

NOTICE OF MEETING

Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Executive Committee

—
11:30 a.m., Wednesday, October 12, 2016
Des Moines Area MPO Mead Conference Room
—

TENTATIVE AGENDA

1. **Call To Order**
2. **VOTE: Approval of Agenda**
3. **VOTE: Approval of Meeting Minutes**..... Page 2
 - Approve the September 7, 2016, meeting minutes.
4. **REPORT and VOTE: *Mobilizing Tomorrow* Amendments** Page 5
 - Report discussion on the amendments to *Mobilizing Tomorrow* including the Veterans Parkway project and the downtown Des Moines bridge projects; consider approval.
5. **REPORT and OPTIONAL VOTE: Strategic Plan Request for Qualifications**..... Page 6
 - Report regarding a Request for Qualifications to seek a consultant to facilitate the recommended MPO Strategic Plan; consider approval.
6. **REPORT and OPTIONAL VOTE: *Federal Fiscal Year 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment Request*** Page 7
 - Report regarding the City of Johnston’s request to amend the *Federal Fiscal Year 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program*; consider approval.
7. **REPORT: Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program Schedule** Page 8
 - Report on the Federal Fiscal Year 2021 Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program Schedule.
8. **REPORT: Greater Des Moines Water Trails and Greenways Plan** Page 10
 - Report and discussion regarding the draft Greater Des Moines Water Trails and Greenways Plan.
9. **REPORT: *Mobilizing Tomorrow* Annual Report**..... Page 11
 - Discuss the *Mobilizing Tomorrow Annual Report*, which documents progress made towards implementation of the plan since its approval in November 2014.
10. **REPORT: Upcoming Events** Page 12
11. **VOTE: Approval of the MPO Agenda**
12. **Other Non-Action Items of Interest to the Committee**
13. **Next Meeting Date –November 9, 2016, at 11:30 a.m.**
14. **Adjournment**

The established protocol for minutes of this meeting will be to list all attendees, and with each item on which a vote is conducted in the ordinary course in order to take formal action, those voting nay or abstaining will be identified by name. Any member who is absent from the meeting for any period of time during which a vote of the body is taken, is expected to notify the recording secretary at the conclusion of the meeting so that the absence can be duly noted in the minutes. Roll Call votes will be taken as required by law or upon the request of any member that is approved by the chair, and the vote of each member for or against the proposition, or abstention, will be incorporated in the minutes or recorded on a separate sheet attached to the minutes.

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October 2016
Item No. 4

ISSUE: *Mobilizing Tomorrow* Amendments

REPORT and VOTE: Consider approval of the amendments to *Mobilizing Tomorrow* including the Veterans Parkway project and the downtown Des Moines Bridge project.

BACKGROUND:

The MPO staff is proposing the following amendments to *Mobilizing Tomorrow*:

Veterans Parkway

The City of West Des Moines announced that Microsoft has committed to building a third data center in West Des Moines. This announcement has accelerated the development of Veterans Parkway that when completed, in conjunction with the development of Grand Prairie Parkway, will connect I-80 to Iowa Highway 5. West Des Moines is estimating that it will spend around \$75 million on infrastructure including the development of the roadway and utility expansion. West Des Moines expects the corridor to be open to traffic by 2019. Currently, the plan lists Veterans Parkway project as an illustrative project. The amendment will move the project into the fiscally constrained project list for the 2015-2024 timeframe.

Downtown Des Moines Bridges

In July, the City of Des Moines announced that it would receive an \$8 million TIGER grant for their *Bridges to Opportunity: Des Moines' Community Connection* project, to reconstruct and replace several bridges in downtown Des Moines. The bridges include Locust Street, Court Avenue, Scott Street, and SW 1st Street. The Locust Street Bridge is currently in *Mobilizing Tomorrow*. The proposed amendment includes adding the other three bridges into the fiscally constrained list of projects for the 2015-2024 timeframe.

The MPO hosted a public meeting on October 11, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. to receive input and comments on the amendments.

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend approval of the amendments to add the Veterans Parkway project and the downtown Des Moines bridge project to *Mobilizing Tomorrow*.

STAFF CONTACT:

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October 2016
Item No. 5

ISSUE: Strategic Plan Request for Qualifications

REPORT and OPTIONAL VOTE: Consider approval of a Request for Qualifications to seek consulting services to facilitate the MPO Strategic Plan.

BACKGROUND:

At its May 2016 meeting, the MPO voted to undertake the development of a strategic plan for the organization. MPO staff has developed a draft Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to solicit consulting services to help facilitate the strategic plan's development.

[A copy of the draft RFQ is available on the MPO website \(click to access\).](#)

As noted in the RFQ, responses to the RFQ are due to the MPO by November 18, 2016. As many as five finalists will be asked in for an interview. Then, one will be asked for a proposal. It is anticipated a firm would be selected by early 2017.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the Request for Qualifications.

STAFF CONTACT:

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October 2016
Item No. 6

ISSUE: *Federal Fiscal Year 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment Request*

REPORT and OPTIONAL VOTE: Consider approval of the City of Johnston's request to amend the *Federal Fiscal Year 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program*.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Johnston has requested the following revisions to the *Federal Fiscal Year 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program* (FFY 2017-2020 TIP):

Sponsor: City of Johnston

Project: Northwest Beaver Drive Trail: NW Beaver Drive from Eagle Crest Drive in the north to 66th Avenue in the southeast

Federal Aid Amount: \$300,000

Total Cost: \$2,940,000

Type of Funding: TAP

Change: Change project description to "In the city of Johnston, Northwest Beaver Drive Trail: NW 63rd Ct to Hyperion Field Club". Johnston requested this change because when the project transferred over from FFY 2016 to FFY 2017 in the TPMS system, an older project description carried over. This request will correct that mistake.

[A map showing the location of the projects is available on the MPO website \(click to access\).](#)

The MPO staff notes that amendments to the TIP are subject to the approval of the MPO and a public comment period. The public will have a chance to comment at the October 20, 2016, Policy Committee meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend approval of the requested revisions to the FFY 2017-2020 TIP.

STAFF CONTACT:

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October 2016
Item No. 7

ISSUE: Federal Fiscal Year 2021 Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program Schedule

REPORT: Report on the Federal Fiscal Year 2021 Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program Schedule.

BACKGROUND:

The 2017 Federal Fiscal Year marks the first year the MPO will award transportation funding under the Fixing Americas Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. The MPO will award Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program funds, formally known as the Surface Transportation Program (STP), to critical projects throughout the region. The MPO will begin the process for selecting and awarding Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2021 STBG funds in October 2016.

MPO staff will post applications on the MPO website on October 3, 2016. Completed applications are due to the MPO office by **December 1, 2016**.

[Applications, guidelines, and scoring criteria are located on the MPO website \(click to access\).](#)

The MPO staff will hold a workshop on **November 3, 2016**, following the Transportation Technical Committee meeting, to provide a brief overview of the funding programs, discuss scoring, funding applications, and to answer any questions.

Included, immediately following, is the schedule for FFY 2021 STBGP funding.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Report and discussion only.

STAFF CONTACT:

Zach Young, zyoung@dmampo.org
(515) 334-0075.

Schedule and Decision Making Process

October 3, 2016	Applications posted to the MPO website.
<u>November 3, 2016</u>	MPO Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program Workshop held to provide a brief overview of the funding programs, discuss Scoring, applications, and to answer any questions.
<u>December 1, 2016</u>	STBG applications due by 4:30.
January 2017	STBG project evaluation and scoring by MPO staff. Staff will present projects and their respective scores at the February TTC, Environment, Freight, TMAC, Bike/Ped, TAG Public Transportation and Stakeholders Roundtable meetings. MPO will also conduct public outreach including a public meeting and on-line feedback mechanisms to gather input on the project applications.
Early February 2017	MPO Funding Subcommittee hears short project presentations given by sponsor communities.
Late February 2017	MPO Funding Subcommittee holds a public meeting to finalize the STBG funding recommendations before the February Executive and MPO meetings.
April 2017	STBG Recommendations to MPO TTC and MPO Policy for discussion.
May 2017	STBG Recommendations to MPO TTC and MPO Policy for action.
May 2017	Draft <i>Federal Fiscal Years 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program</i> (FFY 2018-2021 TIP) to MPO TTC and MPO Policy for review and comment. Public comment period and public meeting held.
June 2017	Draft FFY 2018-2021 TIP to MPO TTC and MPO Policy for action.
June 2017	Draft FFY 2018-2021 TIP transmitted to Iowa DOT and Federal Highway Administration.
July 2017	Draft FFY 2018-2021 TIP to MPO TTC and MPO Policy for action.
July 2017	Final FFY 2018-2021 TIP transmitted to Iowa DOT.

** All dates are tentative and subject to change.*

October 2016
Item No. 8

ISSUE: Greater Des Moines Water Trails and Greenways Plan

REPORT: Report and discussion regarding the draft Greater Des Moines Water Trails and Greenways Plan.

BACKGROUND:

The Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization is developing the Greater Des Moines Water Trails & Greenways Plan on behalf of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. When completed later this year, the plan will become the first regional roadmap for developing an abundant network of water recreation for 150 miles of the region's creeks and rivers, including places for tubing, birding, hiking, paddling, boating, fishing and more. The plan covers the Des Moines, Raccoon, South Skunk, North and Middle rivers, as well as Beaver, Fourmile, Mud and Walnut creeks.

- Recommendations in the plan include:
- Improved access for anglers, paddlers, tubers, birders and families
- Branding a network of regional parks along the Raccoon and Des Moines Rivers
- Greenway development through protection of the 100 year floodplain
- Additional soft trails and paved trail connections
- Expanded programming and events along and in the river and creeks
- Activating the Des Moines River in downtown Des Moines through dam mitigation, shoreline improvements and other amenities
- Shoreline restoration, quarry restoration and watershed improvements
- Regional coordination across government entities and user groups
- Economic development nodes
- Historic preservation and interpretation
- Expansion of multi-modal options for river engagement

Staff published the draft plan in June and spent the summer gathering feedback. The feedback included several public open houses, events and paddling outings in June and July. Staff and Water Trails & Greenways Steering Committee Chair Rick Tollakson spent July, August and September presenting to area park and recreation boards, city councils, county supervisors, conservation boards and other aligned organizations such as the Botanical Garden Board and Water Works Parks Foundation Board. Staff has integrated the feedback and updated the plan. The Water Trails & Greenways Steering Committee met on 9/13 and approved the plan given some additional elements still need incorporating into the plan. This includes a revamp of the goals/strategies/policies booklet. Nothing will be deleted; rather sections will be added including discussion of economic impact, plan development and public engagement, summary of recreational uses, implementation steps and funding strategies.

[The draft booklets for each river segment are available on the MPO website \(click to access\).](#)

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Report and Discussion only.

STAFF CONTACT:

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October 2016
Item No. 9

ISSUE: *Mobilizing Tomorrow Annual Report*

REPORT: Discuss the *Mobilizing Tomorrow Annual Report*, which documents progress made towards implementation of the plan since its approval in November 2014.

BACKGROUND:

The MPO approved *Mobilizing Tomorrow*, the MPO's long-range transportation plan, in November 2014. *Mobilizing Tomorrow* identified performance targets, projects, policies, and an investment strategy to help the region achieve the plan's vision and goals. Two years since the plan's approval, MPO staff has developed a report to document progress towards implementing projects and policies, as well as changes in performance measures to determine progress towards identified targets using data available through 2015.

[The draft *Mobilizing Tomorrow Annual Report* is available on the MPO website \(click to access\).](#)

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Report and discussion only.

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October 2016
Item No. 10

ISSUE: Upcoming Events

REPORT: Report on upcoming events of regional interest.

BACKGROUND:

Staff will highlight upcoming events, trainings and other opportunities of interest to representatives of MPO member governments.

- Thursday, November 10 – **David Fields** of Nelson Nygaard will speak on nodes and corridors as part of The Tomorrow Plan 2016 Speaker Series. Further details to be announced soon.
- Friday, December 16 – **Daniel Parolek** will speak on the “missing middle” of housing as part of The Tomorrow Plan 2016 Speaker Series at the Age-Friendly Greater Des Moines Annual Report to the Community. Event to be held at Des Moines University. Additional details to be announced soon.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Report and discussion only.

STAFF CONTACT:

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