

Minutes of the RPA 15 Policy Board meeting
Thursday May 26th, 2022

Policy Board Members Present:

Daryl Wood
Sean Murphy
Aaron Kooiker

Rick Johnson
Steve Wanders
Wayne Huit
Susie Drish

Others Present

Chris Kukla – RPA 15

Hector Torres-Cacho-IDOT

Call to Order. Wood called the Policy Board to order at 11:33am.

Action Items

Approve Minutes. *Huit made a motion to approve, Drish seconded the motion.* All present voted aye; motion passed.

Review and take action on TAP applications.

- a. **Jefferson County.** Requesting \$576,000 in TAP funding to pave the Cedar View Trail in FY26.
- b. **Keosauqua.** Requesting \$476,840 in funding to construct accessible boat launch on the lower Des Moines River Water Trail in FY24. Note: This project is within a scenic byway corridor, the RPA may fund this project at 50% (\$298,025) and encourage applicant to apply to statewide TAP in October for remaining 30%.
- c. **Ottumwa.** Requesting \$654,171 in funding to construct the Oxbow Lagoon trail in FY25.

Kukla explained the RPA TAP balance of \$956,053 and there was not enough funding to fund all three projects. He said the TAC recommendation was to split the funding between the three projects so each received \$318,000, and to require applicants to report back in the spring of 2024 on their progress in securing other funds or ability to reduce project scope. He said his recommendation was to fund the Jefferson County project fully (80%) and Keosauqua (50%). Keosauqua could then apply for Statewide TAP for the remaining 30%. Kukla also said there would be sufficient funding in two years for Ottumwa, they would have to compete against projects at the time. He said he believed it was better to fully fund a project then to have it come back in a year or two asking for additional money, and if the RPA was not spending its money, projects not moving forward IDOT could choose to not allocate future funds to the region.

It was asked who was responsible for making the final decision, Kukla responded the Policy Board. Johnson asked how often there were different recommendations, or the Policy Board made a different decision than the TAC recommendation, Kukla said there have only been 1-2 occasions he could remember in last 10 years. Board members discussed whether projects would have the other funding identified or not, but felt applicants should have opportunity.

Kooiker made a motion to split the TAP funding evenly among the three projects, so that Jefferson receives, Keosauqua and Ottumwa receive \$318,000 and that the applicants report back in the spring of 2024 as to their progress in securing other funding or ability to reduce the scope of the project. Wanders seconded the motion. All present voted aye, motion passed.

Review and take action on STBG applications.

- a. **Keswick.** Requesting \$400,000 in funding in FY25 for North Irons Street from the NCL to 800 ft South.
- b. **Sigourney.** Requesting \$400,000 in funding in FY25 for E Pleasant Valley from Hwy 149 to Pershing Blvd.

Kukla explained the Special projects balance, which is used for small cities, currently has funding available for one of the two projects. The TAC recommended approving Keswick due to the higher score and that it had come to the board several times in the past, revising its application based on the board's guidance. The TAC recommended not approving Sigourney due to the lack of funding. He said his recommendations were the same as the TAC's.

Johnson asked about the difference in scoring and what the scoring was based on. Kukla said there was 10 points difference in scoring and much of it is based on verifiable information, traffic counts, functional class, how a project relates to the long-range plan, some of it is subjective such as the condition of the road. Wood said that N Irons in Keswick is in worse condition than E Pleasant Valley in Sigourney and is more need of improvement.

There was also discussion about the RPA balance sheet and sub-allocation in response to questions about spending ahead. Kukla explained that the RPA sub-allocates, not all do, some have the money in one pot for competitive applications. But the RPA decided to back in 2003 to help cities/counties budget. Sub-allocation is based on formula using population and FM mileage. RPA currently allows individual projects to borrow ahead up to 5 years from year programmed to encourage programming of projects, especially in out years.

Kookier made a motion to approve the Keswick project and to not approve the Sigourney project. Drish seconded the motion. All present voted aye, motion passed.

- c. **Fairfield.** Requesting \$140,000 in funding in FY23 for E Burlington Ave (Business 34) over Crow Creek.

Drish made a motion to approve the Fairfield project, Murphy seconded the motion. All present voted aye, motion passed.

- d. **Jefferson Co.** Requesting \$2,080,000 funding in FY26 for W40 (Germanville Rd) from 150th to Vetch Blvd.

Wanders made a motion to approve the Jefferson County project, Huit seconded the motion. All present voted aye, motion passed.

- e. **Mahaska Co.** Requesting \$1,557,000 in funding in FY26 for G29 from Hickory Ave to Oxford Ave.

Murphy made a motion to approve the Fairfield project, Johnson seconded the motion. All present voted aye, motion passed.

Review and take action on Transportation Planning Work Program. Kukla summarized the TPWP, that it is a document for IDOT that provides an overview of the activities the RPA will be performing in the upcoming year.

A question was asked about local match. Kukla said that each of the entities that received a sub-allocation paid a percentage of the local match based on their share of the RPA's STBG. Ex, if a city's sub-allocation is 10% then their share would be 10% of the match. Johnson asked how much unspent DOT funds the RPA could carry forward. Kukla responded IDOT looks at a 5 year average of the RPA budget, if the carryover is less than the average then it is ok.

Johnson made a motion to approve the TPWP, Kookier seconded the motion. All present voted aye, motion approved.

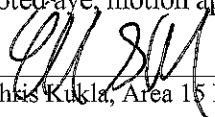
Review Items

Status updates on active STBG/SWAP and TAP Projects. Kookier discussed the Highway 1 project in Fairfield, City had completed land acquisitions. Costs were higher and city was looking at different build options.

Other

Next Meeting. June 23rd @ 11:30am

Adjourn. *Wanders made a motion to adjourn at 12:40am, Drish seconded the motion. All present voted aye, motion approved.*



Chris Kukla, Area 15 RPC