

Minutes of the
REGION 9
TRANSPORTATION POLICY AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEES

Friday, December 15, 2006, 11:00 A.M.
Blue Grass City Hall
114 North Mississippi Street
Blue Grass, Iowa

Policy Committee Members Present

Paul Barnes	City of Blue Grass
Bill Trent	City of Muscatine
Dave Watkins	Muscatine County

Technical Committee Members Present

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

Others Present

Steve Boka	City of Muscatine
Doug DeLille	Bi-State Regional Commission
Fred Dean	Iowa Department of Transportation
Gena McCullough	Bi-State Regional Commission
Dennis Michael	Muscatine County

1. Approval of the Minutes of the September 25, 2006 Region 9 Transportation Policy Committee Meeting and of the September 13, 2006 Transportation Technical Committee Meeting. Mr. Watkins made a motion to approve the minutes of both the Policy and Technical Committees. Mr. Barnes seconded the motion. The minutes from both meetings were accepted and approved as written.
2. Consideration of FFY07-10 Region 9 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments. Updated annual element pages from the Region 9 FFY07-10 TIP were distributed to members of both committees. The City of Muscatine submitted TIP amendment requests for two projects. One is for the Muscatine Transit System and is identified as project number MTS-07-06. It's a capital project for administrative/maintenance/equipment. The total project cost is \$59,000 with a federal share of \$47,200 from Section 5311 funds and a local share of \$11,800. The other is a transportation enhancement project and is listed on the handout as project number M-07-05. It will utilize half of the funds from a \$1million SAFETEA-LU federal earmark designated for development of the Mississippi River Trail and related trails in Scott and Muscatine Counties. M-07-05 will connect the Mississippi River

Trail from Weed Park to Wild Cat Den State Park along New Era Road in Muscatine County. The total project cost is \$625,000 with a federal share of \$500,000 (half of a \$1 million SAFETEA-LU earmark) and a local share of \$125,000. The city is requesting the FFY 07 Annual Element of the Region 9 TIP be amended to include these two projects. The committee members were informed of a technical correction to the TIP as well. The Mississippi River Corridor and Grandview Avenue project was added to the FFY07 Annual Element as M-07-06. This project was previously recommended by the Technical Committee and approved by the Policy Committee to receive Region 9 STP funding. The total project cost is \$750,000 with a federal share of \$600,000 and a local share of \$150,000. Mr. White noted the City of Stockton bridge replacement project identified as ST-07-01 was completed in 2001 and should be removed from the TIP. Mr. Watkins motioned to recommend and approve the requested project amendments and revisions to the FFY 07 Annual Element of the FFY07-10 Region 9 TIP. Mr. Barnes seconded the motion, and it carried.

3. Status of the Iowa Region 9 Long Range Plan Update. Committee members were referred to the copies of the November 29, 2006 and December 6, 2006 public input meeting results included with their agenda packets. Committee members were informed of the plan's updated goals. Discussion ensued regarding Interstate capacity and the likely need for additional lanes along Interstate 80 looking out to the year 2025. It was mentioned that Council Bluffs and Sioux City were the first priority for the State of Iowa concerning Interstate upgrades.
4. Status of Regional Transit Development Plan (TDP). Ms. McCullough presented information and a timetable for the completion of the regional transit development plan (TDP). The Iowa Department of Transportation (IADOT) requires the document. The coordination of human services element is required to meet Federal Transit Administration funding requirements for specific programs. Coordination applies to FTA Sections 5310 Special Needs/Elderly and Disabled Program, 5316 Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) Program, and 5317 New Freedom—a new program under SAFETEA-LU. The Illinois Department of Transportation (ILDOT) is working to develop transit regions within the state and create a rural human services transportation plan statewide. These efforts are a result of Executive Order 13330 that calls 9 federal governmental departments to reduce duplication through coordination of their rules/regulations related to transportation services, to improve cost efficiency and to simplify delivery of transportation services to a variety of customers, including individuals with disabilities, older adults, and those with lower incomes. SAFETEA-LU furthered the initiative by requiring human services coordination planning as part of programming of transit assistance. Based on the IADOT schedule, TDPs must be approved no later than April 2007. A draft plan is expected to be brought to the Technical and Policy Committees for initial comments in the January/February 2007 timeframe; by March a final draft will be provided for consideration of approval. Because of the short planning time frame, the document is expected to require refinements over the next few years as more data and coordination is available and identified.
5. Public Comments. Mr. Dean welcomed back Mr. White and thanked him for his service to the country.

6. Other Business. The FFY07-10 Region 9 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) document is available and being distributed. The Committee was informed of some upcoming funding opportunities and grant deadlines. National Scenic Byway Program grants are due to the Iowa DOT Office of Systems Planning by February 16, 2007. Bi-State staff has the capacity to assist with no more than three applications. Assistance will be given on a first come, first served basis. Mr. Hill indicated the City of Muscatine is interested in applying and would like Bi-State to help. RISE program applications are due February 1, 2007. The Iowa Transportation Commission approved the State Recreational Trails Program grant awards from the July 2006 round. There will not be a funding cycle for January 2007. The next possible opportunity for State Recreational Trails Program application submission would be July 2007, if funding for the program is appropriated. Mr. Barnes and Mr. Burgstrum are working with Mr. Yanna at the IADOT regarding jurisdictional issues and reconstruction needs on Y-40/Mississippi Street south of highway 61 in Blue Grass. FFY 2007 discretionary earmarks are in doubt. A federal committee will be looking at ways to resuscitate the Highway Trust Fund. Updated STP and TE targets are expected in January. Iowa DOT is anticipating an 85% obligation limitation.

7. Adjournment. Mr. Watkins motioned to adjourn the meeting and thanked Mr. Barnes for his hospitality and for hosting. Mr. Barnes seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.