

Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization
Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2008
 City Council Chambers, 4th Floor, Cedar Rapids' City Hall
 1:30 P.M.

Member	Present	Not Present	Proxy
Lu Barron	X		
Brian Fagan	X		
Kay Halloran		X	
Jim Houser	X		
George Kanz	X		
Linda Langston	X		
Kim McCarty			Dan Whitlow
Jerry McGrane		X	
Ian Cullis	X		
Tim Carson		X	
Paul Rehn	X		
Tom Theis	X		
Boyd Potter	X		
Pat Shey		X	
Jim Doyle		X	
Cedar Rapids Vacancy			
Scott Sylvester		X	
Cedar Rapids Vacancy			
Bill Voss	X		

Staff Present: Adam Lindenlaub, Sam Shea, Drew Westberg, Sushil Nepal.
 Others Present: Tom Treharne, Elwood Garlock, Joanne Popelka, Justin Shields, Dave Van Dee.

Chair George Kanz called the meeting to order at 1:30.

AGENDA

1. Approve minutes of previous meeting.

Bill Voss moved to approve the minutes as mailed. Brian Fagan seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

2. Corridor MPO Election of 2008 Officers.

The Nominating Committee comprised of George Kanz, Tom Theis, Ian Cullis, Paul Rehn, Brian Fagan (for Kay Halloran), and Lu Barron recommended the following for the 2008 Corridor MPO Officers:

- Brian Fagan as Chair
- Linda Langston as Vice-Chair
- Bill Voss as Secretary
- Paul Rehn as Treasurer

Jim Houser moved to accept the Nominating Committee's recommendation for the 2008 Corridor MPO Officers as noted above. Ian Cullis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Adam Lindenlaub presented George Kanz a plaque on behalf of Corridor MPO for his service as Chair for two years. Kanz

then turned over Chair of Corridor MPO to new Chair Brian Fagan.

3. Draft FY09 – FY12 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Lindenlaub explained the handouts, which displayed the recommendations of the Transportation Technical Advisory Committee and the Transportation Enhancements Committee for FY12 programming of Surface Transportation Program (STP) and Transportation Enhancements (TE) funds. Two handouts showed all of the local and state programmed projects as well as the transit element for FY09 to FY12. There was also a summary of the first open house held in January and the public comments that were received. There was a question on the Statewide Urban Design & Specifications Standard Manual or SUDAS. Dan Whitlow, who sits on the SUDAS Board of Directors, noted that the board met and decided not to raise the participation level of the SUDAS program.

Linda Langston moved to approve the draft FY09 – FY12 TIP. George Kanz seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

4. Draft FY09 Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP).

Lindenlaub explained the differences between the FY08 and the FY09 TPWP. Houser moved to approve the draft FY09 Transportation Planning Work Program. Voss seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

5. FY08 Traffic Count Program.

Lindenlaub explained that as part of the long-range plan update a traffic count program was approved in the FY08 TPWP. This data will be used in the traffic model and be available to member jurisdictions. Lindenlaub provided TTAC's recommendation to award the contract to Quality Counts LLC, which was the lowest bidder at \$60,000. The budget for the count program was \$110,000. Langston asked why there was such a disparity in costs between the proposals. Lindenlaub stated that TTAC's opinion was that this company only performs traffic counts and consequently does not have higher paid professionals on staff thereby resulting in a lower cost of services. Paul Rehn asked where the budget estimate came from. Whitlow said it was an engineering estimate.

Kanz moved to award the contract to Quality Counts LLC. Lu Barron seconded the motion. There was discussion regarding count locations and Lindenlaub said a count location map would be sent to the Policy Board. Having a second, the motion was voted on and approved unanimously.

6. Lowe Park District Plan Update.

Drew Westberg gave an update on the planning process and informed the Policy Board that the next public workshop was scheduled for April 22nd from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at Saint Mark's Church in Cedar Rapids. Langston asked if all residents in the Lowe Park District Plan boundary would be mailed a notice. Westberg said all property owners would be sent a notice. Cullis noted that it seemed that development in this area was sprawl. Westberg stated that development in this area would be dictated by policy makers. Langston noted that Linn-Mar Community School District was planning two new elementary schools in this area. Whitlow said that they are also planning to build a new high school. Langston noted that there is a drainage issue in this area that crosses multiple jurisdictions. Fagan stated that maybe this process can be shared with other agencies as a best practice method. Fagan asked if this process is looking at Tower Terrace Road. Whitlow noted that there is another group that is looking at Tower Terrace Road.

7. Transportation Forum Topics.

Lindenlaub explained Corridor MPO's goal of engaging and educating the metropolitan area on transportation related issues and presented four topics for Transportation Forums. The topics are bus rapid transit, transit orientated development, complete streets, and bicycle friendly communities. Lindenlaub requested the Policy Board send other transportation forum topics to staff.

8. Corridor MPO Merchandise.

Lindenlaub explained the desire to increase Corridor MPO's name recognition in the metropolitan area and,

as a public relations/exposure tool, staff is recommending the purchase of merchandise such as pens and magnets featuring Corridor MPO's logo. This merchandise would be distributed at open houses and other events or activities as well as member facilities such as city halls and libraries. Lindenlaub stated that staff would present cost estimates at the next meeting for the Policy Board's approval.

Voss moved to approve the development and purchasing of Corridor MPO merchandise. Langston seconded the motion, which passes unanimously.

9. 2008 Midwest Transportation Planning Conference.

Lindenlaub informed the policy board of an upcoming transportation planning conference that will be held in Iowa City from June 4th through the 6th. Lindenlaub stated that if any of the Policy Board members are interested in attending that they should inform staff. Lindenlaub listed some of the planned sessions, which include the future of passenger rail.

Houser asked about passenger rail possibilities along I-380. There was a brief discussion on this topic. Sam Shea informed the Policy Board that the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) would look at the feasibility of passenger rail or other modes of travel with any major work that would be performed on I-380 such as adding lanes.

10. National Household Travel Survey.

Lindenlaub and Sushil Nepal explained that the National Household Travel Survey (NHTS) began on March 15th, 2008. NHTS will provide Corridor MPO with at least 1,200 surveys on household travel behavior.

11. Tower Terrace Road Corridor Management Plan.

Westberg reviewed a memorandum he prepared updating the Policy Board on the status of the Corridor Management Plan.

12. Floodplain Regulations Discussion.

Westberg reported that the committee was meeting and hoped to present some policy options to Corridor MPO soon.

Non-Agenda Item.

Cedar Rapids Councilman Justin Shields asked to speak to the Policy Board on TIME-21. Shields noted that the State had asked for support from local governments for TIME-21 funding and that Cedar Rapids recently gave its support and he requested that Corridor MPO also give such support. Kanz noted that Corridor MPO sent a resolution of support for TIME-21 to the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) in April of 2007. Langston asked if it would be appropriate to resend that support resolution to IDOT. The Policy Board agreed and directed staff to resend the resolution that was sent in 2007.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30.