



Flint Hills Metropolitan Planning Organization

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Policy Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

3:30 pm

Manhattan Public Library – Study Room 2

Zoom – Meeting ID: 919 154 6755 passcode: 148813

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT		
	Keith Ascher	Geary County Commission
x	Ryne Dowling	KS Dept of Transportation
x	Usha Reddi	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		
	Cecelie Cochran (Zoom)	Federal Highway Admin.
x	Kelley Paskow	Fort Riley Representative
	Eva Steinman	Federal Transit Admin.
	Anne Smith	Flint Hills ATA

Staff Present		
x	Jared Tremblay	MPO
x	Abigail Danner	MPO

Guests Present	

1. Welcome

- The Policy Board meeting was called to order at 3:32p by chairperson Ronna Larson

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

3. Financial Update

- Jared Tremblay gave a quick overview of the accounts and noted no changes save for interest in the money market account, and standard transactions in the checking.
- Jared Tremblay stated the Q1 2023 billing had been submitted to KDOT and reimbursement was expected in the next few weeks.

4. Staff Updates

- Abigail Danner introduced herself to the Policy Board as the new Transportation Planner.
- Jared Tremblay showed the board the 2023 CPG Agreement the MPO has executed with KDOT. He noted the amount equaled that needed in the 2023 UPWP.

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.

- Jared Tremblay noted the contract between the MPO and their bookkeeper, Strawn & Associates, expires in June. He noted the contract allows for a one-year extension if both companies are agreeable.

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

- Ryne Dowling stated that the MPO's 2023 Q1 reimbursement voucher was received on April 17th, and the funds will be transferred in the next few weeks.
- Ryne Dowling noted that Q2 billing estimate needed to be submitted to KDOT by June 30th, with final requests due later.

6. **ACTION ITEM:** Approval of the January 18, 2023 Meeting Minutes

- John Ford motioned for the minutes approval with Ryne Dowling seconding. Motion passed unanimously.

7. **ACTION ITEM:** Approval of Connect 2040 Amendment #3

- Jared Tremblay gave an overview of the changes to Connect 2040 in this third amendment. He noted the update of the Chapter 5 metrics, stating they were based on the MPO's FHWA Performance Metrics the Policy Board approved in January. He also noted the projects added to the Fiscally Constrained and Illustrative lists in Chapter 6.
- John Ford asked about the addition of Riley Avenue in Ogden. Jared Tremblay stated the project was included. There was discussion about the difficult position Ogden is in with this key but expensive roadway.
- Usha Reddi noted she is on the Transportation committee in the State Senate and wanted to know if there was anything she and the committee could do to ensure equity for projects like Ogden's and other smaller communities
- John Ford noted he is working and communicating with Federal legislators to get appropriation, in addition to talking with KDOT about the project.
- Ryne Dowling stated that grant hunting is currently the only real option to utilized existing resources. He suggested Ogden and region continue to look at BIL options.
- John Ford motioned and Ryne Dowling seconded for approval, with the motion passing unanimously.

8. **ACTION ITEM:** Approval of 2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #5

- Jared Tremblay gave an overview of the Summary of Changes to the TIP. He noted there is a correction needed in the table.
- John Ford motioned and Ryne Dowling seconded for approval. Motion passed unanimously.

9. **DISCUSSION ITEM:** 2023 Local Match Invoice #2

- Jared Tremblay presented an overview of the UPWP 2022 final budget and explained the carryover amount of \$4,503.60. He then presented three options for what to do with the funds.
- Usha Reddi stated she supported having the MPO keep the funds for a rainy day and future years, when state and federal funding may be lean. She stated it was not enough to make a dent in local budgets, especially when considering inflation.
- John Ford and Ronna Larson expressed agreement with Usha Reddi

10. **DISCUSSION ITEM:** EV Readiness Study

- Jared Tremblay showed the Board the Electric Vehicle (EV) Readiness Plan created by the SE Missouri MPO. He stated that there is interest from local jurisdictions and staffs, as well as within the MPO to pursue a similar project in the Flint Hills region. Therefore he be including funds in the MPO budget, and in the local match of jurisdictions to pursue a report.
- Jared Tremblay noted that there is already funding coming through KDOT and federal government to push EV charging stations
- Usha Reddi asked about financing the charging stations, and if that will fall on cities or businesses. She stated the City of Manhattan has never been involved in gas stations, so why are EVs different.
- Jared Tremblay clarified that it would not be the City's responsibility, but rather planning, zoning, policies, and regulation would be on the City. What can cities and counties do to help the transition to EVs, and ensure it's done safely and well.
- John Ford stated he would like to see an EV station at exit 313 (I-70 and K-177) if possible.
- Usha Reddi noted that at the state level, EVs are continuing the crunch on gas tax as they do not contribute towards the tax at all. She believes the State must look at revenue sources to keep building roads.

11. Motion for Adjournment

- Usha Reddi noted the May 2nd meeting will be in-person at the Groesbeck room at the Manhattan Public Library
- Jared Tremblay also noted the I-70 reconstruction and I-70 & K-18 interchange projects and stated he will send an email update with more information.
- Usha Reddi motioned for adjournment and John Ford seconded. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 4:20pm.

Next Meeting May 17th, 2023