

Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization
Meeting Minutes

February 19, 2009
Fairfax Community Room, Guaranty Bank
1:30 P.M.

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

Staff Present: Drew Westberg, Adam Lindenlaub

Others Present: Larry Berns

Vice Chair Linda Langston called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm as the Chair was absent.

AGENDA

Public Comment

None.

1. Approve Minutes from the January 22nd meeting.

Bill Bogert moved to approve the minutes from the January 22nd meeting. Tom Treharne seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

2. Amendment to FY09 – FY12 TIP (AGENDA REVISION).

Adam Lindenlaub explained that Linn County received a Statewide Transportation Enhancements grant for reconstructing and resurfacing the Cedar Valley Nature Trail. Normally this would be part of the FY10 – FY13 TIP and would not require amending the current FY09 – FY12 TIP but Linn County received permission from IDOT to start the project early. Adam stated that he is requesting the Board to open the public comment period for this amendment, which would require formal action to amend at the next meeting. Bogert moved to open the public comment period. Scott Sylvester seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

3. Federal Economic Stimulus Projects Amendment to FY09 – FY12 TIP.

Lindenlaub explained that MPOs now have one year to obligate their allocation of stimulus funds. Lindenlaub stated that IDOT is allowing for a review of the initial list submitted on January 22nd but is recommending little to no changes be made. Paul Rehn moved to amend the FY09 – FY12 TIP to include the economic stimulus fund projects. Samantha Dahlby seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

4. Organizational Development Workshop.

Ian Cullis reviewed the activities and results of the Organizational Development Workshop that was facilitated by the Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA) on January 24th, 2009. The purpose of the workshop was to develop a mission statement for the Corridor MPO and begin to identify goals of the MPO. Rehn wanted to repeat a discussion had at the workshop regarding the use of the word “community” in the mission statement instead of “communities” since not every one attended the workshop. Rehn thought that “community” may lead the public to think it is directed at Cedar Rapids. Bill Voss stated he liked the word “communities” over “community” from the public perspective. Cullis stated that the purpose was to break down barriers and that using “community” over “communities” helped accomplish that. Bogert stated his agreement with this. Kim McCarty voiced the idea of inserting “corridor” before “community”. Dahlby stated she like the idea because it keeps the location specific but also broad at the same time and makes it easier to explain to the public. Sylvester noted that if you change “community” to “communities” the word “regional” makes it broader. Aaron Anderson asked if the mission statement was to be used to tell the public who the Corridor MPO is or how policy decisions are made. The general consensus was both. Sylvester noted that we receive more funds as a region for use by the communities than if based just on a community by community basis. Rehn moved to adopt the mission statement with the change of “community” to “communities”. Tom Theis seconded the motion, which was approved with Barron and David Zylstra opposed.

Linda Langston asked Staff to clear most of the next agenda so Corridor MPO goals could be discussed and send out the two draft goals that were developed at the workshop as well as any others that might have been identified within the results of the workshop (summary document).

5. CSDS Policy.

Zylstra gave a presentation on the draft Context Sensitive Design Solutions policy, which reviewed the background behind the process, the process of creating the draft, and the concerns that were identified during the process. Cullis noted that it might be helpful to contact groups like the Chamber of Commerce to see if they could help promote MPO activities. Bogert asked how the policy would work with the OCP. Zylstra stated that the feeling is that Staff should be working with the jurisdictions to make sure the policy is adhered to. Zylstra added that Staff could help with the initial presentation step. Treharne stated that City staff would bear the burden of most of these processes. Langston stated that the benefit with this process is showing the benefits and needs of the project and inserting more non-technical details into project selection.

Westberg reminded the Board that one more appointee to the Policy Group will be needed before working on the Complete Streets policy. Westberg noted that Dahlby had already volunteered. Anderson volunteered to serve.

6. FY13 STP Requests Update.

Lindenlaub explained that requests for Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds for FY13 were due on February 13th projects were received from Linn County, Marion, Cedar Rapids, Hiawatha, and CR Transit. Staff will review for compliance with Corridor MPO’s eligibility requirements and then distribute to the Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC) for review at their next meeting. After TTAC’s review, Staff will perform the Safety, Congestion, and Annualized Cost analyses and provide the results to TTAC. TTAC will then make a programming recommendation to the Board.

7. HSTAG.

Lindenlaub explained that the Iowa Department of Transportation is recommending that the Human Services Transportation Advisory Group (HSTAG) should be appointed as the advisory body for

recommending approval of the Passenger Transportation Development Plan (PTDP) to the Corridor MPO Board. Lindenlaub explained that Corridor MPO worked with the United Way to create this group in 2006 and some of the goals for improving passenger transportation that they identified have been included in Corridor MPO's PTDP such as the Mobility Manager position currently filled by the East Central Iowa Council of Governments. Treharne moved to appoint the HSTAG as the PTDP advisory body for Corridor MPO. Scott Sylvester seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

8. MAC Update.

Drew Westberg gave an update on the status of the MAC. Westberg stated that the first meeting should be in early to mid-March.

9. Strategic Communications Plan RFP Update.

Westberg explained that during the Organizational Development Workshop held on January 24th, Staff was directed to publish a Request for Proposals (RFP) for qualified firms to create and assist in implementation of a Strategic Communications Plan.

Old/New Business

1. Corridor MPO Representative on SUDAS Board.

Lindenlaub explained that the Corridor MPO has a member on the Statewide Urban Design & Specifications (SUDAS) Board of Directors. The members serve a two year term and Darin Ligtenberg's term will soon be expiring. Lindenlaub stated that Ligtenberg would be willing to serve again if the Board so chooses. Lu Barron asked about Ligtenberg's attendance record and Lindenlaub responded that he had attended two-thirds of the meetings. Rehn moved to reappoint Darin Ligtenberg as the Corridor MPO's representative on the SUDAS Board of Directors. Dahlby seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

2. Tower Terrace Road Interchange Justification Report Update Request.

Lindenlaub explained that the City of Hiawatha has requested that Corridor MPO ask the Iowa Department of Transportation to revisit the Tower Terrace Road Interchange Justification Report as more updated information regarding population counts and traffic data have been obtained. Lindenlaub explained that this will be discussed at an upcoming Transportation Technical Advisory Committee meeting.

Agenda Item Requests

None.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45.