

Minutes of the RPA 15 Policy Board meeting
Tuesday April 27th, 2023

Policy Board Members Present:

Dale House
Daryl Wood
Amal Eltalhir
Jim Morlan

Rick Johnson
Steve Wanders
Bryan Ziegler
Lee Dimmit

Others Present

Chris Kukla – RPA 15

Call to Order. House called the Policy Board to order at 11:22am.

Action Items

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

Approve New Applications

Ottumwa – Mary Street Reconstruction. City originally applied and awarded \$2,055,354 to reconstruct Mary Street from Ferry to Shaul. Applying for additional \$842,477 in funding due to increased costs. Project will be moved to FY24 as letting will be in December 23 or Jan 24. Wood made a motion to approve, Wanders seconded the motion. All present voted aye, motion approved.

Wapello County – Kirkville Road. County applied for \$1,200,000 for Kirkville Road from US 63/IA 163 north to Kirkville NCL. Project will be programmed in FY25. Wanders made a motion to approve, Morlan seconded the motion. All present voted aye, motion approved.

Wapello County – Monroe-Wapello Road. County applies for \$1,500,000 for Monroe-Wapello Road from CP railroad tracks to US 34. Project will be programmed in FY25. Wood made a motion to approve, Dimmit seconded the motion. All present voted aye, motion approved.

Van Buren County – J40. County originally applied and awarded \$1,520,000 to resurface J40 from Davis CL to V64. Applying for additional \$351,607 in funding due to increased costs. Project will remain in FY23. Johnson made a motion to approve, Dimmit seconded the motion. All present voted aye, motion approved.

Approve Passenger Transportation Plan. Kukla discussed the Passenger Transportation Plan document. Dimmit made a motion to approve, Ziegler seconded the motion. All present voted aye, motion approved.

Discussion Items

Status updates on 2022 TAP applications. Kukla provided an update on the three TAP projects awarded partial TAP funding last year.

Keosauqua Lower Des Moines River Water Trail. Has Iowa Destination Grant and local funds, will be ready to start in 2024.

Ottumwa Oxbow Lagoon Link Trail. Started building along Wapello Street extension, has access to City owned parcels for trail, working to acquire easements on 19 privately owned parcels. Applied for Wellmark grant.

Jefferson County Cedar View Trail Paving. In holding pattern to apply for other grants as project is programmed in FY26. If cannot secure other funding considering changing surface or reduce width to reduce cost.

Long-Range Transportation Plan Update. Kukla discussed the LRTP update, and the Policy Board's involvement. There was then open discussion on board member views of the region's transportation system. Much of the discussion focused on difficulty maintaining bridges.

Dimmit (Jefferson Co) Bridge problems all over county, county trying to keep up by reducing weigh limits, taking out bridges and replacing with culverts or tank cars. Even doing this struggling to keep up with bridges.

Wood (Keokuk Co) County had similar problem 10 years ago backlog of bridges. Will be facing a large bridge replacement over Sunk River in next few years \$10m. Wanders (Mahaska Co) County also will need to replace bridge over N Skunk, bridge experiences heavy truck traffic wears on bridge.

Dimmit. Amish off main routes bring trucks over bridges on low traffic routes wear on bridges that have limited access to funding. State need to revisit bridge formula allow counties to bond.

Johnson (Ottumwa). Ottumwa looking will be looking at replacing Jefferson St viaduct in 5-10 years, \$20m to replace. Zeigler (Wapello Co). County working to replace bridge in Eldon. Have been discussions about bridge over CP rr on Quincy, also long term vision for bridge over DM River on w/ side of Ottumwa.

Johnson discussed Ottumwa will be starting roundabout at Quincy and Albia Road.

Status updates on active STBG/SWAP and TAP projects. House said VB County is starting the overlay on J40.

Other

Next Meeting. May 25th.

Adjourn. With no further business to discuss, meeting adjourned at 12:10pm.

Chris Kukla, Area 15 RPC