NOTICE OF MEETING
Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
Executive Committee
–
11:30 a.m., Wednesday, September 9, 2020
Virtual Meeting
OR Dial 1-312-626-6799, Meeting ID: 852 3218 9316
–
TENTATIVE AGENDA

1. Call To Order
2. ROLL CALL
3. VOTE: Approval of Agenda
4. VOTE: Approval of Meeting Minutes ................................................................. Page 2
   • Approve the August 12, 2020, meeting minutes.
5. CONSENT and VOTE: Contracts and Expenses .................................................... Page 5
6. REPORT and VOTE: Economic Development District .............................................. Page 6
   • Report regarding a regional funding opportunity through the creation of Economic Development District; consider approval.
7. REPORT and VOTE: FY 2021-2024 TIP Amendment Request ..................................... Page 7
   • Report regarding an amendment to the Federal Fiscal Year 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program to update funding for a DOT project; consider approval.
8. REPORT and VOTE: Iowa Clean Air Attainment Program Pre-Applications ..................... Page 8
   • Report regarding Federal Fiscal Year 2022 Iowa Clean Air Attainment Program applications.
9. REPORT: UPWP Project Development ............................................................... Page 10
   • Report regarding Unified Planning Work Program project development.
10. REPORT: Transload Facility Update ..................................................................... Page 11
    • Update on the development of the Des Moines Transload Facility.
11. REPORT: Purple Heart Highway Update ................................................................ Page 12
12. REPORT: Water Trails Update ............................................................................... Page 13
    • Update on efforts related to the use of the BUILD Grant for water trails.
13. REPORT: Legislative Update .................................................................................. Page 14
    • Standing item to discuss any items related to the Federal and State Legislative issues.
14. REPORT: Upcoming Events .................................................................................... Page 15
15. Other Non-Action Items of Interest to the Committee
16. Next Meeting Date – October 7, 2020, at 11:30 a.m.
17. Adjournment

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/titlevi/ or call 515-334-0075.
ISSUE: Approval of Meeting Minutes

VOTE: Consider approval of the August 12, 2020, MPO Executive Committee meeting minutes.

BACKGROUND:

The minutes of the August 12, 2020, MPO Executive Committee meeting is included on the following pages.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the minutes of the August 12, 2020, MPO Executive Committee meeting.

STAFF CONTACT:

Tracey Deckard, tdeckard@dmampo.org
(515) 334-0075
MEETING MINUTES
Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
11:30 a.m., Wednesday, August 12, 2020

Des Moines Area MPO | Virtual Meeting

The MPO Executive Committee held a virtual meeting at 11:30 a.m. on August 12, 2020. MPO staff emailed agenda packets to the MPO Executive and members on August 7, 2020. In addition to these published tentative minutes, there also may be additional meeting notes on file with the MPO staff that are public records and available upon request as provided by law. These tentative minutes reflect all action taken at the meeting.

Executive Members Present:
Joe Gatto | City of Des Moines
Matt McCoy | Polk County
Steve Gaer | City of West Des Moines
Kyle Mertz | City of Altoona
Gary Lorenz | City of Ankeny
Stephanie Riva | City of Norwalk
Jeff Walters | City of Polk City
Bob Andeweg | City of Urbandale
Andy Loonan | IDOT

Staff Present:
Todd Ashby | Executive Director
Dylan Mullenix | Assistant Director
Zach Young | Planning Manager
Andrew Collings | Principal Planner
Gunnar Olson | Communication Manager
Allison van Pelt | Associate Planner
Sreyoshi Chakraborty | Senior Planner
Zhi Chen | Associate Planner
Tanvi Halde | Intern
Scott Brennan | MPO General Counsel (alt)

Executive Members Absent:
Ted Weaver | City of Clive
Sara Kurovski | City of Pleasant Hill
Chris Coleman | City of Des Moines

Others Present:

1. Call to Order
MPO Chair Joe Gatto called the August 12, 2020, meeting to order at 11:32 a.m. A quorum was present.

2. Roll Call
Sara Kurovski, Ted Weaver and Chris Coleman were absent.

3. Approval of Agenda
MOTION: A motion was made to approve the August 12, 2020, Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Executive Committee meeting agenda.

MOTION CARRIED

4. Contracts and Expenses
Executive Director presented. Recommend approval of payment for the IA 5/65 Corridor study.
MOTION: A motion was made to approve the payment in the amount of $6540.05.

MOTION CARRIED

5. Approval of Meeting Minutes
MOTION: A motion was made to approve the May Executive Committee meeting minutes.

MOTION CARRIED

6. Final FFY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program
Staff presented. Recommend approval of the FFY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program.
MOTION: A motion was made to approve the final FFY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program.

MOTION CARRIED
   Staff presented. Report and discussion only.

8. **Iowa’s Clean Air Attainment Program Applications**  
   Staff presented. Report and discussion only.

9. **Des Moines Area MPO 2019 Travel time Reliability and Freight Reliability Report**  
   Staff presented. Report and discussion only.

10. **Des Moines Transload Facility**  
    Staff presented. Report and discussion only.

11. **Purple Heart Highway Update**  
    Executive Director presented. Report and discussion only.

12. **Water Trails Update**  
    Staff presented. Report and discussion only.

13. **Legislative Update**  
    Staff presented. Report and discussion only.

14. **Upcoming Events**  
    Discussion regarding the meeting with the Iowa Department of Transportation.

15. **Other Non-Action Items**  
    None.

16. **Next Meeting Date**  

17. **Adjournment**  
    Hearing no objection to the contrary, the Chair adjourned the Executive Committee meeting at 12:10 a.m.
ISSUE: Contracts and Expenses

Consent and VOTE: Consider approval of the following expenses in accordance with the MPO’s proposed policies and procedures regarding contracts and expenses.

BACKGROUND:

Below is an expense that exceed the limits set by the MPO’s policy and procedures regarding expenditures.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VENDOR</th>
<th>PURPOSE</th>
<th>NOTES/INFORMATION</th>
<th>AMOUNT REQUESTED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HNTB</td>
<td>IA 5/US 65 Freeway Study</td>
<td>Costs associated with completing the IA5/US 65 Freeway Study</td>
<td>$27,435.86</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend approval of the above expense.

STAFF CONTACT:

Todd Ashby, tashby@dmampo.org
(515) 334-00
ISSUE: Economic Development District

VOTE: Consider authorizing MPO staff to initiate conversations with county officials about possibly designating Central Iowa as an Economic Development District.

BACKGROUND:

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act delivered more than $2 trillion in federal economic relief, much of which flowed through the Economic Development Administration to hundreds of Economic Development Districts throughout the nation. In Iowa, every Economic Development District received $400,000 in no-match funding for uses such as economic recovery efforts, economic recovery planning, staffing, and other uses – except in Central Iowa, the only region in the state without an Economic Development District.

Economic Development Districts (EDDs) can only be created following a major disaster. The COVID-19 pandemic is the first such disaster affecting all of Central Iowa since the 2008 floods that qualifies the region to be designated as an EDD. If an EDD were created, the values would include federal disaster funding, additional resources available to communities, and filling gaps in needed services.

The MPO is uniquely positioned to administer an Economic Development District through a contract. Such a contract would add $140,000 annually to the MPO’s budget. The EDD would effectively pay for itself.

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize MPO staff to initiate conversations with county officials about the possibility of designating Central Iowa as an Economic Development District and, if they provide majority support, initiate the designation process.

STAFF CONTACT:

Todd Ashby, tashby@dmampo.org
(515) 334-0075
ISSUE: FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment Request

REPORT and VOTE: Report regarding an amendment to the Federal Fiscal Year 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (FFY 2021-2024 TIP) to adjust funding for an Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) project from State to Federal; consider approval.

BACKGROUND:

The Iowa DOT has requested an amendment to the FFY 2021-2024 TIP to adjust funding for an I-35 project from State to Federal. The project includes PRF funding of $3,935,000 to mill and resurface a section of I-35 in the Ankeny area.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Approve the Federal Fiscal Years 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program amendment request.

STAFF CONTACT:

Sreyoshi Chakraborty, schakraborty@dmampo.org; (515) 334-0075
ISSUE: Iowa’s Clean Air Attainment Program Applications

REPORT and VOTE: Consider approval of the Federal Fiscal Year 2022 Iowa Clean Air Attainment Program applications.

BACKGROUND:

Pre-applications for Federal Fiscal Year 2022 Iowa Clean Air Attainment Program applications were due on July 28, 2020. Staff provided an overview of the pre-applications at the August meeting.

The ICAAP Schedule moving forward is as follows:

- **August 2020** – Pre-Application presented to the Transportation Technical, Executive, and Policy Committee’s for review.
- **September 2020** – Pre-Applications are presented to Technical, Executive, and Policy Committee’s for approval and ICAAP resolutions are forwarded to project sponsor to include in the final application to the Iowa Department of Transportation.
- **October 1, 2020** – Project sponsors submit their application to the Iowa Department of Transportation (sponsors are required to send an electronic copy of final application to the MPO staff).

A list of the submitted FFY 2022 ICAAP pre-applications is included on the following page.

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend approval of the Federal Fiscal Year 2022 Iowa Clean Air Attainment Program applications.

STAFF CONTACT:

Zach Young, zyoung@dmampo.org; (515) 334-0075.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary Sponsor</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Total Estimated Project Cost</th>
<th>ICAAP Funding Request</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Des Moines</td>
<td>Traffic Signal Timing Updates - Phase 4</td>
<td>This project is the fourth phase of a multi-phase effort to review and update the signal timing and phasing of the traffic signal systems throughout Des Moines.</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norwalk</td>
<td>Norwalk Traffic Signal System Enhancement Project</td>
<td>As identified in a 2018 joint City/Iowa DOT IA 28 Corridor Study, this project will update the existing signals in the City of Norwalk along IA 28 and result in an interconnected system for management and resulting in reduced delay and pollutants. The first step in this project will be a systems engineering study (following guidelines by the Federal Highway Administration) to objectively determine the necessary enhancements to the City traffic signal system. This study will review the potential strategies such as implementing either adaptive traffic signal control, use of automated traffic signal performance measures, or a stepped approach to determine where adaptive control would be best utilized. Following the study, the identified traffic signal system components will be designed and implemented. It is expected this system will include updated controllers and ATC signal cabinets, updated vehicle detection, intersection and system software to monitor performance measures, intersection observation cameras, and fiber optic interconnect.</td>
<td>$870,000</td>
<td>$695,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DART</td>
<td>Route 17 Extension to Bondurant</td>
<td>DART plans to extend the existing Route 17 from the current terminus (Outlets of Des Moines) in Altoona to the new Amazon facility located at 1st Ave N. / NE 62nd Ave in Bondurant. The facility is slated to employ 1,000 people and DART will match transit service with Amazon employee shift times resulting in the addition of four additional daily roundtrips.</td>
<td>$80,000</td>
<td>$50,743</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Altoona</td>
<td>1st Ave. and 9th St. Roundabout and Shared Use Path</td>
<td>Converting the intersection at 1st Ave. N and 9th St. NW to a roundabout and adding a shared use path along 1st Ave. N.</td>
<td>$3,938,710</td>
<td>$1,969,355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ankeny</td>
<td>IA 160 / SW Oralabor Road and IA 415 / SW State Street Intersection Improvements</td>
<td>Concept design includes the construction of dual left turn lanes for the northbound, eastbound, and southbound approaches as well as the addition of right turn lanes for the westbound and southbound approaches. Project also includes the replacement of the existing traffic signal equipment at the intersection and upgrade of pedestrian ramps and crossings.</td>
<td>2,200,000</td>
<td>1,100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grimes</td>
<td>Traffic Signal Network Implementation</td>
<td>Project will install fiber optic cable and conduit along IA Hwy 141 from E First St to Beaverbrooke Blvd, along Beaverbrooke Blvd from IA Hwy 141 to N James St, and along SE 37th St from Gateway Dr to S James St. Project will also implement a signal management software allowing the City to remotely monitor and update traffic signal operations. System will include automated signal performance measures to record traffic volumes and operational performance. Project will also install traffic monitoring cameras at select locations to be able to monitor operations.</td>
<td>$400,000</td>
<td>$320,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ISSUE: UPWP Project Development

REPORT: MPO review of a FY 2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) project at the project outset and request for feedback.

BACKGROUND:

As development of projects outlined in the FY2021 UPWP begins, MPO staff will bring the scope, intent, and expected outcomes of planned projects to MPO committees for feedback.

In Fall 2020 MPO staff will update the Environmental Justice Report, last updated in 2018. Historically, the report has used census tract data for seven degrees of disadvantage to determine environmental justice areas in the MPO planning area and is used during project scoring for transportation funding. They are:

- Non-white population
- Carless households
- Households in poverty
- Single head of household with children
- Households with person(s) over 65
- Limited English proficiency
- Persons with disabilities

MPO staff will discuss with the committee these degrees, as well as the methodology of determining threshold of an environmental justice area to identify any alterations that should be made while developing this report update.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

None. Report and discussion only.

STAFF CONTACT:

Allison van Pelt, avanpelt@dmampo.org
(515) 334-0075
ISSUE: Des Moines Transload Facility

REPORT: Update regarding the Des Moines Transload Facility.

BACKGROUND:

Staff is continuing to work with Des Moines Industrial, LLC, to develop the Des Moines Transload Facility. The following are the main topics that staff is working with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and Des Moines Industrial, LLC, to complete:

- Environmental Assessment public comment period completed on July 27, 2020;
- Des Moines Industrial has received signoff on design from the railroads;
- FONSI has been approved and signed by the FRA;
- DSMI is reviewing draft sub-agreement with Des Moines Industrial for the BUILD grant; and,
- The BUILD grant agreement is being finalized and process in the FRA’s Grant Solutions program

Staff will provide a full update at the September meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Report and discussion only.

STAFF CONTACT:

Zach Young, zyoung@dmampo.org
(515) 334-0075
ISSUE: Purple Heart Highway Update

REPORT: Discussion regarding the updated Iowa Highway 5 / US Highway 65 Freeway Corridor Interstate System Designation Summary Report

BACKGROUND:

Over the last decade the MPO has pursued efforts to designate the US 65/Iowa 5 bypass as an interstate. At the MPO’s request and with funding from communities along the corridor, the Iowa DOT produced in 2012 the Iowa Highway 5/US Highway 65 Freeway Corridor Interstate System Designation Summary Report. This report outlined the potential improvements necessary for the interstate designation, including issues related to roadway design and safety, right-of-way access, and signage. The report also identified the need to address how to handle slow moving and/or overweight agricultural equipment.

Since the report’s publication the MPO and local stakeholders have worked to identify options to address the outstanding issues identified by the Iowa DOT, particularly the slow moving and overweight vehicle issues. The primary concern is that without an alternative to cross the Des Moines River, some farm operators would be unable to access some fields and/or grain elevators if they are unable to use the bypass.

Staff met with representatives of Farm Bureau in early March and had additional discussions with the DOT. The DOT recommended contracting with HNTB (who did the initial study) to update the Iowa Highway 5 / US Highway 65 Freeway Corridor Interstate System Designation Summary Report.

A copy of the Iowa 5/US 65 Re-Designation Update report is available on the MPO website (click to access).

Staff will provide an overview of the report at the September meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

None. Report and discussion only.

STAFF CONTACT:

Todd Ashby, tashby@dmampo.org
(515) 334-0075
ISSUE: Water Trails Update

REPORT: Discussion regarding the execution of the BUILD Grant for Central Iowa Water Trails.

BACKGROUND:
In November, the Des Moines Area MPO was awarded a $25 million grant from the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development, or BUILD, grant program of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

The grant is significantly accelerating the implementation of the Central Iowa Water Trails initiative, specifically a five-mile stretch of the Des Moines River including the mitigation of the Scott Avenue Dam and improvements at three neighborhood access points.

Snyder and Associates has been brought on as the owner’s representative and is providing weekly project updates. Notable progress includes:

- Schematic design is the key focus for the possible dam-modification projects.
- Concepts are being refined for the neighborhood access sites.

Staff will provide updates as part of the discussion.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

None. Report and discussion only.

STAFF CONTACT:

Todd Ashby, tashby@dmampo.org
(515) 334-0075
ISSUE: Legislative Issues Update

REPORT: Standing item to discuss Federal and State legislative issues.

BACKGROUND:
Standing item throughout the Iowa legislative session to allow the committee to discuss any legislative (federal or state) items of interest.

RECOMMENDATIONS:
None. Report and discussion only.

STAFF CONTACT:
Dylan Mullenix, dmullenix@dmampo.org; (515) 334-00
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.

Upcoming Event: AARP Livable Communities Transportation Workshop

- Free online event
- Tuesday, September 15, 1-4 p.m. (ET)
- Wednesday, September 16, 1-4 p.m. (ET)
- More information and registration at AARP.org/Transportation2020

Upcoming Event: James Chung – Rebuilding Toward Deeper Resiliency

- Wednesday, September 23, 2020 (virtual event)
- 7:30-8:30 a.m. – Keynote with Chung
- 8:30-9:00 a.m. – Q & A with Chung
- Visit tomorrowplanspeakerseries.org/james-chung/ for additional information and to register.

21-Day Equity Challenge

- Self-guided learning, starting Oct. 5
- Learn how equity and racism affect our lives and communities
- Register at unitedwaydm.org/equity-challenge

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Report and discussion only.

STAFF CONTACT:

Gunnar Olson, golson@dmampo.org;
(515) 334-0075