

## NOTICE OF MEETING

Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)  
 Transportation Technical Committee (TTC)  
 Planning Subcommittee  
 10:00 a.m., Monday, April 17, 2017  
 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 March 20, 2017, meeting minutes.
4. **REPORT: Funding Swap** ..... Page 5
  - Discussion regarding legislation that allows local communities to swap federal transportation funds for state funds and concerns expressed by the MPO Environment Roundtable.
5. **REPORT: Draft Bridge Condition Report**..... Page 6
  - Discussion regarding the draft report on bridge conditions in the MPO planning area.
6. **REPORT: Planning Subcommittee Reorganization**..... Page 7
  - Discussion about potentially reorganizing the Planning Subcommittee to address needs identified through the Local Government Collaborative.
7. **REPORT: Smart Cities** ..... Page 8
  - Discussion regarding how the region can begin to move forward with Smart City initiatives.
8. **Other Non-Action Items of Interest to the Committee**
9. **Next Meeting Date**
  - 10:00 a.m., Monday, May 15, 2017, Des Moines Area MPO Office.
10. **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.*

*The MPO receives federal funding and may not discriminate against anyone on the basis of race, color, or national origin, according to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. For more information or to obtain a Title VI Complaint form, visit [www.dmampo.org/title-vi/](http://www.dmampo.org/title-vi/) or call 515-334-0075.*

April 2017  
Item No. 3

**ISSUE: Approval of Meeting Minutes**

VOTE: Consider approval of the March 20, 2017, Planning Subcommittee meeting minutes.

**BACKGROUND:**

The minutes of the March 20, 2017, Planning Subcommittee meeting are included on the following pages.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve the minutes of the March 20, 2017, Planning Subcommittee meeting.

**STAFF CONTACT:**

Zach Young, [zyoung@dmampo.org](mailto:zyoung@dmampo.org)  
(515) 334-0075

## MEETING MINUTES

**Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)  
Transportation Technical Committee Planning Subcommittee  
10:00 a.m., Monday, March 20, 2017  
Des Moines Area MPO Meeting Mead Conference Room  
Des Moines, Iowa**

### **Members Present:**

Bert Drost, City of Des Moines (attended in place of Mike Ludwig)  
David Wilwerding, City of Johnston  
Ben Champ, City of Pleasant Hill  
Brad Deets, City of Waukee  
Kara Tragesser, City of West Des Moines

### **Members Absent:**

Mike Ludwig, City of Des Moines  
Bret VandeLune, Polk County

### **Others Present:**

### **Staff Present:**

Dylan Mullenix, Assistant Director  
Zach Young, Principal Planner  
Teva Dawson, Senior Planner  
Marcus Coenen, Associate Planner

#### **1. Call to Order**

Ben Champ called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

#### **2. Approval of Agenda**

Subcommittee members voted to approve the meeting agenda.

#### **3. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Subcommittee members voted to approve the February 13, 2017, meeting minutes.

#### **4. WMA Policy Initiatives for 2017**

Staff provided an update on the Watershed Management Authorities efforts to develop policy initiatives for the remainder of 2017.

Discussion ensued regarding the ordinances. There was general consensus that policy should focus on sizing requirements and avoid issues like the top soil requirement at this time.

**5. Speed Camera Data**

Staff informed the committee that they are interested in speed camera data to supplement other traffic related data sources and ask where to obtain this data. The committee noted that the police departments keep this speed camera data. Staff noted that they would follow-up with Transportation Management Advisory Committee (TMAC).

**6. MPO Exchange**

Staff provided an overview of possible field trips to visit other cities that are doing innovated projects. The general consensus of the committee was favorable to the idea. Discussion ensued regarding what policies and projects to focus on with the exchange.

**7. Draft Trail Counter Report**

Staff provided an overview of the draft trail counter report.

**8. Other Non-Action Items of Interest**

None.

**9. Next Meeting Date**

April 17, 2017, at 10:00 a.m.

**10. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

April 2017  
Item No. 4

**ISSUE: Federal Aid Funding Swap**

REPORT: Discussion regarding legislation that allows local communities to swap federal transportation funds for state funds and concerns expressed by the MPO Environment Roundtable.

**BACKGROUND:**

A bill allowing for the swap of federal funds for state funds was approved by the Iowa Legislature and signed by the Governor. This bill would allow for the Iowa Transportation Commission, following consultation with several stakeholders including MPOs, to swap federal funds received by local communities for primary highway funds received by the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT). The intent is to alleviate the additional burden that federal funding requires from local communities and place those requirements on the Iowa DOT, to which those requirements are more familiar. However, some opponents of the bill argued that the bill will result in lower wages for construction workers, the use of foreign-made materials, and diminished environmental protection.

The MPO's Environment Roundtable has expressed their concerns with the potential environmental-related impacts of this bill and voted to send a resolution to the MPO urging that the MPO and its members continue to be in compliance of federal environmental standards. Their resolution is included on the following page. The MPO's Executive Committee discussed the request at its April meeting and noted the need to better understand what city, county, and state environmental regulations exist that also would apply and whether those would adequately address environmental concerns. MPO staff notes that if funds would be swapped, the burden for enforcing any remaining federal regulations, as well as other state or local regulations, likely would shift from the Iowa DOT to the local project sponsors.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

None. Report and discussion only.

**STAFF CONTACT:**

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April 2017  
Item No. 5

**ISSUE: Draft Bridge Condition Report**

REPORT: Discussion regarding the draft report on bridge conditions in the MPO planning area.

**BACKGROUND:**

MPO staff has developed a report outlining the condition of bridges in the MPO planning area. The report is a follow up to regional performance measures set forth in *Mobilizing Tomorrow*. Staff used 2016 data from the Iowa DOT to identify locations of deficient bridges in the region, as well as the amount of deck area considered to be in both good and poor condition. The report also outlines bridge quality for each member government. The report ends with an Environmental Justice (EJ) review comparing bridge conditions in EJ areas versus non-EJ areas.

The draft Bridge Condition Report will be provided at the meeting.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

None. Report and discussion only.

**STAFF CONTACT:**

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April 2017  
Item No. 6

**ISSUE: Planning Subcommittee Reorganization**

REPORT: Discussion about potentially reorganizing the Planning Subcommittee to address needs identified through the Local Government Collaborative.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Local Government Collaborative, an initiative stemming from Capital Crossroads, recently worked with the planning community to identify opportunities for increased regional collaboration. The discussions resulted in identifying a number of needs for regional cooperation, including the development of uniform ordinances to address a number of issues. The list of issues identified included the following:

- Tree preservation/mitigation
- Steep slopes
- Bee keeping
- Micro uses
- Food trucks
- Urban chickens
- Animals wild by nature
- AirBnB
- In home daycare
- Restaurant bar/patios
- Encroachments allowed in the ROW
- Small Cell
- Fireworks
- Residential occupancy

The MPO Planning Subcommittee was identified as the vehicle for facilitating ongoing collaboration. The MPO's Planning Subcommittee is current structured to be seven representatives. The Planning Subcommittee likely would need to open membership up to any area planners that would like to attend.

This item is to allow for subcommittee members, most of whom were involved with the Local Government Collaborative, to continue discussing how to reorganize the subcommittee to serve in this new capacity, if desired.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

None. Discussion only.

**STAFF CONTACT:**

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April 2017  
Item No. 7

**ISSUE: Smart Cities**

REPORT: Discussion regarding how the region can begin to move forward with Smart City initiatives.

**BACKGROUND:**

In December 2015, the U.S. Department of Transportation launched its Smart City Challenge. The purpose of the challenge is to encourage mid-sized cities across America to develop ideas for an integrated, first-of-its-kind smart transportation system that would use data, applications, and technology to help people and goods move more quickly, cheaply, and efficiently.

The City of Des Moines was one of seventy-eight applicants to apply for the grant fund. Unfortunately, the application was unsuccessful. The U.S. has published a report that outlines the lessons learned and potential solutions to address the challenges identified by the cities that applied.

[The report \*Smart City Challenge: lessons for Building Cities of the Future\* is available on the U.S. DOT webpage \(click to access\).](#)

Staff requests that the committee discuss how to continue moving the goals of the Smart City Challenge forward in the Des Moines region at the April 17, 2017, meeting.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

None. Discussion only.

**STAFF CONTACT:**

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