

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

Wednesday, December 12, 2007, 1:00 p.m.
Muscatine City Hall
215 Sycamore Street
Muscatine, Iowa

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mark Anderson	City of Wilton
Steve Boka	City of Muscatine
Jon Burgstrum	Scott County
Eric Furnas	Muscatine County
Ann Harrison	Muscatine Transit
Keith White	Muscatine County
Randy Zobrist	River Bend Transit, Inc.

OTHERS PRESENT

Fred Dean	Iowa Department of Transportation
Doug DeLille	Bi-State Regional Commission
Gena McCullough	Bi-State Regional Commission
Chelsey Waterman	Bi-State Regional Commission

1. Approval of the October 3, 2007 Region 9 Transportation Technical Committee Meeting Minutes. Mr. Zobrist called the meeting to order. He asked for approval of October 3, 2007 Region 9 Transportation Technical Committee minutes. Mr. Boka moved for approval of the minutes.
Mr. Burgstrum seconded the motion and it carried.
2. Discussion of Region 9 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan Draft Chapters – Introduction, Roadways and Transit. Ms. McCullough informed the Committee that the Long Range Transportation Plan is about 6 months behind schedule. Next month a full draft of the plan will be presented to the Technical Committee for review, final comments and recommendation to the Policy Committee. Two open houses will be held, one in Scott County and one in Muscatine County, along with a 45-day public review process prior to adoption of the plan in March.

The Committee was referred to their agenda packets for copies of the draft chapters. Ms. McCullough previewed the contents of the Introduction Chapter. She pointed out the Map of Major Employers and added that all the plan maps were converted from AutoCAD to Arc View. She added, whereas previous Long Range Plans for the Regions were fairly basic, the Iowa DOT is now requesting more sophisticated and detailed plans.

Ms. McCullough also presented the Roadway Network Chapter to the Committee. The chapter provides important information and data related to traffic volumes and types; roadway

classifications; and surface types and conditions. The committee discussed whether to show only federal-aid eligible roadways on the maps or include all paved roadways. Mr. Dean recommended showing the entire system since the data is available. In addition, the Committee should consider evaluating the federal classification system in Region 9 after adoption of the plan. It was suggested that data for off-system bridges should be added to chapter tables and the bridges shown on the maps. Ms. McCullough presented to the Committee crash history data and locations prone to speed related fatalities. Mr. Dean recommended discussing these areas more thoroughly in the chapter. Consider discerning some trends from the crash data possibly by overlapping the data with surface types and pavement conditions. Ms. McCullough indicated there is about a 30% discrepancy in some of the data and clarification would be needed from the Iowa DOT. The remaining chapters are the Intermodal and the Conclusion.

Ms. Waterman reviewed the contents of the Transit Chapter. Based on comments from the previous Technical Committee meeting, Ms. Waterman has included total annual revenue hours, a paragraph discussing commuting patterns, and JARC information in the chapter. In addition, two methods were employed to project ridership. Mr. Zobrist commented that at some point the Future Regional Transit Network Section should discuss the impacts of retiring “Baby Boomers” on the system. The need for larger vehicles will have to be addressed with increasing demands for commuter shuttle services. The Committee also discussed the impact of overlapping laborshed areas on commuting patterns to the same employers; possible future expansion of the Independent Transportation Network (ITN); and impacts from ex-urban development and/or spot development in rural areas.

3. Status of Bi-State Region Transit Development Plan. Ms. Waterman reported work is underway on updating the Transit Development Plan. Drafts have been prepared of the Introduction and the Regional Transit Profile. Currently working on Needs and Gaps Analysis Chapter. Targeting January for a completed draft of the plan with the final plan in March.
4. Public Comments. There were no public comments.
5. Other Business. Ms. McCullough informed the Committee that the Moving Iowa Forward Freight Conference is scheduled for Wednesday, April 2, 2008. The Midwest Planning Conference is June 4-8, 2008 in Iowa City. The National Association of Development Organizations presented awards to Iowa’s Regional Planning Affiliations in recognition of their efforts in preparing the Transit Development Plans. The next meeting was scheduled for 11:00 a.m. on January 25, 2008. It was recommended it be a joint meeting of the Region 9 Technical and Policy Committees. The meeting will be held at the River Bend Transit office. The agenda will include the final draft of the Region 9 Long Range Transportation Plan and the Transit Development Plan. Another meeting will be held in March for formal adoption of the two plans and to review the Region 9 Work Program.
6. Adjournment. Ms. Harrison motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Burgstrum seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 a.m.