

**MINUTES
OF THE
EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
Thursday, April 18, 2024, 1:30 p.m.
Zoom/3rd Floor Rose Quartz Conference Room
Rapid City, South Dakota**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jafar Karim – South Dakota Transportation Commission, Vicki Fisher via proxy for Jason Salamun – Mayor of Rapid City, Larry Larson – Mayor of Box Elder, Richard Liggett and Talbot Wieczorek – Meade County Commission, Gary Drewes and Lloyd LaCroix – Pennington County Commission and Kevin Maher as proxy for John Roberts – Rapid City City Council

MEMBERS ABSENT: Patrick Dame – Rapid City Regional Airport, Greg Strommen – Rapid City City Council and Michael Knight – Box Elder City Council

STAFF PRESENT: Kip Harrington, Kelly Brennan, Melissa Bloomberg and Sarah Hanzel – Rapid City Department of Community Development, Megan Gould-Stabile – Rapid City Transit Division and Jamie Toennies – Rapid City Grants Division

OTHERS PRESENT: Sarah Gilkerson, Mike Carlson, Larry Dean, Levi Briggs, June Hansen and Jordan Kitts – South Dakota Department of Transportation and Greg Heitmann – Federal Highway Administration and Steve Grabill – KLJ Engineers

Chairman Larson called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Meeting quorum was met.

General Public Comment

No General Public Comment.

Business

Drewes moved, Fisher seconded and motion carried unanimously to approve the Agenda with addition of Agenda Item #10 – Rapid Transit System Letter of Support.

Fisher moved, Wieczorek seconded and motion carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the February 15, 2024 meeting.

24TP012 – Acknowledge the Pennington County Master Transportation Plan – Draft Report. Pennington County previously adopted its current transportation plan in 2012. Since then, significant growth has occurred throughout Pennington County, with additional residents anticipated due to the expansion of Ellsworth Air Force Base. In order to correlate the growth with future transportation system needs, the Pennington County Master Transportation Plan (MTP) is being updated. The purpose of the update is to provide a transportation plan that is responsive to new development, changing conditions, and evolving modes of transportation, such as an increase in bicycling, walking, and All Terrain Vehicles/Utility Terrain Vehicles. Grabill gave a presentation on the Pennington

County Master Transportation Plan – Draft Report. Discussion ensued regarding functional classifications.

No action was taken on this item

24TP008 – Approve the 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #24-003. This amendment adds funding to the Miscellaneous category for a State Transportation Improvement Grant from the Federal Highway Administration. This grant will allow SDDOT to implement an innovative Traveler Communications program in 2024. Also, the Transportation Commission has selected various Transportation Alternatives projects throughout the state, resulting in the deletion of a funding placeholder in 2024, and the addition of funding for a project to construct sidewalk in Box Elder in 2026. Kip reviewed this Amendment.

Karim moved, Wieczorek seconded and motion carried unanimously to approve the 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #24-003.

24TP009 – Acknowledge the 2023 Traffic Counts Report. The report provides the public and business community with traffic count data to help make informed decisions. The following four street segments have volumes of more than 30,000 vehicles per day: West Main Street from Jackson Boulevard to Cross Street, I-90 from I-190 to Haines Avenue, I-90 from Elk Vale Road to the east City Limit boundary, and West Main Street from Cross Street to West Street. In addition, there are 24 street segments with more than 20,000 vehicles per day, adjusted for seasonal variation. Brennan reviewed the Traffic Counts Report.

No action was taken on this item.

24TP013 – Approve Combining the CAC and TCC. Harrington reviewed the recommendation to combine the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) with the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) to form the Technical and Citizens Committee (TACC). This would allow for representation and voting opportunities for current CAC members, and result in better dialogue and interaction between current CAC and TCC committee members. Due to lack of quorum for the CAC and applications, this would still allow input from our Citizens.

Fisher moved, Drewes seconded and motion carried unanimously to approve Combining the CAC and TCC.

24TP014 – Approve the Section 5310 Award Recommendation. 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. Funding is provided as an 80/20 split for capital costs and as a 50/50 split for operating costs. One organization submitted an application for review. The scoring committee recommends granting \$120,000 to Black Hills Works for one transit style bus. This bus will enable wheelchair transit options to assist Black Hills Works in eliminating transportation gaps identified in the Coordinated Public Transit –

Human Services Transportation Plan. The following chart identifies the funding sources. Brennan reviewed this recommendation. Brennan advised that the grant is now an 85/15 grant-funding split.

Wieczorek moved, Maher seconded and motion carried unanimously to approve the Section 5310 Award Recommendation with the revised funding totals.

24TP015 – Approve the Comprehensive Plan Update Community Engagement Plan.

The Community Engagement Plan outlines the specific public input strategies that will be implemented as the project progresses. These strategies include a project website/information hub, media/press releases, surveys, direct mailings, one on one and small group interviews, and public open houses, all of which are intended to actively solicit comments and engage the interests of the public throughout the participation process. In order to further enhance accessibility and inclusivity of the engagement activities, the consultant will also be working with the Study Advisory Team to develop an Arts-Based approach. This approach acknowledges the vibrant and culturally rich arts community in Rapid City and opens up additional channels of dialogue with the community about the vision for Rapid City. These initiatives will supplement the traditional public outreach methods noted above. Brennan reviewed this Community Engagement Plan.

Fisher moved, Maher seconded and motion carried unanimously to approve the Comprehensive Plan Update Community Engagement Plan.

24TP016 – Approve the Rapid City Area MPO Title VI/Discrimination Assurances.

Every three years, the Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization is required to complete Title VI/Non-Discrimination Assurances to ensure compliance with the non-discrimination provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The Assurances provide confirmation that all requirements of the Federal Aid Highway Program are addressed. The Title VI/Non-Discrimination Assurances are attached for signature. Harrington and Hansen reviewed these Assurances.

Drewes moved, Maher seconded and motion carried unanimously to approve the Rapid City Area MPO Title VI/Discrimination Assurances.

Rapid Transit System Letter of Support – This Letter of Support is for a Small Urban Vehicle Procurement to replace two (2) Fixed-Route Buses. This application is for FY2024 5339(b) federal funding. Harrington reviewed this letter of support.

Fisher moved, Karim seconded and motion carried unanimously to approve the Rapid Transit System Letter of Support.

Elk Vale Road Reconstruction Discussion – The committee briefly discussed the proposed Elk Vale Road Reconstruction.

Functional Classification Presentation

Dean gave a presentation on the Functional Classification Map, which will come to the June 2024 MPO meetings for Approval.

Update on Construction Projects

Harrington 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. Gilkerson gave a brief presentation on the SDDOT construction and projects website.

Update on Planning Projects

Brennan and Harrington 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 2:41 p.m.