



## Flint Hills Metropolitan Planning Organization

PO Box 7 | Manhattan, KS | 66505  
785.620.3070 | FHMPO@FlintHillsMPO.org  
www.FlintHillsMPO.org

### Policy Board Meeting

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

3:30 pm

In Person:

Collaboration Space & Classroom  
Manhattan Public Library  
629 Poyntz Ave  
Manhattan, KS 66502

Virtual:

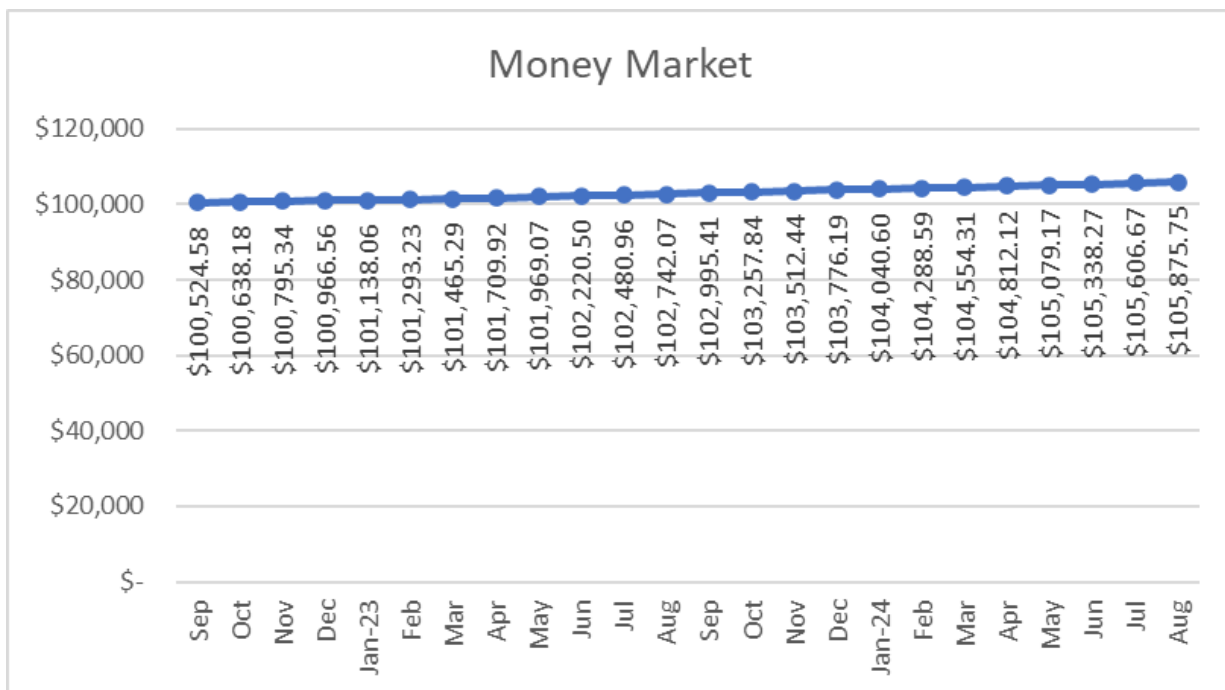
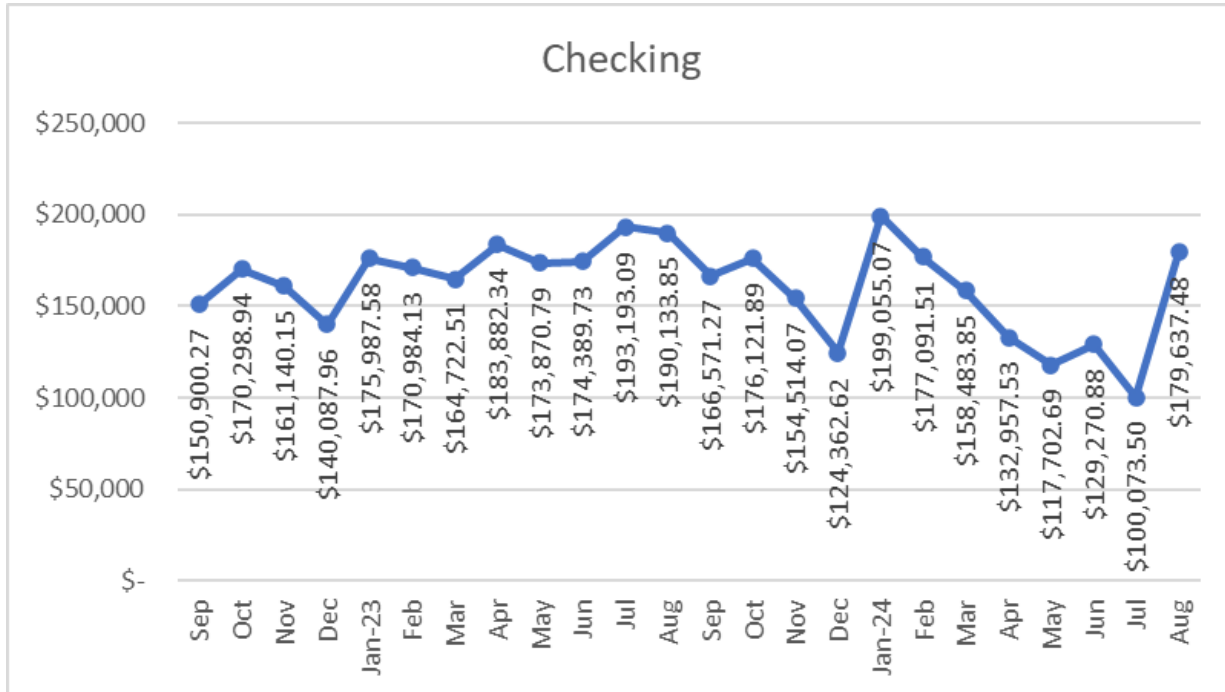
Zoom meeting  
Meeting ID: 919 154 6755  
Passcode: 148813

1. Welcome
2. Public Comment Opportunity (for items not on the agenda)
3. Financial Update
  - As of 9/11/2024: \$161,139.47 in checking, \$105,875.75 in money market account
  - Monthly statement balances
4. Staff Updates
  - EV Readiness Plan
  - TDM
  - 2025 UPWP
5. KDOT Update:
6. **ACTION ITEM:** Approval of the August 21, 2024 Meeting Minutes
7. **ACTION ITEM:** Approval of Amendment #4 of the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
8. **DISCUSSION ITEM:** ATIIP Memo
9. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Annual review for Planning Manager
10. Motion for Adjournment

**Next Meeting October 16, 2024, Manhattan Public Library**

**Special Accommodations:** Please notify the MPO at (785) 620-3070 or FHMPO@FlintHillsMPO.org at least 72 hours in advance if you require special accommodations to attend this meeting. We will make every effort to meet reasonable requests. The MPO does not discriminate against anyone on the basis of race, color, or national origin, according to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. For more information or to obtain a Title VI Complaint Form, visit the MPO office at the address above or www.FlintHillsMPO.org.

### Monthly Statement Balances





## Flint Hills Metropolitan Planning Organization

206 Southwind Place, Suite 2B | Manhattan, KS | 66503  
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 www.FlintHillsMPO.org

### Policy Board Meeting

Wednesday, August 21, 2024  
 3:30 pm

In Person:

Groesbeck Room  
 Manhattan Public Library  
 629 Poyntz Ave  
 Manhattan, KS 66502

Virtual:

Zoom meeting  
 Meeting ID: 919 154 6755  
 Passcode: 148813

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT		
x	Keith Ascher	Geary County Commission
x	Ryne Dowling	KS Dept of Transportation
x	Peter Oppelt	Manhattan City Commission
	Dee McKee	Pottawatomie Co. Commission
x	Ronna Larson	Junction City Commission
x	John Ford	Riley County Commission
	Clifford Baughman	Wamego City Commission
NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT		
x	Will Sharp	Federal Highway Admin.
	Owen Washburn	Fort Riley Representative
	Eva Steinman	Federal Transit Admin.
x	Anne Smith	Flint Hills ATA

Staff Present		
x	Jared Tremblay	MPO
x	Abigail Danner	MPO

Guests Present		
	Desree Pettra	
	Randy Pettra	
	Chad Kinsley	Pottawatomie Cty

1. Welcome
  - Meeting called to order at 3:31p
2. Public Comment Opportunity (for items not on the agenda)
3. Financial Update
  - Jared Tremblay gave an overview of the accounts noting that as of today, the checking account has a balance of just over \$88,000. He noted this account is so low because the MPO is awaiting reimbursement from KDOT for both Q1 & Q2 funds. The CPG agreement was signed a few weeks ago, so those funds, worth almost \$103,000.
    - Ryne Dowling noted the paperwork had been processed and the funds should be deposited any day.

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4. Staff Updates

- Jared Tremblay noted that the Travel Demand Model (TDM) for Connect 2050 is moving forward with the future scenarios, as staff has sent GIS data to the consultant. Those model runs should be completed in the next month or so.
- Jared Tremblay stated that work on the 2023 audit had begun with AdamsBrown, who purchased Vonfeldt Bauer Vonfeldt.

5. KDOT Update:

- Ryne Dowling noted the I-70 & K-18 public meeting will be held on today, 8.21.2024 at the Ogden Community Center

6. **ACTION ITEM:** Approval of the July 17, 2024 Meeting Minutes

- Jared Tremblay noted the printed copies have the wrong date, but the official version has the correct dates.
- John Ford moved and Keith Ascher seconded. Motion passed.

7. **ACTION ITEM:** Approval of the 2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #4

- Jared Tremblay gave an overview of the changes to the TIP, noting six new projects, and projects that had change in year and cost. He provided an overview of the funds in the TIP.
  - John Ford expressed that he would like to see local entities project lists and costs by year
  - Jared Tremblay noted this will be part of the fiscal analysis for Connect 2050.
- John Ford motioned and Peter Oppelt seconded. Motioned passed.

8. **ACTION ITEM:** Approval of the Manhattan Functional Classification updates

- Jared Tremblay went over the proposed changes to the City of Manhattan road network with South Wreath, Hemlock, and Firethorn being downgraded from Minor Collector to Local.
- Peter Oppelt motioned and John Ford seconded. Motion passed.

9. **ACTION ITEM:** Approval of the Public Participation Plan

- Jared Tremblay covered the updates to the Plan and explained the purpose of the plan and how it is used. He noted that the MPO has removed their social media accounts and instead leverage local partners outreach networks.
- Keith Ascher moved to approve, and John Ford seconded. Motion carried.

10. **DISCUSSION ITEM:** Annual review for Planning Manager

- The board requested staff send out the review paper work to all board members.
- The board requested an Executive Session in September or October to review the Planning Manager.

11. Motion for Adjournment

- Keith Ascher asked about Pottawatomie County participation.
  - Jared Tremblay stated that there had not been a representative in several years, however he has met with the PT County member several times. He also noted that he has a good working relationship with Wamego staff.
- Keith Ascher moved to adjourn the meeting, and John Ford seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 4:08p

**Next Meeting September 18, 2024, Groesbeck Room, Manhattan Public Library**



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# Memorandum

To: Policy Board members

From: Jared Tremblay, Planning Manager – Flint Hills MPO

Date: August 26, 2024

Re: ATIIIP Grant and MPO policies

### Background

As the designated entity for regional transportation planning and programming across all modes (vehicles, transit, walking, and biking), the Flint Hills MPO (FHMPO) serves as a liaison between local governments and state and federal agencies. Through this work, the FHMPO has developed solid working relationships with local government staff across the region. The FHMPO relies on local government staff in each jurisdiction to provide communication and information on local priorities and projects, leveraging their understanding and relationships with their citizens and commissions. In short, the FHMPO does not set projects and priorities for local jurisdictions, rather it is a two-way discussion, based upon local needs, initiatives, and budgets, and framed by state and federal requirements. The goal is to plan for and fund projects that meet the needs of our communities while providing a safe, efficient, affordable, and integrated transportation system.

### ATIIIP Grant

In May of this year, the FHMPO met with the Flint Hills Regional Council (FHRC) to discuss cooperating on a federal Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIIP) grant. The FHMPO served as the title organization with the application submitted under its name. The FHRC provided a grant writer, as well as experience administering a federal grant; the FHMPO had only worked on grants administered by KDOT. Both organizations worked with their community jurisdictions and partners to gauge interest and support of the grant, before completing the application. Additionally, the Build KS Fund voted to fund all required local match (20%) for the project, should it be awarded, meaning no local funds would be used on the project.

The primary goal of the FHMPO ATIIIP grant was to find planning and engineering design funding for Riley Avenue in Ogden. Fort Riley and other regional partners believed funding for final construction of Riley Avenue was available, however funds for the required engineering

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design work had not been identified, despite years of meetings and grant applications. ATIIIP was the opportunity we'd been waiting for to move this project forward.

With Riley Avenue as the centerpiece, the FHMPO and FHRC reached out to other regional jurisdictions to gauge interest in joining the ATIIIP application. Based upon that feedback, the following segments were added to the ATIIIP application:

- Junction City: Grant Avenue and N Washington Street (10<sup>th</sup> St. to Grant Ave) streetscape, roadway, utility, and sidewalk improvements
- Manhattan to Green Valley Road: Trail connection along public roadways
- Manhattan to Tuttle Creek State Park: Trail connection along public roadways

Since the application was submitted, the FHMPO has become aware of some dissent for the Junction City project, and perception of closed-door decision making. Additionally, misunderstandings about project locations on private land versus public rights-of-way has further harmed the support for the Junction City ATIIIP project. Below is a timeline of the communication with Junction City staff and representatives in regards to the ATIIIP application.

- **May 16<sup>th</sup>**: FHRC email with ATIIIP grant information sent to City of Junction City, City Manager, Allen Dinkel, inquiring about the City's interest in joining the application.
- **May 17<sup>th</sup>**: FHRC Board meeting. The Board approved working on and supporting the ATIIIP application with a 6-1 vote. City of Junction City Commissioner Richard Paniere voted No.
- **June 6<sup>th</sup>**: FHMPO & FHRC hosted a webinar about the ATIIIP application, laying out the projects the region would pursue through the ATIIIP grant. Allen Dinkel attended.
- **June 12<sup>th</sup>**: FHMPO & FHRC receive a formal Letter of Support from the City of Junction City, signed by Mayor Pat Landes (letter dated June 12<sup>th</sup>).
- **June 21<sup>st</sup>**: FHMPO submits ATIIIP grant.
- **July 2<sup>nd</sup>**: FHMPO attends City of Junction City Commission, learning of the concerns of Commissioner Paniere and citizens.
- **August 14<sup>th</sup>**: FHMPO posts & publicizes the August 21<sup>st</sup> Policy Board agenda, including a draft of the ATIIIP letter to Junction City Commissioners
- **August 21<sup>st</sup>**: FHMPO Policy Board authorizes staff to send the ATIIIP letter to Junction City Commissioners outlining the items submitted in the ATIIIP application and confirming that all projects are within public right-of-way or on public land.

Additionally, it is worth noting that there was no City of Junction City Commission meeting on June 12<sup>th</sup> (date of the letter). The previous meeting was on June 4<sup>th</sup>, and the ATIIIP was not an item on the agenda. However, the FHPMO was not aware of these facts, and received the Letter of Support in good faith as a full endorsement of the City's support of the ATIIIP.

### **ATIIIP Going Forward**

Funding for the nation-wide ATIIIP program is \$44.55 million for this fiscal year. Therefore, the likelihood of the FHMPO application being funded is low. However, should the application be funded, the City of Junction City has numerous options, including the two outlined here:

- 
- Withdrawal the Junction City project from the overall grant, leaving the remaining three segments in Ogden and Manhattan areas to move forward.
  - Remain as part of the grant, and host extensive public outreach sessions during the planning and design phases, ensuring that public concerns and ideas are heard.

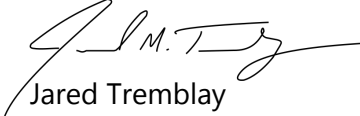
### **Future Trail Procedures**

Despite wide-spread support for trails in many areas within the region, the ATIIIP application process has arisen considerable concern as well. Therefore, the FHMPO will alter its standard procedures for letters of support when projects include trails in Junction City and Geary County. The following will be the new process.

- FHMPO staff will reach out to local government staff to gauge interest
- Following staff support, FHMPO staff will work with local government staff to have the letter of support request added to the next Commission agenda
- FHMPO staff will be present at the Commission meeting to answer all questions and concerns
- If approved, the letter of support will be signed by the chair/mayor at the meeting

This process will allow for continued efficient communication and work on standard transportation items, while providing public input and clarity on trails and other non-traditional transportation items.

Sincerely,



Jared Tremblay  
Planning Manager