

Minutes of the
REGION 9
TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL AND POLICY COMMITTEES

Thursday, March 29, 2007, 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
Vic Saldivar	River Bend Transit
Tom Sunderbruch	Scott County
Bill Trent	City of Muscatine
Dave Watkins	Muscatine County

Technical Committee Members Present

Mark Anderson	City of Wilton
Jon Burgstrum	Scott County
Keith L. White	Muscatine County

Others Present

Fred Dean	Iowa DOT, District 6
Doug DeLille	Bi-State Regional Commission
Gena McCullough	Bi-State Regional Commission

1. Approval of the March 1, 2007 Joint Region 9 Transportation Policy and Technical Committees' Meeting Minutes. The minutes were approved by consensus as written.
2. Consideration of Adoption of the Bi-State Regional Transit Development Plan (TDP). Ms. McCullough directed committee members to the summary of comments received to date on TDP. She noted many of the comments regarded simple rewording or rephrasing that will be revised in the final document. Some items would require further review and would be edited accordingly in the final document. Other issues would require more in depth analysis, examination, or exploration and will be addressed in subsequent plan updates. How each comment will be addressed in the final report is explained on the handout in bracketed and italicized print immediately following the respective comment. Mr. Watkins motioned to approve the document with the explained changes based on the comments received. Mr. Sunderbruch seconded the motion, and the motion carried.
3. Presentation on FY08 Region 9 Transportation Planning Work Program. Committee members were referred to the draft FY 08 Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP) included in their agenda packets. Ms. McCullough reported that annually the TPWP documents for the Quad City Area and Region 9, serving rural Scott County and Muscatine County, are revised to reflect staff activities for the coming fiscal year. The FY2008 TPWPs are developed to aid cooperative, continuing, and comprehensive transportation planning. They include budgets for

transportation planning activities and funds. The documents also outline the history of transportation planning in the respective planning areas. In the Bi-State region, major transportation issues include:

- River Crossing and Transportation Capacity Improvements
- Congestion Management, Intelligent Transportation System (ITS), 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 federal transportation appropriations, the Region 9 FY08 planning budget is expected to realize a slight increase from FY07 levels. The Bi-State Regional Commission approved resolutions to authorize application of the federal planning grants and execute the respective grant contracts. The committees agreed by consensus that the activities outlined in the FY08 Region 9 TPWP were appropriate.

4. Presentation on Muscatine Countywide Trail Plan and Discussion of Transportation Enhancement Program Process. Mr. DeLille presented on the recently completed Muscatine Countywide Trails Plan. The plan outlines preferred, alternative, and interim routes to establish connections to and from communities, state parks, county parks, and other areas and/or places of interest. It also identifies corridors for inter-county linkages. Emphasis was placed on determining probable alignments for the two national trails, the American Discovery Trail (ADT) and the Mississippi River Trail (MRT) that intersect in Muscatine County. The plan also points out high potential regional and countywide linear and loop trail routes. The majority of the corridors identified will most likely be shared-use roadways incorporating widened paved shoulders or striped bicycle travel lanes. However, there are some locations where separated-corridor trails would make the most sense from a user safety standpoint. Typical trail types and terminology, implementation strategies, costs and issues related to construction and maintenance, plan strategies, and a list of some possible funding and grant sources are some of the other contents of the Plan.

Mr. DeLille also distributed to the committee copies of the Iowa Department of Transportation's Request for Regional or Metropolitan Transportation Enhancement Funds and the Federal-aid Consultant Checklist. The committee was informed that communities with projects approved for Region 9 Enhancement funds will need to follow the steps outlined on the Federal-aid Consultant Checklist prior to moving forward with project implementation. The Iowa DOT is also requiring that their Request for Regional or Metropolitan Transportation Enhancement Funds form be filled out and submitted as part of the process regardless of whether the current Region 9 T.E. project nomination form is used. Because of this requirement for future rounds of Region 9 Enhancement funds, Bi-State will likely request communities submitting projects to use the required Iowa DOT application form. This will eliminate having to fill out two separate funding request forms.

5. Discussion on TIME 21 Program and Consideration of Resolution of Support. Mr. Dean reported that both Scott and Muscatine County Boards have passed resolutions in support of TIME 21, and the City of Muscatine has indicated its support. The TIME 21 program identified \$67.7 billion in infrastructure needs over the next 20-year period. Over that same 20-year span, approximately \$40 billion in revenue is anticipated through the Road Use Tax Fund (RUTF). Of the \$67.7 billion in infrastructure needs, about \$4 billion is recognized as critical. The State emphasizes the commercial and industrial network and the interstate system as critical needs. Mr. Dean noted overall support, not necessarily support of the distribution, is needed from counties and communities for the Noble-Reilly proposal. Mr. Barnes made a motion that the Region 9 Transportation Policy Committee develop a Resolution of Support for the overall Noble-Reilly proposal. Mr. Sunderbruch seconded the motion. The motion passed by consensus.
6. Public Comments. No public comments were received.
7. Other Business. The Iowa DOT Commission will meet in Clinton on October 9, 2007. The Policy Committee recommended holding their next meeting at Blue Grass City Hall.
8. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 12:04 p.m.