

TTAC Meeting Minutes

The Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC) met on Friday, December 15, 2006 at 2:00 P.M. in Council Chambers of Cedar Rapids City Hall.

Present: Gary Petersen, Dan Whitlow, Rob Davis (for Dave Elgin), Steve Gannon, Darin Ligtenberg, Cathy Cutler, Tom Treharne, Denny Clift, Dick Ransom

Absent: Brad DeBrower, Dan Mann

Staff: Dean Wheatley, Sam Shea, Adam Lindenlaub.

Others Present: Elwood Garlock, Bernita Rozinek, Joanne Popelka

Gary Petersen called the meeting to order at 2:04 pm. Tom Treharne moved to approve the minutes of the October 26th, 2006 meeting. Dan Whitlow seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Review STP applications for FY11

Adam Lindenlaub explained the handouts that were distributed, which showed the STP project requests. Gary Petersen asked how much STP funds will be available for programming. Adam said there is \$1,563,645 to program for FY11. Tom Treharne asked about the status of the two 1st Avenue East projects. Gary said they are still programmed and the city will conduct a similar public involvement process that was used during the Mount Vernon Road SE improvement project. Gary said the city will evaluate changes to project design to determine if the originally scored congestion and safety benefits have been effected. Dick Ransom said that until something is submitted regarding changes to the projects there is nothing for TTAC to react to. Darin Ligtenberg asked if there is a policy regarding how many years it takes to complete a project. Adam said there is not a policy setting a time limit on completion of a project. Gary said he believes progress should be able to be shown on a project not that it is completed in a set number of years. Dick said there might be some consequences at the state or federal level if funds are not being spent. Dean Wheatley said he would be more concerned about there being a shortfall at the state level and the state decides to take back some of the STP funds that are not being spent. Dean said that LCRPC will probably ask Cedar Rapids to make a decision regarding the Bever Avenue SE Extension project and the 1st Avenue East Improvement projects. Rob Davis gave TTAC an update on the Council Street NE Widening project. Darin Ligtenberg asked how the Iowa Pavement Management Program funding requirements were determined. Adam said he would check and report back to TTAC.

Steve Gannon moved to have all the STP project submittals scored except for the 60th and 66th Avenues SW Extension project, which is not on one of LCRPC's STP Corridors. Dan Whitlow seconded the motion. There was discussion regarding why the project should not be scored, traffic issues by Kirkwood College, and a future interchange at 76th Avenue SW. Dick Ransom said he felt the project should be ranked. Dan said it should not because it does not meet the current requirements of STP submittals. A vote was taken on Steve Gannon's motion, which carried unanimously.

Dean Wheatley reminded TTAC to make sure they keep their respective LCRPC members up to date on issues that will be coming before them.

Gary Petersen reviewed Cedar Rapids' STP submittals with TTAC. There was brief discussion on the Blairs Ferry Road NE projects. There was discussion on the Robins Road intersection of the western Tower Terrace Road extension project. Dick Ransom and Darin Ligtenberg requested some revisions to this intersection and to the intersection with Council Street. There was discussion on the C Avenue intersection of the eastern Tower Terrace Road extension project. There was no discussion on the Edgewood Road NW Improvement project.

Dick Ransom reviewed Hiawatha's STP submittals with TTAC. Steve Gannon asked if the previously funded roundabout project at Boyson and Robins Roads was part of the Boyson Road – Hawkeye Road to Dry Creek project. Dick said it was not. Dan Whitlow asked if the Robins Road intersection would be included in the

congestion analysis. Sam Shea said it would not. Adam Lindenlaub said that the Robins Road intersection would also be excluded from the safety analysis. There was discussion regarding raised medians, property assessment, and the use of TIF funds. There was discussion regarding the project and if it was an extension of the roundabout project. TTAC agreed that the roundabout project should not be ranked with this project. Gary Petersen asked if the Edgewood Road Extension project included improvements at Progress Drive. Dick said it did not. Gary asked if the proximity of the Carpenter Road intersection would be a problem. Dick said that intersection would be addressed in the future. Gary noted that Cedar Rapids would want Hiawatha to maintain control over the signal at Carpenter Road.

Traffic Count Program

Gary Petersen asked what the costs of providing the number of counts that Sam would need for the traffic model would be. Sam said that 39% of the modeled streets have counts that were either done by IDOT or Cedar Rapids Traffic Engineering Department and that 40% would be ideal. Dean Wheatley said that it appears that LCRPC could use federal planning funds for a count program with the long-range plan update. Gary asked Sam how many additional counts would be needed. Sam said an additional 600 counts above the number that IDOT performs. Sam said that it would cost approximately \$100,000 to outsource a count program. It would cost about the same for LCRPC to purchase the equipment and hire interns to perform a count program, which would be cheaper in subsequent years. Gary asked if it would be possible to see a table or map displaying what is counted and where the additional counts would be performed. There was discussion regarding the next long-range plan update. Sam said he would need counts performed in 2007 or 2008. Steve Gannon said the next IDOT counts would be performed in 2009. Gary asked staff to keep this item on the next agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 pm.