



Flint Hills Metropolitan Planning Organization

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Policy Board Meeting

Wednesday, August 16, 2023

3:30 pm

Manhattan Public Library – Groesbeck Room

Zoom – Meeting ID: 919 154 6755 passcode: 148813

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT		
x	Keith Ascher	Geary County Commission
x	Ryne Dowling	KS Dept of Transportation
x	Linda Morse	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		
	Matt McDonald	Federal Highway Admin.
	Kelley Paskow	Fort Riley Representative
	Eva Steinman	Federal Transit Admin.
x	Anne Smith	Flint Hills ATA

Staff Present		
x	Jared Tremblay	MPO
x	Abigal Danner	MPO

Guests Present		

1. Welcome

- The Policy Board meeting was called to order at 3:35p by chairperson Ronna Larson

2. Public Comment Opportunity (for items not on the agenda)

3. Financial Update

- Jared Tremblay gave an overview of the accounts and noted no changes save for interest in the money market account, and standard transactions in the checking. As of 8.9.2023 there was \$191,541.07 in checking and \$102,480.96 in the money market accounts.
- Jared Tremblay then showed a series of charts plotting the MPO account balances over the last 18 months.

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.

4. Staff Updates

- TDM: Jared Tremblay gave an update of the process on-going with the Transportation Demand Model (TDM), stating that the consultant has been sent road and TAZ updated data so as to complete the 2022 base year model.
- SRTS: Jared Tremblay noted that staff had sent the last draft report to the City of Manhattan for review. Further edits will be required, but staff hopes to have the City and USD adopt the plan this autumn.
- KDHE: Jared Tremblay informed members of the work the MPO has been contracted for by KDHE this year. The contract runs through the end of September. He stated that staff is working with the communities of Hoxie and Johnson City in western KS. Staff is creating Safe Routes to School and Active Transportation Plan reports for each community, as well as installing demonstration projects. By having KDHE fund the MPO to do the planning work, the communities are able to save local funds to go after construction projects identified in the reports.
- US-24 Corridor Committee: Jared Tremblay stated the MPO had called a meeting of the committee for the first time since 2019. There was good attendance and the meeting was useful, in that there was discussion around the Flush Road Safety Study and future plans to update the Corridor Study from 2009. The next meeting is scheduled for early 2024.
- 2022 Audit: Jared Tremblay informed the board about the ongoing audit conducted by Vonfeldt Bauer and Vonfeldt. Staff is currently collecting and sending in requested receipts and items.
- Waze: Jared Tremblay noted that MPO staff has met with google engineers about the potential to utilize 3.5+ years of google waze user data to look at traffic flow over time along certain corridors.

5. KDOT Update: Available on KDOT's website, [here](#)

- Ryne Dowling stated that KDOT is looking to partner with local public works departments to install permanent traffic counters that will be used to fill in counts on non-state and non-highway roads.
- Jared Tremblay noted that he had reached out to local PW directors and had heard back from the City of Manhattan. Potential sites include Anderson between Scenic Drive and Anneberg Park and Marlatt Avenue between K-13 and Browning. The idea is to find sights that the city doesn't have traffic signal cameras at, which can count vehicles already.
- Ryne Dowling noted nothing is finalized but KDOT will be sending out material soon.

6. **ACTION ITEM:** Approval of the May 17, 2023 Meeting Minutes

- John Ford motions and Keith Ascher seconded. Linda Morse abstained, and the motion passed unanimously.

7. **ACTION ITEM:** Approval of 2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- Jared Tremblay gave an overview of the updates to the new TIP document noting the region is doing a good job focusing on preservation and safety. He also highlighted the new EJ areas based on 2022 US Census Data, and noted that over 31% of projects are in EJ areas. He noted staff had reworked the layout of the TIP project tables to make them easier to read.
- Jared Tremblay then noted the large amount of public comments received for this TIP. He stated there were 12 letters and a petition with 124 signatures that were against the inclusion and construction of the I-70 and Taylor Road interchange. These letters are attached to the TIP document.
- John Ford asked if people are opposed to the rumored slaughterhouse or the interchange itself.
- Ronna Larson replied that for the most part, people are opposed to the slaughterhouse but conflate the two issues.
- Jared Tremblay noted that by approving the TIP, the board is not condoning the slaughterhouse, only the interchange. He also stated that only Preliminary Engineering has been approved and included in the TIP, and that was added nearly two years ago with little movement since. He also stated, that KDOT can request the removal of the project at any time, and that the TIP is just a reflection and documentation of stated priorities, not a signal or contract for construction.
- John Ford motioned to approve the 2024 TIP with public comments attached. Linda Morse seconded, and the motion passes unanimously.

8. **ACTION ITEM:** Approval of 2023 UPWP Amendment #2

- Jared Tremblay introduce the UPWP and went over the changes. He noted specifically that funds were being shifted within item 1.1 from Professional Training to Office Expenses/Supplies, as obtaining ESRI software for Abigail Danner was more than budgeted. In addition he noted other items were altered due to updated expectations based on hours worked.

- Anne Smith suggested staff look into TechSoup which provides software for non-profits for lower costs.
- Linda Morse motioned and John Ford seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

9. **DISCUSSION ITEM:** Planning Manager Annual Review

- Jared Tremblay state he was approaching one year as the Planning Manager and asked if the board would like to hold an annual performance review.
- Board supported the review and proposed holding the review at the October 18, 2023 meeting, by holding an executive session.
- John Ford recommended sending the review form out to members for their review and completion.

10. Motion for Adjournment

- Linda Morse noted her term as a City of Manhattan commissioner will end in early January, as she is not running, and there will be four new commissioners. She was not able to comment on who will be the new MPO liaison for the City, but noted that by the December meeting she hopes to have an idea of who is interested.
- John Ford motioned and Keith Ascher seconded. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 4:38pm.

Next Meeting October 18, 2023