

Minutes of the RPA 15 Policy Board meeting  
Thursday March 28th, 2019

Policy Board Members Present:

Dale House  
Tom Lazio  
Michael Schrock  
Ed Malloy

Daryl Wood  
Steve Wanders  
Wayne Huit  
Lee Dimmit

Others Present

Chris Kukla – RPA 15

Hector Torres-Cacho – Iowa DOT

**Call to Order.** Lazio called the Policy Board to order at 11:35am.

**Minutes.** The minutes from the September 25<sup>th</sup> 2018 meeting were reviewed . Dimmit made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Wood seconded the motion. Seven board members voted to approve the minutes, one House abstained; motion approved.

**Election of Officers.** Election of a Chair and a Vice chair for 2019. Malloy made a motion to nominate Lazio as Chair and Dimmit as vice chair; Huit seconded the motion. All present voted aye; motion approved.

**Description of the Regional Planning Affiliation Process.** Kukla gave a presentation on the history of the Regional Planning Affiliation process, the benefits, the role and requirements.

**Long-Range Transportation Plan Comments.** Kukla explained that draft chapters had been sent to the TAC, to airport managers, to the railroads for comment and asked if any board members had any comment they wished to discuss at the meeting. Torres-Cacho said that Iowa DOT had also been reviewing chapters and providing comment. Schrock said he had e-mailed comment. It was noted that board members could continue to provide comment until the end of April.

**Long-Range Transportation Plan Strengths and Weaknesses.** The board discussed strengths and weaknesses of transportation within the region. The following were identified.  
Strengths: Public transit service, 4-lane highway, AMTRAK, general aviation, grid system of roads.  
Weaknesses: speed limits on rural roads, bypassing small towns with 4-lanes, bridge conditions and funding for bridges, funding for maintaining current system, grid system. Opportunities: Improving US 63 North of Oskaloosa and south of Ottumwa, Freight/Cargo aviation into Ottumwa. Threats: Loss of AMTRAK due to rerouting because of flooding, heavier farm equipment deteriorating bridges quicker.

**Long-Range Transportation Plan Goals.** Kukla presented a compiled list of goals and objectives for the long-range plan and explained that these would be used in the future when assessing projects. Malloy asked that adding maintain the integrity of the 4-lane. Dimmit agreed.

**Status update on active federal aid projects.** Wanders asked about the status of the NW bypass of Oskaloosa and said the supervisors support it. Torres-Cacho said it would be going to the commission for consideration. Schrock said that it had been presented to the commission in the draft plan for 2023/24.

**STBG/SWAP and TAP applications due April 1<sup>st</sup>.** Kukla said that he believed Ottumwa was working on STBG/SWAP application for a road project and a TAP application for a trail project, Van Buren County an STBG/SWAP application for a road project, and 10-15 transit a couple STBG applications for bus replacement.

**Next Meeting Date.** May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019

**Adjournment.** House made a motion to adjourn at 12:32pm. Dimmit seconded the motion. All present voted aye, motion approved.

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Chris Kukla, Area 15 RPC