

## Minutes

### **SIOUXLAND INTERSTATE METROPOLITAN PLANNING COUNCIL (SIMPCO) METROPOLITAN PLANNING COUNCIL (MPO) Policy Board**

*Thursday, March 6, 2025, 1:30 p.m.*

*SIMPCO, 6401 Gordon Drive, Sioux City IA & Zoom Conference Call*

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ken Beaulieu, Chair	Dakota Dunes CID, SD
Craig Anderson, vice Chair	Plymouth County, IA
Kodi Bensen	City of North Sioux City, SD
Ron Hanson	City of Sergeant Bluff, IA
Dan Moore	City of Sioux City, IA
Julie Schoenherr	City of Sioux City, IA
Mike Tokarczyk	Sioux City Transit System

#### **NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT & GUESTS:**

Sarah Gilkerson	Department of Transportation – SD
Jessica Felix	Department of Transportation - IA
Sarah Tracy	Department of Transportation – IA

#### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Michelle Bostinelos, Executive Director	SIMPCO
Brian Pearson, Transit Director	SIMPCO/SRTS
Corinne Erickson, Regional Planning Manager	SIMPCO
Ryan Brauer, Regional Planner	SIMPCO
Nathan Kistner, Regional Planner	SIMPCO
Bess Seaman, Regional Planner	SIMPCO
Emily Guthrie, Executive Assistant	SIMPCO

The MPO Policy Board met on Thursday, March 6, 2025, 1:30 p.m., via Zoom and in person at SIMPCO, located at 6401 Gordon Drive, Sioux City, Iowa. A quorum was present. Chair, Ken Beaulieu, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

- I. **Roll Call:** Chair Beaulieu opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call.
- II. **Approval of the Agenda:** Chair Beaulieu asked if there were any additions or corrections to March 6, 2025, regular meeting agenda.  
  
*Craig Anderson moved to approve the agenda as presented, second by Ron Hanson. Motion carried all ayes.*
- III. **Approval of the Minutes:** Chair Beaulieu asked if there were any additions or corrections to the January 9, 2025 regular meeting minutes.

*Craig Anderson moved to approve the minutes as presented, second by Dan Moore. Motion carried all ayes.*

- IV. **Review Monthly Correspondence:** Corinne Erickson provided an overview of current projects and staff activities outlined in the Director Report included in the meeting packet.
- V. **Transportation Improvement Progress Report:** The Iowa Department of Transportation and members provided an update on the progress of transportation improvements currently underway throughout the MPO area.
- VI. **SUDAS Board of Directors Appointment:** Michelle Bostinelos reported that the SIMPCO MPO needs to appoint a representative to serve on the Statewide Urban Design and Specifications (SUDAS) Board of Directors. Michelle noted TTC recommended re-appointing Aaron Lincoln as representative for another term.

*Dan Moore moved to re-appoint Aaron Lincoln as SUDAS representative for another term, seconded by Kodi Benson. Motion carried with all ayes.*

- VII. **Iowa Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG), Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) and Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) balances and applications:** Ryan Brauer presented the STBG, TAP, and CRP balances and applications for review and recommendation.

**STBG** – Ryan reported staff received one STBG request totaling \$3,000,000 for FY 2029 from the City of Sioux City Bacon Creek Conduit project. The Iowa DOT has estimated the FY 2029 target for the Iowa portion of the MPO at \$3,044,000, resulting in a STBG balance of \$3,828,900. He noted the TTC recommended awarding 3,800,000 to the project. Discussion held.

Julie Schoenherr motioned to approve the TTC recommendation to award the Bacon Creek Conduit project \$3,800,000 in FY 2029.

**CRP** – Ryan reported that staff received two CRP requests totaling \$660,884 for FY 2029: \$512,884 for the City of Sioux City's Bacon Creek Channel project and \$148,000 for the City of Sioux City's Gordon Dr/Lewis Blvd Multi-use Trail Project. The Iowa DOT has estimated the FY 2029 target for the Iowa portion of the MPO at \$263,000. He noted the TTC recommended approving 100% funding (\$148,000) for the Gordon Drive/Lewis Blvd Multi-use Trail Project, with the remaining balance of \$115,000 awarded to the Bacon Creek Channel project for FY 2029. Discussion held.

*Julie Schoenherr motioned to approve the TTC recommendation to award the Bacon Creek Channel project \$148,000 with the remaining balance of \$115,000 to the Bacon Creek Channel project in FY 2029. Motion was seconded by Ron Hanson. Motion carried with all ayes.*

**TAP** - Ryan reported that staff received a TAP request totaling \$1,015,200 for FY 2029 from the City of Sioux City for the Viaduct Connector Trail – Phase 1 project. The Iowa

DOT has estimated the FY 2029 target for the Iowa portion of the MPO at \$295,000, leaving a TAP balance of \$1,093,600 for FY 2029. Michelle Bostinelos noted that the City of Sioux City provided a letter to the SIMPCO MPO, wishing to cancel the TAP programming agreements and decline the FY 2027 and FY 2028 TAP funding designated for the Christy Road to Glen Ellen Trail Project due to various property acquisition and easement matters (TPMS #55555 for \$304,000 and TPMS #55556 for \$402,000), as enclosed in the agenda packet. He noted the TTC recommended approving 100% funding of \$1,015,200 for the Viaduct Connector Trail-Phase 1 project. Discussion held.

*Kodi Benson moved to approve the TTC recommendation to award the Viaduct Connector Trail-Phase 1 project at 100% funding of \$1,015,200 for FY 2029. Motion was seconded by Julie Schoenherr. Motion carried with all ayes.*

- VIII. Sponsorship to the Iowa Bicycle Coalition:** Michelle Bostinelos presented recommendation to sponsor the Iowa League of Bicycles at \$5,000 with \$2,500 from the MPO and \$2,500 from the RPA. This is a follow up from the presentation in January from Luke Hoffman, Executive Director of the Iowa Bicycle Coalition requesting the MPO to become a partner of the Economic and Health Impacts of Cycling and Trails Study. Michelle noted the TTC recommended not to sponsor the Iowa Bicycle Coalition study.

*Craig Anderson moved not to sponsor the coalition, seconded by Ron Hanson. Motion carried with all ayes.*

Chair, Ken Beaulieu exited the meeting. Vice Chair, Craig Anderson continued to preside.

- IX. FY 26 Draft Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP):** Michelle Bostinelos presented the Policy Board with the draft FY 2026 TPWP for review and comment. She noted that once the final draft is completed, it will be reviewed by the DOT, followed by a public comment period, and then final approval from the Policy Board.
- X. 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Draft Chapters 2: Community Overview and Chapter 7: Environmental Impacts:** Bess Seaman presented the draft Chapter 2 and Nathan Kistner presented the draft Chapter 7 of the 2050 LRTP for review and comments.
- XI. Additional Comments:** Next Meeting – May 8, 2025, 1:30 p.m. (Hybrid)
- XII. Adjournment:** *Dan Moore moved to adjourn, seconded by Mike Tokarczyk. Meeting adjourned.*