mark Anderson	City of Wilton
Steve Boka	City of Muscatine
Jon Burgstrom	Scott County
Eric Furnas	Muscatine County
Ann Harrison	Muscatine Transit
Randy Hill	City of Muscatine
Larry Mattusch	Scott County
Dennis Michael	Muscatine County
Randy Zobrist	River Bend Transit, Inc.

OTHERS PRESENT

Paul Barnes	Mayor of Blue Grass
Doug DeLille	Bi-State Regional Commission
Gena McCullough	Bi-State Regional Commission

1. Approval of the Minutes of the June 17, 2005 Region 9 Transportation Technical Committee Meeting. Mr. Mattusch called the meeting to order. He asked for approval of the June 17, 2005 Region 9 Transportation Technical Committee minutes. Mr. Hill moved the minutes be approved as written. Mr. Zobrist seconded the motion and it carried.
2. Discussion of Region 9 Transportation Enhancement Program Project Submittals and Rankings. Mr. DeLille directed the Technical Committee to the agenda packet and handouts distributed at the meeting. A call for projects was initiated in late 2005. Three projects were submitted by the deadline. The projects submitted in December 2005 included:
 - Blue Grass Trail Total Cost \$245,000 with federal request for \$196,000 to complete a segment of a phased multi-purpose trail system within the City of Blue Grass, Iowa.
 - Highway 92 Mississippi River Bridge Lighting Total Cost \$300,000 with federal request for \$100,000 to install decorative lighting on the bridge structure and a portion of the deck beams by the City of Muscatine, Iowa.
 - Muscatine Trail Total Cost \$250,000 with federal request for \$100,000 to build two additional trails from Musser Park to Kent-Stein Park and along Mad Creek within Muscatine, Iowa.

Mr. DeLille noted that projects had been ranked and scored with the highest rating going to the Muscatine Trail project with 31.8 points and the least ranked project being the Blue Grass Trail project with 25.2 points. A ranking had not been received from Scott County.

In the interim, Bi-State staff received a request from the City of Muscatine to exchange trail projects. The Region 9 Transportation Enhancement Program programming of projects has not allowed changes once projects have been submitted for ranking, like a state grant program. A deviation or acceptance of a project would set a precedent as advised by Bi-State staff. Mr. Hill and Mr. Boka explained to the Technical Committee since the December 2005 submission, the City had reconsidered its submission, determining an exchange or substitution would better meet the City's trail needs at this time. It was noted the Muscatine City Council decided they wanted more emphasis on roadway improvements and less on trail development. In February, a rupture in a wastewater force main on the riverfront resulted in a repriorization of the City's infrastructure projects in an area planned for trail development at a future date. Since the location would be under construction for wastewater repairs, the City has an opportunity to construct a trail on top or adjacent to the force main excavation area. The City of Muscatine proposes to exchange its original trail project for a trail (1,000 feet) between Weed Park/Mississippi River Trail (MRT) and the Musser Park/Levee Trail. The segment would complete a four-mile addition to the MRT and American Discovery Trail (ADT). The project cost is estimated at \$197,000 with federal request for \$100,000, as previously requested.

Mayor Barnes also presented more refined information on the Blue Grass request. Since December 2005, the City of Blue Grass has contracted with an engineering firm to refine its conceptual plan. Using presentation boards, Mayor Barnes explained the phased concept to develop a multi-purpose trail in the northeast part of the community. The current request is for the first segment approximately 1.5 miles in length. Trail Section A will begin within a park adjacent to a new subdivision, circumvent an existing cemetery and follow adjacent to a street in an industrial area of the community to U.S.61 right-of-way. The total estimated cost for the project is \$504,325.

Ms. McCullough reviewed the availability of Region 9 Transportation Enhancement Program dollars. It is estimated that there is \$370,925 available for programming. Bi-State staff emphasized the role of the Technical Committee was to evaluate the technical aspects of the projects and support the evaluation process. Ultimately, the programming of funds was the responsibility of the Policy Committee. A discussion ensued on the issue of setting precedent and its future ramifications for accepting a substitution, particularly if projects in the future were vying for the entire balance of funds. The Technical Committee discussed that the Blue Grass project was seen as a refinement of the scope of the project. Following the discussion, Mr. Anderson recommended that the three projects be resubmitted for ranking, including the Highway 92 Mississippi River Bridge Lighting, the substituted Muscatine Trail and the revised Blue Grass Trail. Mr. Hill seconded the motion but asked the bridge not be considered for re-ranking. The motion was requested to be amended by Mr. Hill. Mr. Hill recommended the two trail projects be considered for ranking while the bridge project is considered by the Policy Committee as submitted. Mr. Furnas seconded the motion and the amendment carried. Mr. Hill motioned to rank the substituted Muscatine Trail and the revised Blue Grass Trail projects. Mr. Furnas seconded the motion and it carried. Bi-State staff will send the ranking information out for both

trails and request timely return by the communities, noting that only one ranking per jurisdiction be submitted. The ranking would be prepared for the next Technical Committee meeting.

3. Consideration of Revisions to the Transportation Planning Public Involvement Process. Ms. McCullough directed the Technical Committee to their agenda packet for a copy of the proposed revisions to the Transportation Planning Public Involvement Process. The proposed revisions are a follow-up to comments received from the Iowa Department of Transportation during the FY06 Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP) review. The revisions clarify components of the public involvement process, such as dissemination of information, notifications and comment periods. Ms. Harrison motioned to recommend approval of the revisions to the Policy Committee as presented. Mr. Zobrist seconded the motion and it carried.
4. Presentation on FY07 Region 9 Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP). The Technical Committee was directed to a copy of the draft FY07 Region 9 Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP) in Committee members' agenda packet. Annually the TPWP document for Region 9 planning area is revised to reflect staff activities for the coming fiscal year. The FY2007 TPWP is developed to aid cooperative, continuing and comprehensive transportation planning. It includes program and object-class budgets for Bi-State's regional transportation planning activities and funds, amounting to \$45,418. The document also outlines major transportation issues in the region including:
 - Regional Capacity Improvements
 - Congestion Management. Intelligent Transportation System and Air Quality Improvement Activities
 - Intermodal Connections
 - Long Range Plan Implementation and Planning
 - Coordination with Human Service & Specialized Transportation Providers
 - Integration of Safety and Security

With reauthorization of the federal transportation act (SAFETEA-LU), the FY07 Region 9 planning budget realized a fifty percent increase from FY06 levels. Because of the increase in federal dollars, the need for Region 9 STP funds was reduced from \$10,000 to \$5,000 for FY07. Federal funding is matched by Bi-State Regional Commission membership dues. The federal increase was primarily in transit funds to work on coordination with human services and specialized transportation providers. A regional transit development plan is expected to be developed within the next year as well as updating the Region 9 Long Range Transportation Plan. Mr. Hill motioned to recommend approval of the FY07 TPWP activities to the Region 9 Policy Committee. Ms. Harrison seconded the motion and it carried.

5. Report on Iowa Mobility Action Planning Workshop and Related Transit Activities. Ms. McCullough noted that SAFETEA-LU included transit directives to work on coordination with human services and specialized transportation providers as part of improved regional mobility, as noted above. The State of Iowa is facilitating an effort to develop a statewide plan based on the compilation of regional plans. They are hosting 15 workshops statewide, sponsored by the Iowa Transportation Coordination Council. The Iowa Transit Mobility Action Workshop is scheduled for May 25, 2006 at the Bettendorf Library and requires no registration fee. Ms. McCullough

directed the Committee to the web address printed on the agenda for online registration information: www.iatransit.com/regulations/coordination/map_workshops/map_registration.doc.

6. Public Comment. No public comments were made.
7. Other Business. Mr. Mattusch asked Bi-State staff to share the status of Surface Transportation Program funding to date. Ms. McCullough distributed the STP funding history and status of funds. It is estimated there is \$2,648,044 in Region 9 STP funds remaining available for programming. Mr. Mattusch expressed interest in moving forward with a round of STP funding and requested a call for projects. He noted a project on Y40 that would include Blue Grass and Buffalo. It was noted that the remaining dollars are estimated on the six-year SAFETEA-LU transportation act. With the initially programmed dollars of the six year bill awarded to both Scott and Muscatine Counties for approximately one-year's worth of funds and the City of Muscatine receiving approximately 1.5 year's worth of funds for programmed projects including transit, the balance of funds are available throughout Region 9. Bi-State staff will send a notice requesting projects to initiate the STP evaluation process. Mr. Mattusch also noted that he will be retiring at the end of June and Mr. Burgstrom will be his replacement as Scott County Engineer. He asked that consideration of election of the Region 9 Technical Committee Chair position be placed on the next meeting agenda. The next meeting was set for May 24, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. at a location to be determined in Muscatine, Iowa.
8. Adjournment. Mr. Boka motioned to conclude the meeting. It was seconded by Ms. Harrison. The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.