

# **Area Transportation Partnership 7 (ATP 7)**

Draft Minutes of June 11, 2021 Meeting – MnDOT, Mankato (via Teams)

**Members Present:** Jack Kolars, Troy Nemmers, Ronda Allis, Seth Greenwood, Greg Ous, Ryan Thilges, Nick Klisch, Jeff Johnson, Patrick La Course, Robert Goblirsch, Lisa Bigham, Richard Peterson, Rob Goblirsch

**Members Absent:** Don Wachal, Mike Kuhle, Peter Harff

**Others Present:** Sam Parker, Angie Piltaver, Debra Yates, Angelica Tejada, Paul Vogel, Charles Androsky, Rosemary Bruce-White, Joel Hanif, Joseph Stadheim, Stephen Schnieder, Jeff Faragher (acting Worthington City Engineer), Leah Petricka, Cathleen Amick, Shawn Schloesser, Rep. Luke Frederick

## **Welcome, introductions, and opening business (Jack Kolars)**

- The March 12, 2021 minutes were approved (handout)

## **STIP amendments (Deb Yates/handout)**

Deb provided a handout and described the amendments to the 2021-2024 STIP. Most were modifications. Since the 2022-2025 STIP is not yet approved, all changes to 2022 projects must be done under the 2021-2024 STIP.

## **Operating Procedures update (Sam Parker/handouts)**

Sam Parker provided a handout and described changes to the operating procedures for ATP-7. Sam indicated he updated the document to be compliant with ADA accessibility requirements, so the formatting has changed. Added the terms within the body of the document, changed the terminology from “Subcommittee” to “Committee,” and updated the membership description to include all city engineers for state-aid cities for STP-Small Urban. The STP-Rural committee membership language has been changed to include all county engineers within the ATP boundaries.

Lisa Bigham stated that the revisions to representation in committees were discussed in December 2020. The county and city engineers met and discussed the committees being more inclusive. The funding has increased significantly (from \$500K to \$2 million) so more is at stake.

Jeff Johnson does not support the change. Troy Nemmers indicated that he supported the change. Lisa Bigham indicated that she initiated the idea of a more inclusive committee partly because there is more money involved, but also in the interest of being more inclusive.

Jeff Johnson expressed concerns about consultants who represent multiple cities. Greg Ous suggested that Jack Kolars and he meet with the city engineers to discuss further and come back to the ATP with a recommendation.

Nick Klisch asked for a clarification of the STP-Rural committee composition. Sam Parker clarified that there was a clarification in the Operating Procedures language.

No changes to the Operating Procedures were made.

### **Legislative Update (Greg Ous)**

The House passed a transportation funding bill, but it was not bipartisan.

State Legislature – focus on the biennial budget. Not much conversation about passing a bonding bill. Not much action – just a lot of discussions.

### **2022-2025 Draft ATIP (Ronda Allis/handouts)**

Ronda provided a handout and reviewed MnDOT updates. Did not get any bids for the New Ulm Historic Spring parking improvement, so it will move to 2022. Added bridges to Hwy 15 project where 15/60 come together. District replaced \$4.3 million in state funds with bond funds that were received. We increased our Preventative Maintenance funding from \$4.1 to \$8.6 million. This will catch us up so we can have a \$4 million set-aside each year. The Hwy 22/Hwy 169 intersection improvement project cost increased, and Hwy 4 Advance Construction (AC) payback increased to absorb the increase in the 22/169 intersection project. Hwy 169 urban reconstruction in St. Peter moved from 2023 to 2024 (from S. Jct. 99 to Union Street). Cost increased due to inflation. Increased funds for snow fencing for 2025 projects districtwide.

Jack Kolars asked what will be installed for snow fencing. Ronda indicated specifics about the type of snow-fence would be determined in the future. The set-aside was increased and added for certainty about future project funding, which would occur every other year.

Deb Yates provided a handout and reviewed local project updates. The draft will be sent out to locals for review. Changes include more specific descriptions on some projects, adding transit projects, and some cost changes. Two transit projects are new, which include a 5-year Transit Plan and added costs for System Technology Upgrades. Kern Bridge project description was updated to include historical work and construction engineering.

### **2026-2031 Draft CHIP (Ronda Allis/handouts)**

Ronda explained the planning process for the draft CHIP. The draft CHIP is due to Central Office in the early part of May. She shared that there were many influencers that caused project shifts, including a \$13 million decrease in funding for 2025. Some of the 2025 projects could not be brought into the STIP, so they have been pushed back into the CHIP. This caused a domino effect with other projects. D7 will be sharing the CHIP with each county at County Commission meetings. Input, feedback on areas not in the CHIP and questions during this process are welcome.

Ronda provided a map and reviewed the draft CHIP with the ATP.

## 2026

AC paybacks for three different projects will use \$25 million in 2026 funds.

Projects include two on I-90. For I-90 from Blue Earth to Hwy 22 the pavement scoped is currently bituminous but might go to concrete; if so this will result in a significant cost increase. There is also an urban project on Hwy 22 with an “orphan” piece on 109 in/near Wells.

## 2027

There will be AC paybacks for projects on I-90.

Projects include: Hwy 86 - urban reconstruct in Lakefield; Hwy 59 - urban reconstruct in Worthington (\$7 million to be paid back in 2028); Hwy 60 (WB) in Butterfield, which is a FLEX project; Hwy 169 from Riverfront Drive to Lake Street. This project is undergoing a corridor study in partnership with MAPO. Study goes further to the south now (down to the 169/60 split) and is a \$37M project (\$14M payback in 2028). Also, a project on Hwy 21 from Hwy 99 to Hwy 13. Most of the miles on this project are in D6, so they get the funding for it, but the highway is in our construction boundary. Le Sueur and Rice counties are interested in a turnback on this highway.

## 2028

Two AC paybacks.

Projects include Hwy 60 – Mountain Lake EB/WB lanes, which was converted from a smaller project (shoulders/dip correction) to now including mainline and shoulder paving and had a cost increase. RCUT not in it as of now; but scoping has not been done yet. Nick Klisch offered his input for scoping. Hwy 13 – Waterville to Montgomery. Hwy 19 – two segments: Winthrop to Gaylord and Gaylord to 169. These projects might be combined. Fixes not fully determined yet. Hwy 22 urban section in St. Peter – from 169 to CSAH 20. City would like to do a small corridor study and has expressed interest in roundabouts. This project was taken out of the larger 2025 project to Hwy 111 to give the city and MnDOT time for a corridor study. Hwy 75 – Luverne to Trosky. Could be a FY 2025 if money becomes available.

## 2029

AC payback for Waterville to Montgomery on 13.

Projects on Hwy 60, 90, 4, 19 (east of 169) and on 22. Hwy 68 from 15 to 60/169, which will serve as a detour route for the Hwy 14 four-lane project and may need to be done earlier following that project depending on the road condition. Hwy 99 – Le Center to Hwy 13 - the city asked to push it back from 2027 to 2029 to await funds becoming available in 2029. Hwy 257 – this is a turnback candidate, however, Brown County currently is not interested.

## 2030

Projects on TH60 east of Lake Crystal, Hwy 60, Hwy 90, Hwy 22 from Bassett to TH83 – south limits might change; Hwy 30 from 15 to Amboy with bridge work – fairly expensive roadwork due to materials; Hwy 75 from Iowa to south limit of Luverne; Hwy 270 from Hills to 75 – Lisa Bigham will talk with Rock Co about potential turnback.

## 2031

Two AC paybacks. Projects on I-90; Hwy 60 urban reconstruction in Windom with bridge work (\$16M); Hwy 13 – Waseca to Waterville; Hwy 15, Hwy 22, Hwy 264 – possible turnback but this involves both Jackson and Nobles Co.

## Transportation Updates

- Regional and Statewide Planning update (Ronda Allis)
- Ronda Allis provided a handout with links to all the studies currently happening and provided a summary of the status of each study.
  - US 169 Corridor Study – MAPO – Virtual Open House on June 23 via Zoom.
  - TH60 Corridor Study – Windom – public engagement with alternatives.
  - District 7 Freight Plan – being done at all districts. Builds off the Manufacturer’s Perspectives study we did a few years ago.
  - District 7 Equity Study – being done at all districts. Meeting with underserved populations and representative organizations in our district to explore transportation infrastructure needs and how well the system meets those needs. The process also looks at how we engage under-represented populations.
  - SMTP – policy side of the plan. Sets the policies for our processes and plans.
  - MnSHIP – investment side of the plan. Directs the investment categories and percentages.
- Transportation Economic Development (TED) solicitation (Sam Parker)
  - Sam Parker shared that the TED solicitation is open and has \$20 million available (twice as much as previous solicitation). Expression of Interest (EOI) form due June 25, which is online and activates conversation with District about the proposed project. Project must be delivered between 2022-2024. Regardless of readiness, Sam encouraged that applicants submit the EOI and meet with District staff for discussion. There is also \$2.9M available from DEED for TEDI grants. Sam showed the EOI website for reference.
- Local Partnership Program (LPP)
  - Lisa Bigham presented the LPP solicitation. LPP is trunk highway money that is to be spent on trunk highway needs, but the projects are led by locals. Letter of Intent (LOI) due by June 30, 2021. \$700K available. Can fund intersections, turn lanes, trails, etc. that locals want to address where MnDOT cannot.

- Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP)
  - Lisa Bigham presented the LRIP to the ATP. There were 400 applications that were submitted. Selected projects were just announced. D7 had 8 different projects: awards given to 3 counties, 2 state aid cities, 2 townships, 1 small city.
- Safe Routes to School (SRTS)
  - Sam Parker shared that the SRTS solicitation will echo the Transportation Alternatives solicitation. The LOI is available in October. Project minimum decreased to \$50K and maximum increased to \$500K. The process will be different this year and workshops are planned for August and September.
- Transit
  - Patrick LaCourse shared they are ordering one bus and working on their budget for 2022, which is due June 30. They are also working on a city route thru City of New Ulm and hopes to start the route a year from now.
- MAPO
  - Paul Vogel – proposed change of MSA from 50K to 100K – the new OMB Director shelved the proposal. Our congressional delegation pushed back on the proposed change. It has been shelved but not entirely off the table.
  - Paul Vogel – we’ve done well promoting expansion of the highway network; however, a lack of truck parking on the system has created problems within some communities. Hoping there will be more attention to creating more truck parking/rest stops going forward.
  - Charles Androsky – draft 2022-2025 TIP will be released and will be on the website next week. Public participation plan will be out until Aug. 2. Comments can be provided. 169 Corridor Study Open House coming up. Partnering with Blue Earth County and Minnesota State University on an Intersection Control Study on Stoltzman. Corridor study with Nicollet Co. on Lookout Dr/CSAH 13 to identify multi-modal improvements from Marie Ln to Someset Rd. Corridor study in Mankato on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street; Blue Earth Co. and Mankato partnering on a CSAH 5/3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. corridor study to begin next year. Three studies for pedestrian oriented/multimodal corridors in different locations, including in Blue Earth Co., at Minnesota State University and in South Bend Township.
- Regional Development Commissions
  - SWRDC: Rosemary Bruce-White shared they are wrapping up their SRTS plan for Jackson Co. school districts. Wrapping up Lakefield technical assistance with a plan to connect the south end of Lakefield to schools. Adrian SRTS Plan starts soon. Annual TAC meeting on July 21 – in person and online options.
  - RNDC: Leah Petricka indicated she is now with RNDC. They are working on the 5-Year CEDs plan – engaging stakeholders; a survey is available. Working on CARES funding and what projects can integrate transportation. Economic resiliency planning.

## **Adjournment**

- Jack Kolars asked Greg Ous for closing comments.
- Greg Ous shared that a roundtable on transportation funding called, “Transition to Distance Based Fees: Where do we go from here?” is coming up. Major car makers say that cars will be electric by 2030-2035, so there is a likely need to transition to another fee structure. Posted link in the meeting chat: <https://z.umn.edu/DBFroundtable>.
- Greg Ous thanked Stephen Schnieder for his service and well-wishes on his upcoming retirement. Stephen indicated that he might work with Worthington on a part-time basis after a month or so of his retirement as their city engineer.
- Jack Kolars asked if the ATP members need to reaffirm their membership. Sam Parker indicated it is up to each participant on whether they want to continue to participate.
- Jack Kolars adjourned the meeting.

## **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Sept. 10, 2021.