

Minutes of the
REGION 9
TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL AND POLICY COMMITTEES

Friday, December 18, 2009, 10:00 A.M.
Blue Grass Public Safety Building
606 W. Mayne Street
Blue Grass, Iowa

Policy Committee Members Present

Paul Barnes	City of Blue Grass
Joe Hutter	River Bend Transit
Dyann Roby	City of Muscatine
Dave Watkins	Muscatine County
Tom Sunderbruch	Scott County
Sam Shea	Iowa DOT

Technical Committee Members Present

Mark Anderson	City of Wilton
Steve Boka	City of Muscatine
Jon Burgstrum	Scott County
Eric Furnas	Muscatine County
Ann Harrison	City of Muscatine Transit
Randy Hill	City of Muscatine
Kristi Korpi	City of Muscatine Transit
Keith White	Muscatine County
Randy Zobrist	River Bend Transit

Others Present

Doug DeLille	Bi-State Regional Commission
Jon Lutz	City of Muscatine
Gena McCullough	Bi-State Regional Commission
Chelsey Waterman	Bi-State Regional Commission

1. Election of Region 9 Transportation Policy Committee Chair. Mr. Watkins nominated Mr. Sunderbruch to be the chairman of the Region 9 Transportation Policy Committee. Mr. Hutter seconded the nomination. Hearing no further nominations, Mr. Watkins motioned to cease the call for nominations and moved to elect Mr. Sunderbruch as the Policy Committee Chair. Mr. Hutter seconded the motion to cease nominations and the motion to elect Mr. Sunderbruch as the new chair. Both motions carried with unanimous consent of the Policy Committee.

2. Approval of the June 15, 2009 Region 9 Transportation Policy Committee Meeting Minutes (Policy Committee) and Approval of the May 21, 2009 Region 9 Transportation Technical Committee Meeting Minutes (Technical Committee). Mr. Hutter motioned to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2009 Region 9 Transportation Policy Committee meeting. Ms. Roby seconded the motion. The June 15, 2009 Policy Committee meeting minutes were approved as written. Mr. Boka motioned to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2009 Region 9 Technical Committee meeting. Mr. Burgstrum seconded the motion. The May 21, 2009 meeting minutes were approved as written.
3. Consideration of Updates to Bi-State Region Transit Development Plan (TDP). Ms. Waterman directed the Policy and Technical Committees to the agenda packet for a summary of the proposed updates to the Bi-State Region Transit Development Plan (TDP). Both Iowa and Illinois Departments of Transportation are allowing minor updates of the document every other year since it has met the overall requirements of the human services coordination planning. Ms. Waterman highlighted a number of the revisions to the TDP including project updates. Committee lists have been updated. No significant changes have been made to the Regional Profile chapter, and the next major update to this chapter will likely occur when 2010 U.S. Census data is available. Vehicle inventories and fare rates have been updated in the Transit Profile chapter. In the Evaluation of Needs and Policy Direction chapter “Review of Efforts” has been updated to include FY2009 projects that have been completed or have made significant progress. Examples include American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) transit projects and River Bend Transit facility improvements. To address education, 2009 Transit Training Workshops were noted. In Chapter 5- Passenger Transportation Prioritization Strategy, transit projects have been updated to reflect the FFY10-13 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Ms. Roby motioned to approve the TDP updates. Mr. Hutter seconded the motion, and it carried.
4. Report on the Federal Functional Classification (FFC) Changes. Mr. Shea reported that a few months ago, Mr. Jay Larson with Iowa DOT met with Region 9 Technical Committee members to review FFC maps of the Region 9 planning area. The group looked at FFC guidelines, categorical mileage limits, and discussed organizing roads that are federal-aid eligible. It was pointed out that 37 percent of total road miles are classified statewide, and Iowa DOT is recommending changes to remove some rural roads from the federal-aid eligible system. It was noted that Iowa DOT neglected to change the FFC on U.S. 61 around Blue Grass. In regional planning areas, the Board(s) of Supervisors have the authority to request FFC changes. A resolution is needed from the Scott County Board of Supervisors and the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors requesting the FFC change to U.S. 61 and the changes in classification to the other roads impacted by the new alignment of U.S. 61 around and through Blue Grass. It was also suggested that the City of Blue Grass provide a letter in support of the changes. Iowa DOT staff is working with the jurisdictions to obtain the necessary resolutions based on the identified revisions.

5. Discuss Revisions to the Region 9 FFY 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mr. DeLille distributed and reviewed revisions to the Region 9 FFY 2010-2013 TIP. In the FFY09 Annual Element Scott County removed project SC-09-08 and redistributed the Stimulus funds to projects SC-09-05 and SC-09-06 two other stimulus projects in Scott County that received bids higher than the estimated costs. The bids for Scott County project SC-09-07 came in under the cost estimate, so a portion of the excess Stimulus funds from this project were redistributed to cover the remaining cost overage for Scott County project SC-09-05. The remaining balance of Stimulus funds from SC-09-07 the county was unable to redistribute to the Y-48 project. The Iowa DOT indicated that the remaining stimulus funds would be replaced with STP funds and added to the Region 9 STP fund balance. Muscatine County is promoting project MC-11-04 from FFY11 to FFY10 and is shown on the updated TIP sheets as project MC-10-02. Mr. DeLille noted that all the TIP revisions are considered administrative modifications and do not require Policy Committee action.
6. Status Reports. Ms. McCullough updated Policy and Technical Committee members on a number of issues

Air Quality. There have been no exceedences of ozone or fine particulates in Scott County yet this calendar year. However, there were elevated levels of fine particulates in early September and late November that may affect Muscatine's attainment status. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is considering whether to revise ozone standards based on new scientific research. This may occur in late December with an official notice published in the Federal Register. Area officials have been invited and encouraged to participate in the Bi-State Region Clean Air Partnership. Iowa DOT staff is recommending the Bi-State Regional Commission ICAAP grant to the Iowa DOT Commission for approval and awaiting status of SPR requests.

Passenger Rail Service. The Iowa and Illinois Departments of Transportation are waiting for a 1st quarter ARRA award announcement on the federal High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail (HSIPR) discretionary grant program (ARRA). An application was submitted for new and enhanced passenger rail services, including from Chicago to Iowa City via the Quad Cities. The application was the first time where all associated costs were assembled with the Iowa City to Chicago route costs amounting to \$239,632,800. Next steps will be to provide facts on the costs of projects as entire package. The application also completed a Tier I environmental review process as part of The Midwest Rail Initiative; it is being updated and will include an environmental review. NEPA review will be needed as national level requirement for entire corridors.

ARRA. Region 9 had \$2.2 million awarded to six projects that have all been let. The remaining balance of \$11,298 in ARRA funds will be placed in the Region STP funds. River Bend Transit used \$1.1 million in transit stimulus funds for an expanded 67 spaces and secured parking area and the addition of two maintenance bays totaling 1800 sq. ft. to their facility. River Bend is also replacing 10 vehicles through statewide competitive grants.

Reauthorization. SAFETEA-LU expired on October 1, 2009. Congress passed an extension through the end of December 2009. Fiscal year 2010 appropriations are likely to have earmarks. Iowa DOT submitted an earmark request for \$600 million that includes the new I-74 bridge. There is discussion of using the general fund to supplement an estimated \$940 million left in the Highway Trust Fund. The House & Senate continue to disagree on the length of extension of SAFETEA-LU until a reauthorization can occur, likely to be 6 months. There are a variety of discussions related to continuing resolutions from six to eighteen months extension of the act until a reauthorization can occur. Chairman Oberstar of the House of Representatives has proposed a \$500 billion 6-year reauthorization bill, and says he has list of 9,500 shovel-ready projects to be included in a new jobs bill.

7. Public Comments. No public comments were received.
8. Other Business. There was no other business to report.
9. Adjournment. Mr. Watkins motioned to adjourn. Mr. Zobrist seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.