

MEETING MINUTES

**Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
Long-Range Transportation Plan Steering Committee
3:30 p.m., Wednesday, February 28, 2018
Des Moines Area MPO Office
Burnham Conference Room
Des Moines, Iowa**

Members Present:

Ruth Randleman, City of Carlisle, Chair
John Edwards, City of Clive
Frank Cownie, City of Des Moines
Matt Anderson, City of Des Moines
Stephanie Riva, City of Norwalk
Sara Kurovski, City of Pleasant Hill
Bob Andeweg, City of Urbandale
Tom Hadden, City of West Des Moines
Kent Sovern, AARP
Elizabeth Presutti, DART
Andrew Woodard, GDMP
Rick Kozin, Public Health
Teree Caldwell-Johnson, Public Schools
Gretchen Tegeler, Tax Payers Association
Susan Judkins, WMA Council

Members Absent:

Kyle Mertz, City of Altoona
Gary Lorenz, City of Ankeny
Chris Coleman, City of Des Moines
Angela Connolly, Polk County
Joshua V. Barr, Civil Rights, City of Des Moines

Others Present:

Staff Present:

Todd Ashby, Director
Dylan Mullenix, Assistant Director
Zach Young, Principal Planner
Andrew Collings, Senior 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. Fiscal Analysis Methodology

Staff provided an overview of the historic funding numbers for federal, state, and local funding sources. Staff noted that the annual growth rates were reviewed by the Finance Subcommittee and they recommend more conservative numbers compared to the historic averages.

The committee recommended approval of the fiscal analysis methodology and forwarding the recommendation on to the Technical, Executive, and Policy committees.

4. Summary of Phase 1 Public Engagement

Staff provided an overview of the key takeaways from the phase 1 public engagement focus groups.

Gretchen Tegeler asked if the safety comments were regarding a specific mode. Staff noted that it was brought up by many people and over the course of the focus groups safety was discussed in relation to all modes of transportation. However, biking and safety was the most common one discussed.

Teree Caldwell-Johnson asked if there were any gaps in who was reached in the phase 1 public engagement focus groups and if so what is the plan to address these gaps. Staff noted that they have identified gaps in representation. Staff was happy with the original list of participants, however, not all these organizations ended up participating. Staff went on to say that follow-up calls will be made to some individuals that missed the original focus groups.

Elizabeth Presutti asked if the results were outlined in a technical memo. Staff noted that they are in the process of developing a technical memo that will be available once they finish the follow-up interviews. Ms. Presutti asked if that information could be made available to DART to help in their upcoming planning efforts. Staff indicated that it would be made available for such a purpose.

Chair Randleman provided some history regarding the last LRTP update.

Discussion ensued regarding the phase 1 public engagement.

5. Trends in Transportation

Staff provided an overview of the trends in transportation discussion document. Staff provided some background on the Smart Cities topic and then opened the floor to discussion.

Ms. Presutti noted that she was at a conference recently where representatives from the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration were speaking and based on what they were saying she thinks the plan needs to focus more on technology aspects of transportation. Ms. Presutti went on to say that this is a key focus of the U.S. DOT when it comes to investing in the transportation system.

Chair Randleman ask who in the region is taking the lead on this issue. Staff noted that it is not clear who is taking the lead, however, the Iowa DOT has been focusing on this issue to some extent and the MPO is in the process of developing a Smart City Roundtable.

Discussion ensued regarding how to push smart city elements in the region and the impact of technology advancements on the region.

The consensus of the group is that transportation technology advancements need to be strongly considered in the LRTP update.

Next, staff provided an overview of the land-use/transportation discussion topic. Staff noted that perhaps this is one of the more controversial topics included in the discussion guide since land-use decision are traditionally made at the local level. However, staff noted the reason for including this topic is due to the level of impact that land-use decisions have on the transportation system. Staff then opened the floor to discussion.

Tom Hadden noted that in 1987 he went to the Congress for New Urbanism conference in Washington D.C. where they talked about these topics. He noted that he came back and gave this presentation and the developers said it couldn't be done because of the market. Mr. Hadden noted that he agreed with everything that was presented by staff but didn't know how to get over the market barriers.

Kent Sovern agreed with Mr. Hadden, that monumentally moving the needle on how communities approach land-use decisions is probably not realistic. However, he went on to say that they can incrementally move the 50+ population into more compact living arrangements. Staff noted that they didn't think it was realistic to expect communities to completely change their land-use decision overnight, however, the question remains is this an important enough issue that it should be addressed in the LRTP update.

Chair Randleman noted that for small communities especially it is hard to turn developers away.

Discussion ensued regarding how to impact land-use decisions in the region.

The consensus of the committee is that land-use has an impact on the transportation system and the issue should be addressed in the plan update.

Staff suggested that the last two items on the discussion document should be tabled until the next meeting.

6. Other Non-Action Items of Interest

None.

7. Next Meeting Date

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

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m.