

MEETING MINUTES

**Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
Long-Range Transportation Plan Steering Committee
3:30 p.m., Wednesday, October 25, 2017
Des Moines Area MPO Office
Burnham Conference Room
Des Moines, Iowa**

Members Present:

Ruth Randleman, City of Carlisle, Chair
John Edwards, City of Clive
Chris Coleman, City of Des Moines
Frank Cownie, City of Des Moines
Matt Anderson, City of Des Moines
Stephanie Riva, City of Norwalk
Kent Sovern, AARP
Joshua V. Barr, Civil Rights, City of Des Moines
Elizabeth Presutti, DART

Members Absent:

Kyle Mertz, City of Altoona
Gary Lorenz, City of Ankeny
Bob Andeweg, City of Urbandale
Tom Hadden, City of West Des Moines
Angela Connolly, Polk County
Andrew Woodard, GDMP
Rick Kozin, Public Health
Teree Caldwell-Johnson, Public Schools
Gretchen Tegeler, Tax Payers Association
Susan Judkins, WMA Council

Others Present:

Staff Present:

Todd Ashby, Director
Dylan Mullenix, Assistant Director
Zach Young, Principal Planner
Mike Armstrong, Senior Planner
Victoria Halloran, Planning Intern

1. Call to Order

Chair Ruth Randleman called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Subcommittee members voted to approve the meeting agenda.

3. Long-Range Transportation Plan Process

Staff provided an overview of the long-range planning process. Staff discussed federal requirements for the long-range plan, the timeline, and project selection.

Frank Cownie noted that things are changing quickly. Technology advances like autonomous vehicles are going to have an impact on how people move around. He questioned what kind of design changes are going to have to occur to support these new technologies.

Kent Sovern agreed with Mr. Cownie stating that he doesn't believe that using transportation investment as an economic driver will persist into the future.

Mr. Cownie noted that many investment decisions are being made to expand roadways in areas where it's not needed while infrastructure in the metro is in decline. Staff noted that the plan can help address many of these issues and the Federal Highway Administration would like to see the MPO have more control over state funding spent in the metro.

Discussion ensued regarding technology changes and how a Smart City approach can help address these challenges.

4. Draft State of the Transportation System Story Map

Staff provided an overview of the State of the Transportation System story map. The story map format would present the existing condition data in an online format similar to what was used as part of the water trails planning process. The consensus was that staff should move forward with this approach.

5. Draft Public Engagement Plan

Staff presented a draft of the public engagement plan for the update. The public engagement plan calls for five phases. Phase 1 will include interviews with cross-sector focus groups taking place in early 2018. This phase will focus on broad themes and issues.

Phase 2 will focus on goals, measures, and targets. Phase 3 will focus on projects, policies, and strategies. Phase 4 will focus on recapping and making course corrections as necessary and the final phase will be a rollout of the draft plan for public review and comment.

Matt Anderson noted the engagement should reach out to groups that are traditionally left out of the process. Mr. Sovern added that it should have an age-friendly focus.

Chris Coleman noted that the outreach should reach a level where people are speaking for themselves and it needs to be presented in terms that the public can easily understand. Joshua Barr agreed with Mr. Coleman that the language staff chooses to use is very important.

Elizabeth Presutti noted that the MPO should engage high school students in the process and see what they want for the future of transportation. She added that DART would be willing to assist with reaching out to the schools.

6. Goals and Draft Performance Measures

Staff provided an overview of the draft performance measures. Staff noted that some changes have been made from the past plan due to updated guidance from the Federal Highway Administration.

Mr. Anderson cautioned that we shouldn't get caught flat-footed and need to craft a plan on a set of technical assumptions that are maneuverable for the region to address the issues it faces in the future.

Ms. Presutti noted the need to coordinate technical measures between the MPO and DART.

Discussion ensued regarding the performance measures.

Mr. Cownie noted that things are going to change, and the region must imagine the future as best as we can and embody it in this plan update.

7. Fiscal Analysis Methodology

Tabled till the next meeting due to time constraints.

8. Other Non-Action Items of Interest

Mr. Coleman noted the absence of many of the committee members and hope that more would attend future meetings. Mr. Coleman suggested that perhaps notices should be sent to communities whose representatives miss more than two meetings.

9. Next Meeting Date

February 28, 2018, at 3:30 p.m.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.