

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

Wednesday, May 24, 2006, 10:00 A.M.
Riverview Center
Mississippi Riverfront and Cedar Street
Muscatine, Iowa

MEMBERS PRESENT

Steve Boka	City of Muscatine
Jon Burgstrom	Scott County
Fred Dean	Iowa Department of Transportation
Eric Furnas	Muscatine County
Ann Harrison	Muscatine Transit
Randy Hill	City of Muscatine
Larry Mattusch	Scott County
Dennis Michael	Muscatine County
Chris Ward	City of West Liberty
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 April 19, 2006 Region 9 Transportation Technical Committee Meeting. Mr. Mattusch called the meeting to order. He asked for approval of the April 19, 2006 Region 9 Transportation Technical Committee minutes. Mr. Furnas moved the minutes be approved as written. Mr. Zobrist seconded the motion, and it carried.

Following introductions by those in attendance, Ms. McCullough distributed MPO/RPA profiles, as part of Iowa in Motion, for each jurisdiction.

2. Consideration of Region 9 Transportation Enhancement Program (TEP) Project Submittals. Mr. DeLille directed the Technical Committee to the enhancement projects ranking sheet included in their agenda packet. He emphasized the second table on the sheet illustrated the compiled rankings for the original Muscatine Bridge Lighting project, the exchanged Muscatine Riverfront Trail project, and the refined City of Blue Grass Trail project. The updated rankings also included the scores submitted by Scott County, which were not included in the rankings for the original project submissions. The updated scores and rankings show the highest rating going to the substituted Muscatine Riverfront Trail project with an average score of 42.6; the Muscatine

Bridge Lighting project with an average score of 37.6 ranked second; and the refined Blue Grass Trail project, with an average score of 35, ranked third. An estimated \$370,925 is available for Region 9 enhancement programming. At its previous meeting, the Technical Committee voted to allow Muscatine and Blue Grass to submit substituted and revised applications, respectively, to be scored and ranked by the Technical Committee. The Muscatine Bridge project was recommended as submitted for consideration to the Policy Committee. 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. Mr. Hill noted the city's request for \$100,000 of Region 9 Enhancement funds for the substituted Mississippi Riverfront Trail project is the same amount requested for the previously submitted trail projects. Mr. Boka displayed illustrations of the substituted trail project and further explained the reason for the requested substitution. In February, a rupture in a wastewater force main on the riverfront resulted in a reprioritization 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. This 1,000 foot section of riverfront trail would complete a four-mile addition to the MRT and American Discovery Trail (ADT). The project cost is estimated at \$197,000 with a federal request for \$100,000.

Mayor Barnes reviewed the revised Blue Grass Trail project submission. Mayor Barnes also presented more refined information on the Blue Grass request. Mayor Barnes explained the phased concept to develop a multi-purpose trail in the northeast part of the community. Since December 2005, the City of Blue Grass has contracted with an engineering firm to refine its conceptual plan. 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 continue adjacent to a roadway leading to East Mayne Street/U.S.61 right-of-way. Trail Section D continues west along the south side of East Mayne Street and connects to the existing side path at the post office. The total estimated cost for the project is \$504,325. Mayor Barnes asked the Technical Committee to consider recommending the City of Blue Grass receive the full remaining balance of \$270,925. He noted the City of Muscatine has many trails in place, and he has voted in support of funding those projects in the past, whereas the City of Blue Grass has no trails at this time, and he feels they should receive their fair share of the funds. Ms. McCullough asked if the project could be completed in five years. Mayor Barnes responded that it could be completed in less time. He added the project is ready to go, and no right-of-way is needed. Muscatine indicated their project is also ready to go and could be initiated this fall. Mr. Hill noted the City of Muscatine trail project was submitted through the required procedures and evaluated through the ranking process in the systematic way. Funding should be based on the merit and scoring of the projects. Mr. Boka motioned to support the ranking of the projects and recommend to the Policy Committee funding for the Muscatine Bridge Lighting Project at \$100,000; the Muscatine Riverfront Trail at \$100,000; and the Blue Grass Trail project with the remaining balance of \$170,925. Mr. Furnas seconded the motion. The majority voted in support of the motion; Mayor Barnes voted in opposition. The motion carried.

3. Consideration of FFY07-10 Region 9 Transportation Improvement Program. Mr. DeLille distributed hard copies of the draft FFY07-10 Region 9 Transportation Improvement Program. He noted the TIP included a 2% across the board increase in Average Annual Maintenance; this

is consistent with the increase in the Region TIP from previous years. Recent changes made to the annual elements pages of the document were also noted. Ms. McCullough added the state is asking for continued funding from Region 9 for both SUDAS and the Pavement Management System. The FY07 Region 9 planning budget realized a 50% increase from FY06 levels through reauthorization of the federal transportation act (SAFETEA-LU); because of the increase in federal dollars, the need for Region 9 STP funds was reduced from \$10,000 to \$5,000 for FY07. Bi-State Regional Commission membership dues match federal funding. The Technical Committee was referred to the Public Involvement Process for Transportation Planning in Region 9 section of the TIP Appendix. The committee was asked to consider a recommendation to the Policy Committee for adding the text regarding special accommodations for public hearings to the Region 9 TIP. Inclusion of the proposed language addresses comments received from the Iowa Department of Transportation during the TIP review process. In addition, the text mirrors that of the Urban TIP. Mr. Boka motioned to recommend to the Policy Committee inclusion of the "special accommodations" language to the Region 9 TIP. Ms. Harrison seconded the motion, and it carried. Mr. Hill motioned to recommend the FFY07-10 Region 9 TIP, with the corrections indicated, to the Policy Committee for acceptance. Mr. Michael seconded the motion, and it carried.

4. Nominations and Election of Region 9 Transportation Technical Committee Chair. Mr. Hill motioned to nominate Mr. Zobrist to replace Mr. Mattusch, who is retiring as Scott County Engineer at the end of June, as the chair of the Region 9 Transportation Technical Committee. Mr. Boka seconded the nomination. There were no further nominations, and Mr. Zobrist was approved unanimously as the new chair.
5. Public Comments. There were no public comments.
6. Other Business.

Mr. Dean reported \$2 million was appropriated for the State Recreational Trails Program. This enables the Iowa Department of Transportation to conduct another round of funding through this program. Application for eligible projects will be due on July 1, 2006. Ms. McCullough reminded the committee that the Iowa Transit Mobility Action Planning Workshop is scheduled for May 25, 2006 at the Bettendorf Library and requires no registration fee. The State of Iowa is facilitating an effort to develop a statewide plan based on the compilation of regional plans. This is one of 15 workshops statewide being facilitated and sponsored by the Iowa Transportation Coordination Council. SAFETEA-LU included transit directives to work on coordination with human services and specialized transportation providers as part of improved regional mobility. Ms. McCullough welcomed anyone interested to attend the workshop. Ms. McCullough stated a request for submissions of Region 9 Surface Transportation Program (STP) projects was mailed at the end of April. Applications for candidate projects should be received by May 31, 2005. Shortly thereafter, copies of the applications and a ranking sheet will be sent to the Region 9 member jurisdictions. The projects are ranked against each other based on the categorical criteria on the ranking sheet. Technical Committee members with several representatives will need to coordinate a single ranking process. Each member should return only one ranking sheet. Bi-State staff will compile the rankings. The Region 9 STP results will be a discussion item on the agenda for the next meeting. The next meeting of the Region 9 Transportation Technical

Committee will be held before the end of June, possibly June 28th or 29th, in Scott County. Bi-State staff will send out a notice to arrange the meeting.

A retirement party will be held for Larry Mattusch from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on June 30th at the new shelter in Scott County Park. Mr. Mattusch invited those at the meeting to attend.

7. Adjournment. Mr. Hill motioned to conclude the meeting. The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 10:50 a.m.