



DES MOINES AREA MPO

Executive Committee Meeting

March 8, 2023

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

March 8, 2023, Agenda



1. Call to Order
2. VOTE: Approval of Agenda
3. VOTE: Approval of Meeting Minutes
4. CONSENT and VOTE: Approval of Financial Statement
5. CONSENT and VOTE: Contracts and Expenses
6. PUBLIC COMMENT on MPO Actions
7. REPORT and VOTE: FY 2022 Audit
8. REPORT and VOTE: FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program and Budget Draft
9. REPORT and VOTE: Water Trails BUILD Grant Payment Approval
10. REPORT: Federal Fiscal Year 2022 Excess Funding
11. REPORT: DC List and Community Projects
12. REPORT: Employee Handbook
13. REPORT: Policies and Procedures Manual
14. REPORT: Purple Heart Highway Update
15. REPORT: Water Trails Update
16. REPORT: Legislative Update
17. REPORT: Upcoming Events
18. Other Non-Action Items of Interest to the Committee
19. Next Meeting Date – April 12, 2023 – 11:30 a.m.
20. Adjournment

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

APPROVAL OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT

DES MOINES AREA

MPO

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

EXPENSES


Expenses



PUBLIC COMMENT ON MPO ACTIONS

FY 2022 AUDIT

FY 2022 Audit



- XXX

FY 2024 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

FY 2024 UPWP and Budget Development

- MPO's scope of work for next fiscal year
 - Work elements and activities
 - Committees
 - Costs
- Proposed work activities are tied to the MPO's federal requirements
- Draft due April 1st - Final due June 1st

FY 2024 UPWP and Budget Development

- MPO Requirements per US Code
 - Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
 - Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)
 - Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
 - Public Participation Plan (PPP)
- Additional MPO Requirements
 - Congestion Management Process (required of TMAs)
 - Must have decision making bodies (e.g., MPO Policy Committee)
 - Administer STBG funding process

FY 2024 UPWP and Budget Development

- New or Notable projects identified so far:
 - Long-Range Transportation Plan update
 - Travel Model Update
 - Growth Scenario
 - Planning Area Boundary Adjustment
 - Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (Safe Streets for All grant)
 - Goods Movement Study update
 - GreenIowa AmeriCorps Host Site
 - Refined Greenhouse Gas analysis at corridor level and other scales
 - Carbon Reduction Strategy development & implementation*

WATER TRAILS BUILD GRANT PAYMENT APPROVAL

Water Trails BUILD Grant Payment Approval



- XXX

FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2022 EXCESS FUNDING

Federal Fiscal Year 2022 Excess Funding



- XXX

DC LIST AND COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Annual DC List

- DMDC 2023, the annual trip to Washington DC organized by the Greater Des Moines Partnership, is May 10-12.
- MPO is working with member governments to develop a list of priority transportation projects to be discussed with Iowa's Congressional delegation.
- This year, the DC list is returning to its roots and including only projects that are actively seeking funding, along with any important policy initiatives.
- An email seeking projects for the list was send to the Transportation Technical Committee and Policy Committee on Feb. 14.
- Draft list is available as a handout.
- Please submit materials by March 17

REMINDER: Community Project submissions

- The offices of Congressman Zach Nunn and Congresswoman Miller-Meeks are seeking local community project funding requests for FY24.
- Please submit form and any attachments (not required) to IA03NunnCommunityProjects@mail.house.gov
 - **Deadline extended: 5 p.m. (Eastern) March 15.**
 - **New guidance issued**
- Rep. Miller-Meeks is also collecting proposed projects
 - **Deadline: 12 p.m. Eastern Thursday, March 16**
 - **New guidance issued, including submission portal**
- Guidance was shared to TTC last week.
- Please share submissions with MPO so we can add them to the DC list.

2023 MPO/Greater Des Moines Partnership Priority Transportation Projects

ID	Sponsor	Project	Description	Total Project Cost	Funding Program	Funding Request
	City of Altoona	8th St. SW Reconstruction – Phase 2	US 65 to Venbury Drive	\$5,700,000	Community Project Funding	
	City of Altoona	New East Polk County Interchange				
	City of Altoona	Adventureland Drive Reconstruction	Reconstruction of Adventureland Drive from 17th Ave. NW to east of Greenway Park.		Community Project Funding	
	City of Altoona	Adventureland Drive Extension	Extension of Adventureland Drive to the northeast over Mud Creek to 14th Avenue NE.		Community Project Funding	
	DART	New Operations and Maintenance Facility	DART's current facility at 1100 DART Way is beyond its useful life. Built in the 1970s and requiring more than \$65 million in infrastructure enhancements by 2040, the FTA in Region VII does not support major renovations to the facility due to it being in the floodplain and having a past history of water intrusion. A proposed new facility would include a maintenance building, bus storage and an office building, and would alleviate flooding concerns, allow for expanded use of electric vehicles and improve overall safety and operational efficiency. DART received a \$17.275 million Buses and Bus Facilities grant from the FTA in 2019 for Phase I of the project and has completed environmental review. This current grant request is for Phase II, which DART hopes to complete simultaneously for cost efficiency.	\$111,000,000	FTA Bus and Bus Facilities	\$45,000,000
	City of Des Moines and City of Pleasant Hill	SE Connector	Completion of the final 2.2 miles of the Southeast Connector provides a continuous Metro Luthering, Jr. Parkway corridor from I-235 in Des Moines to U.S. Highway 65 in Pleasant Hill. The roadway project provides two vehicular travel lanes, curbs and gutters, street lighting, and a 12-foot-wide multi-use trail with green space on the south side. The project includes grading for possible future expansion should traffic demand or development necessitate. The construction also includes a 1,515-foot-long, seven span bridge over Fourmile Creek, the floodway, and a railroad spur.	\$55,000,000	RAISE	\$25,000,000
	City of Des Moines	NE 23rd Street/Easton Blvd. Reconstruction	Reconstruction of NE 23rd St.		Community Project Funding	
	Des Moines Airport	New Terminal	The development of a new 14-gate terminal at the existing airport.	\$500,000,000		
	HIRTA	Intermodal Facility/Maintenance Facility	Construction of a new intermodal and maintenance facility in Waukee. The development will provide a central location for HIRTA to maintain their fleet and will included bus transfers for Jefferson Lines and Burlington Trailways.	\$12,500,000		
	Iowa Department of Transportation, Urbandale, and Clive	I-35/80 interchange with U.S. 6/Hickman Rd.	Widen I-35/80 and construct auxiliary lanes from Douglas Ave. to University Ave.; Reconfigure US 6/Hickman Rd Interchange.	\$76,600,000	Community Project Funding	
	City of Windsor Heights	73rd Street Reconstruction	Reconstruction of 73rd Street from from Hickman Road to I-235 with improved connections to West Des Moines via 8th Street.		RAISE	\$14,148,600
	City of Johnston, Polk County and Iowa DOT	Highway 141 improvements	Improvements to Highway 141, specifically a new interchange at a relocated NW Towner Drive and an interchange modification at Hwy 415.	\$44,501,000	RAISE	\$25,000,000
	City of Waukee	University Avenue Area Transportation Improvements	The RAISE Grant will fund construction and reconstruction of portions of University Avenue, Warrior Lane, 3rd Street, 6th Street, and 10th Street in Waukee to fill the existing gap in the transportation network and bring the roads up to modern urban standards. Also included is 6.3 miles of trail construction along the roads and within the nearby greenway, six pedestrian underpasses beneath the roadways, and adjacent water quality improvements.	\$40,000,000	RAISE	\$25,000,000
	Various	Future 435	Re-designate US 65/Iowa 5 as an interstate.	\$3,000,000	NA	NA

Community Projects Funding requests to date

- Still being collected until congressional offices close their deadlines.
- This list includes only transportation-related requests.

Altoona	8 th St. Reconstruction
Altoona	Adventureland Drive Reconstruction
Altoona	Adventureland Drive Extension
Clive, Urbandale, Iowa DOT	I-35 interchange with Hickman
Des Moines	NE 23 rd / Easton Blvd Reconstruction

Other funding requests

DART	Operations and Maintenance Facility	FTA Bus and Bus Facilities	\$44.5 million
Des Moines Airport	Terminal		
Des Moines and Pleasant Hill	SE Connector	RAISE	\$25 million
Johnston, Polk County, Iowa DOT	Highway 141 improvements	RAISE	\$25 million
Waukee	University Ave. improvements	RAISE	\$25 million
Windsor Heights	73 rd St Reconstruction	RAISE	\$14.1 million

General Policy



Future 435 – Interstate Designation for 5/65 corridor

New East Polk County Interchange

EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK

Employee Handbook



- XXX

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

Policies and Procedures Manual



- XXX

PURPLE HEART HIGHWAY UPDATE

TODAY'S DISCUSSION

- Three notable updates
- Potential next steps
- Looking for guidance

PHASE 1:
Stakeholder Study
and Action Plan

**Summer 2021 to
Fall 2022**

PHASE 2:
Pursue State and
Federal Exemptions

**Fall 2022 to
Fall 2023**

PHASE 3:
Complete Analysis
Required by FHWA

TBD

PHASE 4:
Formally Request
Designation

Fall 2023

Update 1: Federal legislation

- The [SHIP IT Act](#) introduced by Representatives Johnson (R-SD) and Jim Costa (D-CA).
- Among other things, it would increase the national weight limit on interstates to 91,000.
- Likely faces an uphill battle in Congress due to historically polarizing nature of this issue.

Update 2: State resolution

- There's a related resolution at the Iowa legislature ([SCR 5, HSB 212](#)) that, if passed, would urge Congress to increase the national weight limit on interstates to 96,000.
 - And if the call were heeded and if Congress increased national limit to 96,000, this would eliminate the need for federal weight exemption.
 - Again, such action faces an uphill battle.
- Regardless, this resolution indicates a previously unknown interest in the topic among some lawmakers, providing a potential opening for conversations about the 5/65 corridor.

Update 3: Feedback from ag stakeholders

- Staff met with ag stakeholders in November and December.
- The stakeholders reconvened recently to discuss a possible path forward.
- We have been briefed on the takeaways:
 - *People are feeling positive about the interaction now versus previously.*
 - *Stakeholders are feeling less hesitant or oppositional.*
 - *This is not something ag stakeholders feel they need to advocate for, but not block.*
 - *Interest in Iowa DOT idea to explore a safety system for slow-moving vehicles.*
 - *Question about the permitted weight limits and how that would play into a federal weight exemption.*
 - *Interest in possibly convening a round-table at MPO to more broadly explore the issue of slow-moving vehicles in the region.*

Possible Next Steps



- Continue engaging with ag stakeholders on possible next steps.
- If there is support (or not opposition), then start discussions at statehouse about state speed exemption.
 - Note: Low likelihood of success this year, given lateness of session.

Looking for guidance

- The MPO could take a formal position on state and/or federal legislation.
 - This would require staff to register as lobbyists.
- We may also be in a position to cautiously proceed with discussions with state lawmakers about a speed exemption.
 - Would continue coordinating with ag stakeholders.
 - Would continue updates at Exec and briefing officers in between.

WATER TRAILS UPDATE

Water Trails Update



Work Completed Past Two Weeks:

- Tree protection fence installed
- Coordination with DSM Parks & Recreation on trail closure

Work Planned Next Two Weeks:

- Tree clearing by Skol Trucking has started
- Snyder & Associates coordinating with Des Moines on tree clearing

Water Trails Update

Other Items:

- Design team has visited quarries to review rock size and color
- ICON has created a website to post update on the downtown construction
 - <https://www.iconwatertrails.com/downtown-construction-updates/>
- Received pay estimate for \$14,398 for work completed through January 31st
- Pay estimate will be included on March Executive Committee agenda for approval

Water Trails Update



Destination Iowa Funding

- Great Outdoors Foundation applied for and received \$7,000,000 in funding from the IEDA
- The IEDA required the funding to go to the organization that holds the construction contract, so the MPO was included on the grant application
- This funding can cover stockpile material costs that can't be covered up front by the BUILD grant

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Federal Update

- Community Project Funding/Earmarks
 - House voted to keep program
 - Staff is assisting members with submissions
 - Working to understand process on Senate side
- SHIP IT Act
 - Could potentially impact Purple Heart Highway discussion
- DC trip list
- Held off development until earmark situation more clear
 - Staff creating list of projects actively seeking federal funds – earmarks, RAISE, etc.
 - Include policy initiatives such as Purple Heart Highway weight limit legislation

State Legislative Update

- HSB 132 – would enter Iowa into the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Compact
- HSB 102 – related to delivery network companies (e.g., DoorDash, UberEats, etc.)
- HF 214 – states a vehicle must yield to pedestrians and bicyclists at unsignalized intersections (adds bicyclists)
- HF 160 – would raise speed limit to 75 mph
- HSB 88/SF 184 – would limit freight train length to 8,500 feet
- (SCR 5, HSB 212) -- would encourage Congress to increase federal weight limit on interstates to 96,000

Legislative Timetable

Jan. 9th	Session starts
March 3rd	First funnel – policy bills must be approved by committee to be alive
March 31st	Second funnel – policy bills must be approved by one chamber and committee from other chamber
April 28th	Last day legislators get per diem

UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming Events

- Full list & links in agenda packet
- Coming up in March:
 - 1st: MPO EV Webinar Series: Electric Vehicles for Emergency Response – [Recording](#).
 - 9th: [America Walks](#): Walking, Biking, and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law - What You and Your Community Need to Know – Virtual @ 1pm
 - 10-12th: [All-Iowa Auto Show & EV Summit](#) @ Iowa Events Center's Hy-Vee Hall
 - 17th: [APA Planning Webcast Series](#): Advancing Large-Scale Climate Resilient Projects through Planning and Financing: HUD-DOT perspectives – Virtual @ 12pm
 - 23rd: [APA-IA Planning on Tap](#): Active Transportation – Virtual @ 3pm
 - 26-29: [League of American Bicyclists: 2023 National Bike Summit](#) – Washington, DC & online

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

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