

MINUTES  
OF THE  
TECHNICAL AND CITIZENS COMMITTEE  
Thursday, February 12, 2026 10:00 a.m.  
Zoom/2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Circle of Friends Community Room  
Rapid City, South Dakota

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Kelly Brennan and Jessica Olson – Rapid City Department of Community Development, Megan Gould – Rapid Transit System, Matt Layman, Sara Odden and Jesse Rieb – Rapid City Public Works Department, Tonya Vig – Meade County Planning, Sarah Gilkerson and Mike Carlson – South Dakota Department of Transportation, Lauralee Patton – City of Box Elder Planning Department, Jack Dokken – South Dakota Department of Air, Rail and Transit, Mayor Phil Anderson – City of Piedmont, Christian Morgan – Meade County Citizen Appointee, Laura Armstrong, Amy Mikulak, Gary Wietgrefe and Gerry Eick – Citizen Interest Members

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Kip Harrington – Rapid City Department of Community Development, Bruce Martin – City of Box Elder, Brian Bishop - Rapid City Regional Airport, Roger Gallimore – Meade County Citizen Appointee, Pat West – Meade County Sheriff's Department, Sean Smith and Joseph Miller – Pennington County Highway, Coy Sasse – Rapid City School District, Troy Eastman– Meade County Highway Department, Chris Hislip – Pennington County Sheriff's Office, Brett Burditt – Meade County School District, Devin McCloskey/Colby Larson - Ellsworth Air Force Base, Kelvin Masur – Rapid City Police Department, Robert Connell – City of Box Elder Police Department, Mayor Michael Kitzmiller – City of Summerset, Kevin Case – Douglas School District, and Britney Hand – Pennington County Planning Department, Bob Burns – Citizen Interest Member

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Melissa Bloomberg – Rapid City Department of Community Development, Katie Pavel – Rapid City Finance Department and Melanie Barclay – Black Hills Center for Aging

Vice-Chair Brennan called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Meeting quorum was met.

**General Public Comment**

Amy Mikulak mentioned the safety and accessibility concern for the Bus Stop located at Community Action.

**Business**

**Gilkerson moved, Olson seconded and motion carried unanimously to approve the Agenda Item 26TP009 – Letter of Support for FY 2026 BUILD Opportunity - Downtown Railroad Crossing Safety Improvements Project, Rapid City, SD be added to the agenda.**

**Gilkerson moved, Eick seconded and motion carried unanimously to approve the Amended February 12, 2026 Technical and Citizens Committee Meeting Agenda.**

Gilkerson moved, Armstrong seconded and motion carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the December 11, 2025 Technical and Citizens Committee meeting.

Odden entered the meeting.

**26TP002 – Approve the Section 5310 Award Recommendation.** Each year the Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) receives federal funds on a yearly basis as part of the Federal Transit Administration's Section 5310 program to provide capital assistance to elderly persons and/or persons with disabilities. The Rapid City Area MPO solicited applications from entities throughout the region regarding assistance with vehicle purchases and/or operating costs. The local share for capital projects is 20%, and operating costs is 50%. The local share is 15% for acquisition of vehicles for purposes of complying with or maintaining compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA; 42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) or the Clean Air Act (CAA; 42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.). Three organizations submitted applications for review. The scoring committee recommends granting \$85,000 to Black Hills Works for one 15-passenger ADA van modified for wheelchairs and \$120,967.09 to Black Hills Center for Aging/Adult Day Services (ADS) for one Ford Transit E350 AWD. These vehicles will enable wheelchair transit options to assist Black Hills Works and Black Hills Center for Aging/(ADS) in eliminating transportation gaps identified in the Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan. Discussion regarding issues with SDDOT procuring a 15-passenger ADA. The committee discussed changing the memo to approve the Section 5310 Grant Recommendations with the addition of allowing an alternative ADA vehicle that is available with SDDOT procurement.

**Mikulak moved, Dokken seconded and motion carried unanimously to approve the the amended Section 5310 Award Recommendation with the addition of allowing an alternative ADA vehicle that is available with SDDOT procurement.**

**26TP003 – Approve the 2025 Unified Planning Work Program Annual Report.** Brennan reviewed the 2025 Unified Planning Work Program Annual Report which is a listing of the accomplishments and expenditures associated with the Unified Planning Work Program activities conducted during the past year.

**Eick moved, Olson seconded and motion carried unanimously to approve the 2025 Unified Planning Work Program Annual Report.**

**26TP004 – Approve 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #26-001.** Brennan reviewed this amendment that splits the reconstruction of the US Highway 16/US Highway 16B interchange project into multiple smaller projects, due to the size and complexity of the project. Carlson gave additional information on the Amendment. Discussion ensued regarding the funding changes.

**Wietgrefe moved, Carlson seconded and motion carried unanimously to approve the 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #26-001.**

**26TP005 – Approve 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #26-002.** The City of Rapid City/Rapid Transit System is requesting an amendment to the 2026-2029 TIP to include 5339(b) Competitive Grant Program funding from the Federal

Transit Administration (FTA). The City of Rapid City/Rapid Transit System will receive \$1,190,000 for the purchase of new buses to replace older vehicles that have reached the end of their useful life. Brennan reviewed this amendment. Gould gave additional information on the amendment.

**Carlson moved, Gilkerson seconded and motion carried unanimously to approve the 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #26-002.**

**26TP006 – Approve the Letter of Support for FY 2026 BUILD Opportunity: US 16 Reconstruction project, Pennington County, SD.** The SDDOT is submitting a BUILD Grant application to assist with funding the U.S. Highway 16 and Catron Boulevard (US 16 Bypass) intersection reconstruction project. The intersection will be converted to an interchange. The new interchange is estimated to cost \$34.3 million and is currently scheduled for construction in 2027. Through this USDOT grant program, the SDDOT could receive up to \$25 million of the project cost. The MPO's support may enhance SDDOT's potential to receive this grant. Brennan reviewed this letter of support.

**Eick moved, Olson seconded and motion carried unanimously to approve the Letter of Support for FY 2026 BUILD Opportunity: US 16 Reconstruction project, Pennington County, SD.**

**26TP007 – Approve the Letter of Support for FY 2026 BUILD Opportunity: Eglin Street Reconstruction Project, Rapid City SD.** The City of Rapid City is submitting a BUILD Grant application to assist with funding the Eglin Street reconstruction project. Eglin Street is a collector street that provides access to the Rushmore Crossing Shopping Center, the largest neighborhood shopping center in Rapid City. Rapid population growth in Rapid City and surrounding communities since Eglin Street's original construction has caused traffic congestion along the roadway to increase significantly. The three-lane street struggles to support traffic flow efficiently, and safety for travelers is likely to decrease unless intersections are improved and the corridor itself is widened with additional lanes. Brennan reviewed this letter of support.

**Armstrong moved, Gilkerson seconded and motion carried unanimously to approve the Letter of Support for FY 2026 BUILD Opportunity: Eglin Street Reconstruction Project, Rapid City SD.**

**26TP008 – Approve the Letter of Support for FY 2026 BUILD Opportunity: Country Road Reconstruction Project, Rapid City, SD.** The City of Rapid City is submitting a BUILD Grant application to assist with funding the Country Road reconstruction project. Country Road provides a critical east-west corridor link across the north side of Rapid City. When constructed, it served a rural area of Pennington County, well outside of city limits. With population growth expanding city boundaries, Country Road from Haines Avenue to 143<sup>rd</sup> Avenue is now owned and maintained by the city. Country Road currently does not meet City Street standards. It is a narrow two-lane road with drainage ditches and no shoulder. Significant vertical curve issues lead to areas of poor sight distance and safety concerns. No pedestrian or bicycle facilities exist, forcing non-motorized travelers to walk or bike in the roadway. In 2016, two children riding a tricycle in the roadway were struck by a vehicle, resulting in one fatality and one serious injury. With the imminent arrival of the B-21 Raider bomber to nearby Ellsworth Air Force Base, additional housing growth is anticipated in the areas served by Country Road because of its proximity to the

base. Reconstructing Country Road to current standards and providing bicycle and pedestrian improvements will enhance safety, provide more opportunity for development, and help to serve the B-21 Raider mission and national security. Brennan and Pavel reviewed this letter of support. Additional discussion ensued regarding traffic impacts ensued.

**Wietgrefe moved, Eick seconded and motion carried unanimously to approve the Letter of Support for FY 2026 BUILD Opportunity: Country Road Reconstruction Project, Rapid City, SD.**

**26TP009 – Approve the Letter of Support for FY 2026 BUILD Opportunity: Downtown Railroad Crossing Safety Improvements Project, Rapid City, SD.** The City of Rapid City is seeking BUILD Grant Program funding for the Downtown Railroad Crossing Safety Improvements Project. Railroad crossing throughout the downtown area lack additional safety measures for all modes of transportation. The Study will analyze the crossings, recommend infrastructure improvements, and provide cost estimates. A letter of support from the Metropolitan Planning Organization may assist in the grant application process. Brennan and Pavel reviewed this letter of support.

**Layman moved, Armstrong seconded and motion carried unanimously to approve the Letter of Support for FY 2026 BUILD Opportunity: Downtown Railroad Crossing Safety Improvements Project, Rapid City, SD.**

**Eick moved, Armstrong seconded and motion to re-elect Harrington as Chairman and Brennan as Vice-Chair. The motion was carried unanimously.**

#### **Update on Construction Projects**

Odden provided information on current Rapid City construction projects. Carlson provided information on the current construction projects within the Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization area.

#### **Update on Planning Projects**

Brennan provided information on the current planning projects within the Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization area.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.