

**Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization**  
**Meeting Minutes**

January 22, 2009  
Fairfax Community Room, Guaranty Bank  
1:30 P.M.

<b>Member</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Not Present</b>	<b>Proxy</b>
Lu Barron	X		
Brian Fagan			Chuck Wieneke
Kay Halloran			Tom Podzimek
Jim Houser	X		
Samantha Dahlby	X		
Linda Langston		X	
Kim McCarty			Tom Treharne
Jerry McGrane		X	
Ian Cullis	X		
Tim Carson		X	
Paul Rehn	X		
Tom Theis	X		
Boyd Potter	X		
Pat Shey	X		
Jim Doyle			Aaron Anderson
Bill Bogert	X		
Scott Sylvester	X		
David Zylstra		X	
Bill Voss	X		

**Staff Present:** Sushil Nepal, Drew Westberg, Adam Lindenlaub

**Others Present:** Cathy Cutler, Rick Smith, Robin Kash (Neighborhood Network News)

Secretary Bill Voss called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm as the Chair and Vice-Chair were absent.

**AGENDA**

**Public Comment**

None.

**1. Approve Minutes from the November 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.**

Chuck Wieneke moved to approve the minutes from the November 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. Tom Podzimek seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

**2. Outreach & Communications Plan (OCP) (attached).**

Drew Westberg gave an update on feedback received on the draft Outreach and Communication Plan (OCP). Westberg reviewed some of the changes regarding public participation during the Transportation Improvement Program process and general public feedback tracking. Westberg informed the board that the Metro-area Advisory Committee (MAC) would be responsible for updating the OCP and that performance measures would be included. Bill Bogert indicated his approval of including public involvement early in the project development process. Lu Barron agreed with Bogert. Boyd Potter moved to formally adopt the OCP. Barron seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

**3. Metro-area Advisory Committee (MAC) (attached).**

Westberg reviewed the progress to date. Staff will start contacting entities that received invitation letters. January 30<sup>th</sup> is the due date for notifying Corridor MPO of entity appointees. February 13<sup>th</sup> is the due date for the open applications. Staff is planning on February 16<sup>th</sup> through the 18<sup>th</sup> for interviews of open applications. February 19<sup>th</sup> is planned for formally appointing the members. The first meeting is planned for early to mid March. Tom Theis moved to approve the creation of the MAC and its by-laws. Ian Cullis seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

#### **4. Federal Stimulus Bill Projects to be Amended to TIP.**

Lindenlaub explained that the upcoming federal economic stimulus bill will direct approximately \$350 million to the state of Iowa. A portion of this will be targeted to the MPOs and RPAs. Corridor MPO needs to submit a draft list of projects, including alternates, which it would fund to the Iowa Department of Transportation by Thursday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>. These projects will need to be amended into the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) after the stimulus bill is signed by the President, which is expected to be on February 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup>. Corridor MPO is expected to receive approximately \$6.5 million to fund road, transit, and trail projects. Additionally, the Corridor MPO was asked to submit a list of trail projects to IDOT for funding consideration from the State. Corridor MPO needs to open the public comment period on their list of projects at this meeting so it can approve the amendment at the next meeting. Lindenlaub explained that 21 road projects were submitted totaling \$22 million. Only projects that are identified in the long-range plan and located on the Federal Aid Eligible (FAE) Network may be funded. If the Board decides to fund projects that are not in the plan then the plan must be amended, which would require full compliance with SAFETEA-LU. Only three projects were completely identified within the long-range plan and located on the FAE Network. Three other projects were partially identified within the long-range plan and on the FAE Network.

Paul Rehn stated he would vote for the Central Business District Project because it addresses safety issues. Bogert asked if TTAC has reviewed the projects. Lindenlaub stated that there was not time to have TTAC review and make a recommendation prior to today's deadline to the Iowa Department of Transportation. Theis asked a question regarding a project from the City of Robins and received clarification from staff. Podzimek asked if funding part of a project was acceptable to the Board. Podzimek suggested funding projects that are in the long-range plan and on the FAE Network, then the portions that are in the long-range plan and on the FAE Network, and then identify alternate projects that address safety. Cullis asked if you can apportion the allocation to the individual members. Lindenlaub stated that was not allowed. Podzimek moved to fund the three projects identified in the long-range plan and on the FAE Network, then the portions of the three projects that were partially identified in the long-range plan. Scott Sylvester seconded the motion, which was passed with all in favor except Cullis.

The Board then discussed the projects that could be listed as alternates. Podzimek asked questions about the Wright Brothers Boulevard, East Main Street, Ely Road, and C Avenue projects. Podzimek moved to submit the East Main Street Reconstruction Project and the Ely Road Paving Project as the first and second alternate projects. Samantha Dahlby seconded the motion, which was approved by all but Theis who was out of the room. Podzimek moved to submit the Edgewood Road Paving Project and the Blairs Ferry Road Widening Project as the third and fourth alternate projects. Boyd Potter seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. Houser moved to submit the Wright Brothers Boulevard Paving Project as the fifth alternate project. Podzimek seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Lindenlaub reviewed the five trail projects, totaling \$3.6 million, which were submitted. Barron moved to submit the whole list to IDOT for funding consideration. Houser seconded the motion. Cullis asked the Board to consider adding two trail projects from the City of Robins. Barron revised her motion to include the two Robins projects. Houser seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Pat Shey and Podzimek left the meeting at 2:40 pm.

Cathy Cutler pointed out that the Board still needed to open the public comment period on the projects so they could be amended into the TIP after the economic stimulus bill is signed by the President. Houser moved to open the public comment period on all projects being submitted for funding. Chuck Wieneke seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

**5. Long-Range Plan Update (handout).**

Lindenlaub distributed a memorandum summarizing the purpose of the long-range transportation plan and the steps that Corridor MPO needs to take to complete its update, which is due in July of 2010.

**6. Support for Iowa Department of Transportation Planning Level Study of I-380.**

Lindenlaub explained that the IDOT will be performing an inventory assessment of I-380 through Linn County as part of an overall study of I-80. There has been recent discussion about performing a planning level study of I-380 through Corridor MPO's planning boundary. Local IDOT representatives noted that it would be good to have support from Corridor MPO for such a study. Podzimek moved to send a letter of support for a planning level study. Cullis seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

**7. Freight Rail Improvements Support for EDA Grant.**

Lindenlaub explained that four years ago, members of the Transportation Technical Advisory Committee met to discuss the Fourth Street Rail Corridor and its impacts on the road network. This effort faded but was picked up in 2007 by the City of Cedar Rapids as it formed Taskforces to implement recommendations in the Downtown Area Plan. The Downtown Railroad Taskforce was comprised of the Union Pacific, CRANDIC, and Iowa Northern railroad companies as well as Quaker Oats, Cargill, Priority 1, and City Staff. Its purpose was to identify how rail traffic on the Fourth Street Corridor could be limited or eliminated to reduce congestion and stimulate increased downtown development. The June 2008 flood has renewed interest in this issue and has led to numerous meetings with corporate representatives from the Union Pacific. Working with its consultants (Sasaki Associates and Parsons Brinckerhoff) and downtown business interests the City of Cedar Rapids is preparing to submit an application to the Economic Development Administration (EDA) on a first phase project. Cedar Rapids is requesting a resolution of support for this and future EDA grant applications from Corridor MPO regarding freight rail operations in the Cedar Rapids metropolitan area. Jim Houser moved for Corridor MPO to provide Cedar Rapids a letter of support for metro area freight railroad initiatives. Podzimek seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

**8. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Update.**

Lindenlaub explained that applications for Surface Transportation Program (STP) funding for FY13 of the FY10 – FY13 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) are due on February 13<sup>th</sup>. Corridor MPO's FY13 STP target is \$3,226,455. \$271,966 of that amount is committed to the Tower Terrace Road – Robins Rd. to Council St. project, which leaves \$2,954,489 to program for FY13. The Transportation Enhancements (TE) Program funding target is \$248,149. \$397,285 is committed to the Boyson Road Trail project. This means that all of the FY13 target would be programmed for this project as well as \$149,136 of the TE funds for FY14.

**9. Tower Terrace Road Corridor Management Plan.**

Westberg reviewed the results of a visual preference survey for the Tower Terrace Road (TTR) Corridor Management Plan that was held with the stakeholder group. Westberg stated that the next planned stakeholder group meeting is in February. Staff is planning on the first part of the plan to be completed in June.

**10. Organizational Development Workshop (handout).**

Westberg reminded the Board that Organizational Development Workshop will be held on Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup> at the Marriott Hotel on Collins Road NE in Cedar Rapids from 8 am to 3 pm. The object of the workshop will be to develop a mission statement and goals, which will be used to guide Corridor MPO's activities and act as the building block for the development of the long-range transportation plan.

## **Old/New Business**

### **1. Surface Transportation Program/Transportation Enhancements Program Contract.**

Lindenlaub and Westberg explained that having a contract between the Corridor MPO and the member jurisdiction receiving STP or TE funds was identified as a best practice of MPOs during the national MPO survey that performed. Barron and Houser stated this would be a good idea. There was general agreement from the Board that Staff should carry forward with development of a contract for Board review.

### **2. Topical Presentations to Policy Board.**

Westberg explained that Staff was in the process of identifying subject matter for topical presentations as a way to keep the Board and the public better informed about the growing number of regional issues, both transportation and non-transportation related, that MPOs are facing around the nation. Staff has lined up presentations on Bus Rapid Transit, Growth Management and Transportation, and Transportation Finance but is requesting the Board to provide more topics.

### **3. Corridor MPO support for a Marion RISE Grant Application.**

Lindenlaub explained that the City of Marion is submitting an application to the Iowa Department of Transportation for a Revitalize Iowa's Sound Economy (RISE) grant for their Marion Enterprise Center Business Park Roadway Improvements Project and is requesting a resolution of support for the project. Bogert moved to pass a resolution of support for Marion's RISE grant application. Barron seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

## **Agenda Item Requests**

None.

The meeting adjourned at 2:55.