



DES MOINES AREA MPO

Executive Committee Meeting

January 10, 2024

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

January 10, 2024, Agenda



1. Call to Order
2. VOTE: Approval of Agenda
3. VOTE: Approval of Meeting Minutes
4. CONSENT and VOTE: Contracts and Expenses
5. CONSENT and VOTE: Approval of the Financial Statement
6. PRESENTATION and OPTIONAL VOTE: FY2023 Audit
7. REPORT and OPTIONAL VOTE: Filling of Officer Vacancies
8. REPORT and VOTE: Planning Area Boundary Update
9. REPORT and VOTE: *Mobilizing Tomorrow* Funding Projections
10. REPORT and VOTE: *Mobilizing Tomorrow* Project Solicitation
11. REPORT: *FY 2025 Unified Planning Work Program* and Budget Development
12. REPORT: Purple Heart Highway Update
13. REPORT: Director Report
14. Other Non-Action Items of Interest to the Committee
15. Next Meeting Date – February 7, 2024 – 11:30 a.m.
16. Adjournment

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

CONTRACTS AND EXPENSES

Contracts and Expenses

VENDOR	PURPOSE	NOTES/INFORMATION	AMOUNT REQUESTED
ERSI	Annual Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software renewal.	Cost included in annual budget.	\$6,653.43

FY 2023 AUDIT

Draft *Fiscal Year 2023 Audit*

- Draft FY 2023 Audit prepared by Denman & Company
- Link to audit included in agenda packet
- Finance Subcommittee reviewed audit at January 8th meeting and recommended MPO approval

OFFICER VACANCIES

Officer Vacancies

- Executive Committee will have two officer vacancies before CY 2024 officers are elected in February and take positions in March
 - Vice-Chair: formerly held by Stephanie Riva, City of Norwalk (did not seek reelection and has been replaced on Policy Committee)
 - Secretary/Treasurer: currently held by Ted Weaver, City of Clive (will not be the SW Subarea representative to the Executive Committee after January)
- Bylaws state any officer vacancies shall be filled for the un-expired portion of that office's term from among remaining Executive Committee members

Officer Vacancies

- Options:
 - Acknowledge vacancies and leave unfilled until March when new officers take over
 - Appoint temporary Vice Chair and Secretary/Treasurer to serve until
 - Other proposals?

PLANNING AREA BOUNDARY UPDATE

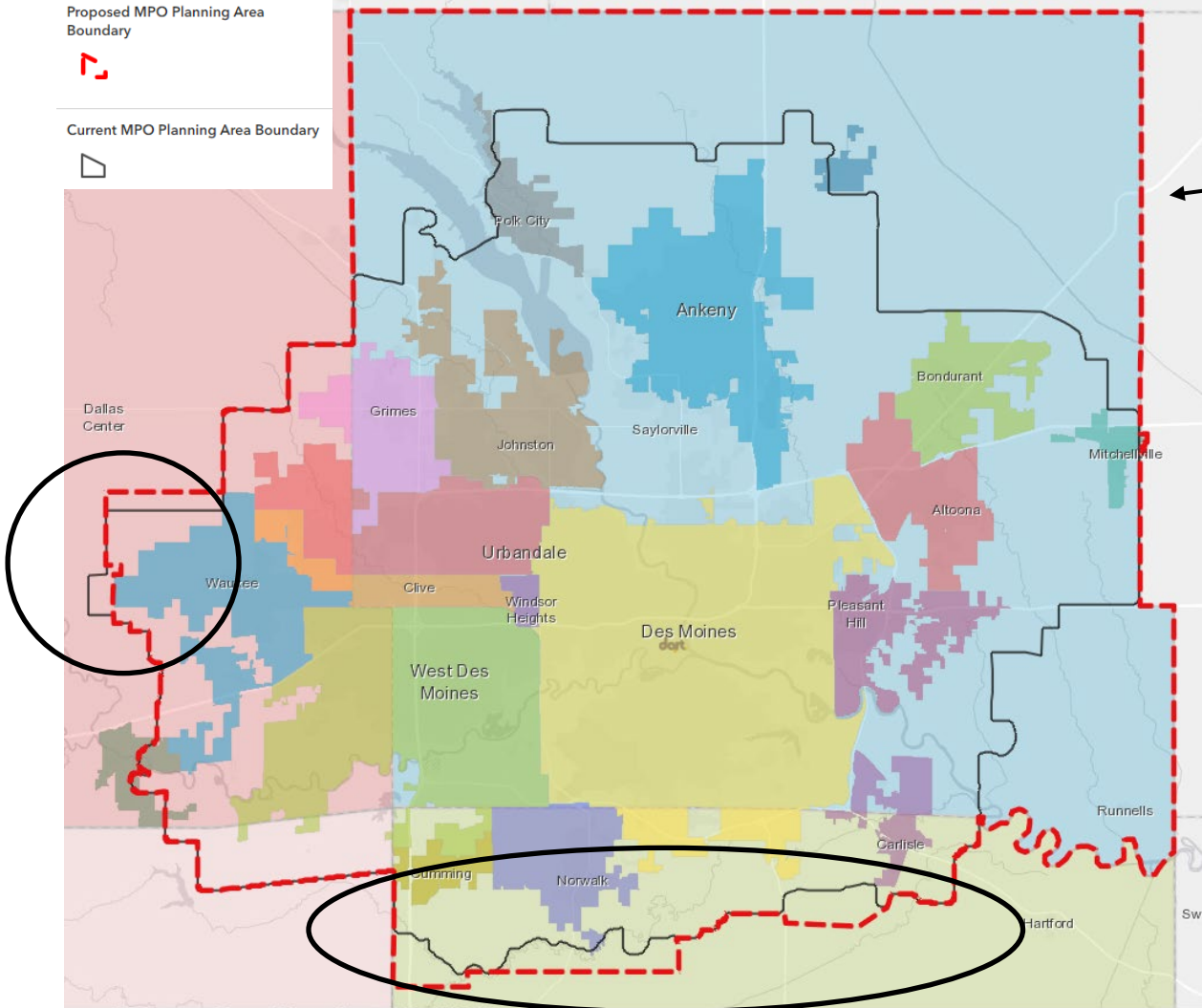
Planning Area Boundary Update

- Boundary is being updated in conjunction with the long-range transportation plan update
- Boundary is required to include the Urban Area Boundary (approved in September 2023) as well as future growth anticipated within the next 20 years
- Staff presented the draft PAB at the November meetings. Since that meeting Polk County has decided to included all of the county in the MPO PAB.
- No other comments were received.

Proposed MPO Planning Area Boundary



Current MPO Planning Area Boundary



All of Polk County

MOBILIZING TOMORROW: FUNDING PROJECTIONS

Mobilizing Tomorrow Update

- Funding Projections
 - New federal guidance now only requires fiscal constraint to cover the first 10-years of the LRTP
 - Therefore, staff has developed preliminary funding projections for 2025-2034
 - Staff has developed projections for the following funding sources:
 - Federal – STBG, TAP, CRP
 - State – RUTF
 - Local – property taxes and bonds

Mobilizing Tomorrow Update

- Annual Growth Rates
 - STBG and TAP – 2.5%
 - CRP – 0.5%
 - RUTF – 2.5%
 - Local – 0.0%
- The Finance Subcommittee approved these growth rates at their November 6th meeting.
- Growth rates have also been reviewed and signed off on by the DOT

Mobilizing Tomorrow Update

■ Funding Projections – 2025-2034

- Used annual growth rate to determine an annual funding increase which was added to each year to create a straight-line projection
- Historically, approximately 40 percent of local funding has been used for construction projects

Funding Type	2025-2029	2030-2034	Total
Federal	\$94.6	\$108.6	\$203.1
RUTF	\$388.9	\$434.1	\$823.0
Local	\$1,934.6	\$1,934.6	\$3,869.3
Available Funding for Construction	\$773.9	\$773.9	\$1,547.7
Total	\$1,257.3	\$1,316.5	\$2,573.8

*Amounts shown in millions

Mobilizing Tomorrow Update

- Iowa DOT Funding Projections – 2025-2034
 - Staff used a 2 percent growth rate to project future funding for the Iowa DOT.

Funding	2025-2029	2030-2034	Total
Road Expenditures	\$192.1	\$210.3	\$402.4
Bridge Expenditures	\$86.8	\$95.0	\$181.8
Total	\$278.9	\$305.3	\$584.2

*Amounts shown in millions

Mobilizing Tomorrow Update

- Next Steps
 - Staff will work with DART staff to develop projections for transit funding

MOBILIZING TOMORROW: PROJECT SOLICITATION

Mobilizing Tomorrow – Project Solicitation

- Staff has developed a Google form for soliciting projects for the LRTP update.
- Projects will be collected for the 2025-2034 period and will fall under the following categories:
 - System Capacity, Major Reconstruction, System Optimization, Bridges, Transit, and Bicycle/Pedestrian
- Staff is requesting that all planned projects in these categories that fall on the eligible network during this time period be submitted.
- Staff is targeting the week of January 15 to release the google form and will expect all responses back by February 12, 2024.

FY2025 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

FY 2025 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 2025 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)
 - Congestion Management Process (required of TMAs)
 - Must have decision making bodies (e.g., MPO Policy Committee)
 - Administer STBG funding process

FY 2025 UPWP and Budget Development

- FHWA/FTA Planning Emphasis Areas:
 - Climate Change
 - Equity and Justice in Transportation Planning
 - Complete Streets
 - Virtual Public Involvement
 - Planning & Environmental Linkages
 - Data in Transportation Planning

FY 2025 UPWP and Budget Development

- MPO staff soliciting input on additional tasks for FY 2025
 - Plans
 - Studies
 - Research
 - Technical assistance to communities
- Please send any requests/ideas to MPO staff by end of January

FY 2025 UPWP and Budget Development

- Draft budget anticipated in February
 - Staff salaries contingent upon Executive Director decision and staff salary survey results
 - MIPA and CIRTPA contracts will not be in FY 2025 budget
 - Budget adjustments based on approved Policies and Procedures Manual (e.g., budget for board recognition and staff teambuilding events)
 - Updates to benefits based on switch to ConnectifyHR

PURPLE HEART HIGHWAY

RECAP: Implementation

Iowa DOT Action Plan

- State Exemption for Speed
- Federal Exemption for Weight
- Technical Analysis
- Designation Application

Implementation Status

- **COMPLETE:** Iowa DOT's stakeholder engagement resulting in an Action Plan.
- **ONGOING:** Regional implementation of Iowa DOT Action Plan.
- **NEW: Corridor Preservation** – Preserve use of corridor by ag users by increasing safety measures for slow-moving vehicles.
- **NEW: Alternatives Analysis** – Start process of identifying alternative routes for farm equipment.

UPDATE: Alternatives Analysis

AG STAKEHOLDERS FEEDBACK

- Strong agreement from ag stakeholders that an alternatives analysis would be worthwhile.
- No acute urgency from ag stakeholders.
- They shared numerous thoughts on scope of analysis and stakeholder engagement.
 - Likely need to look east of bypass
 - Bypass may end up being best alternative

FUNDING STRATEGY

- Executive Committee guidance: Pursue state funding with local match

Corridor Master Plan

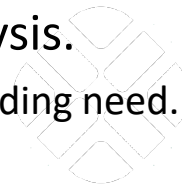
An Alternatives Analysis could become part of a larger planning effort that could include:

- Alternatives Analysis
- Development Scenarios
- Target Industry Analysis
- Economic Impact Study
- Marketing Plan



DISCUSSION: Proposed bill

- Rep. Brian Lohse has followed this project for years and has received regular updates on recent efforts.
- He has discussed the issue with numerous stakeholders including members of the Iowa Farm Bureau.
- He is planning to introduce a bill this session with two aims:
 - Provide exemption to minimum speed limit IF the corridor is designated as an interstate.
 - MPO and Iowa DOT have reviewed draft language.
 - Consistent with proposed language previously shared with ag stakeholders.
 - Provide funding for an alternatives analysis.
 - Ask is for \$250,000, or roughly half of the funding need.



NEXT STEPS: Engagement

- Need bench of support from Policy Committee representatives who would be willing to participate in meeting to educate lawmakers.
 - Would you be willing to participate?
- Former Vice Chair Stephanie Riva served as a point person to provide guidance to staff. With her retiring from elected office, it would be helpful for staff to have a point person on this effort.

DIRECTOR REPORT

MPO Member Updates

	Contacted	Scheduled	Complete	Waiting		Contacted	Scheduled	Complete	Waiting
Altoona			✓		Mitchellville		✓		
Ankeny	✓				Norwalk			✓	
Bondurant			✓		Pleasant Hill				✓
Carlisle			✓		Polk City			✓	
Clive			✓		Polk County			✓	
Dallas County	✓				Urbandale	✓			
DART				✓	Warren County			✓	
Des Moines			✓		Waukee		✓		
Grimes		✓			West Des Moines	✓			
Johnston	✓				Windsor Heights			✓	

UPDATE: Steps on Three Key Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION 1: Strategic Planning in LRTP (What's important to do)

- This approach is being built into the long-range plan process.
- Transportation for America Director presenting Jan. 18th Policy Committee

RECOMMENDATION 2: Decision Tree (What MPO focuses on)

- Approved in November.
- Staff is actively using for proposed projects and will use it for work program.

RECOMMENDATION 3: Board Assessment (How we execute)

- Chair will make appointments to a committee to evaluate and recommend any changes.

Misc. Items

- Conversations held with some potential funders of passenger rail track assessment.
 - Positive reception so far.
 - Staff will present funding strategy to Policy, per Exec recommendation.
- Successfully transitioned Zach Young to contract employee.
 - For public appearances, continuing to show as an employee; updated title to Project Manager.
- Iowa DOT decided to transfer zero-interest loan for transload facility from MPO to Des Moines Industrial.
- Update on virtual attendance policy.
- Planning to register staff (Dylan and Gunnar) as a lobbyist at state.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

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