

**MINUTES  
OF THE  
EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE  
Thursday, February 12, 2026, 1:30 p.m.  
Zoom/2nd Floor Circle of Friends Community Room  
Rapid City, South Dakota**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Larry Larson – Mayor of Box Elder, Jafar Karim – South Dakota Transportation Commission, Vicki Fisher via proxy for Jason Salamun – Mayor of Rapid City, Rod Pettigrew – Rapid City Council, Talbot Wieczorek and Richard Liggett – Meade County Commission

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Dr. Stephen Tamang – Rapid City Council, Ron Wiefenbach and Ron Rossknecht – Pennington County Commission, Patrick Dame – Rapid City Regional Airport and Michael Knight – Box Elder City Council

**STAFF PRESENT:** Kelly Brennan, and Melissa Bloomberg – Rapid City Department of Community Development, Jamie Toennies – Rapid City Finance Department

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Mike Carlson and Sarah Gilkerson – South Dakota Department of Transportation

Chairman Larson called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

Meeting quorum was met.

**General Public Comment**

Brennan relayed the public comment from the Technical and Citizens Committee about the concern for the Bus Stop located at Community action. This issue has been forwarded to Rapid Transit.

**Business**

**Liggett moved, Wieczorek seconded and motion carried unanimously to approve the Amended February 12, 2026 Executive Policy Committee to include Agenda item 26TP009 - Letter of Support for FY 2026 BUILD Opportunity - Downtown Railroad Crossing Safety Improvements Project, Rapid City, SD.**

**Fisher moved, Pettigrew seconded and motion carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the December 11, 2025 Executive Policy Committee.**

**26TP002 – Approve the Section 5310 Award Recommendation.** Each year 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. The local share for capital projects is 20%, and operating costs is 50%. The local share is 15% for acquisition of vehicles for purposes of complying with or maintaining compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act

(ADA; 42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) or the Clean Air Act (CAA; 42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.). Three organizations submitted applications for review. The scoring committee recommends granting \$85,000 to Black Hills Works for one 15-passenger ADA van modified for wheelchairs and \$120,967.09 to Black Hills Center for Aging/Adult Day Services (ADS) for one Ford Transit E350 AWD. These vehicles will enable wheelchair transit options to assist Black Hills Works and Black Hills Center for Aging/(ADS) in eliminating transportation gaps identified in the Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan. Discussion regarding issues with SDDOT procuring a 15-passenger ADA. The committee was in agreement to change the memo to approve the Section 5310 Grant Recommendations with the addition of allowing an alternative ADA vehicle that is available with SDDOT procurement.

**Liggett moved, Karim seconded and motion carried unanimously to approve the the amended Section 5310 Award Recommendation with the addition of allowing an alternative ADA vehicle that is available with SDDOT procurement.**

**26TP003 – Approve the 2025 Unified Planning Work Program Annual Report.** Brennan reviewed the 2025 Unified Planning Work Program Annual Report which is a listing of the accomplishments and expenditures associated with the Unified Planning Work Program activities conducted during the past year.

**Fisher moved, Wieczorek seconded and motion carried unanimously to approve the 2025 Unified Planning Work Program Annual Report.**

**26TP004 – Approve 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #26-001.** Brennan reviewed this amendment that splits the reconstruction of the US Highway 16/US Highway 16B interchange project into multiple smaller projects, due to the size and complexity of the project. Carlson gave additional information on the Amendment. Discussion on design ensued.

**Pettigrew moved, Wieczorek seconded and motion carried to approve the 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #26-001, with Karim and Liggett abstaining.**

**26TP005 – Approve 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #26-002.** The City of Rapid City/Rapid Transit System is requesting an amendment to the 2026-2029 TIP to include 5339(b) Competitive Grant Program funding from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The City of Rapid City/Rapid Transit System will receive \$1,190,000 for the purchase of new buses to replace older vehicles that have reached the end of their useful life. Brennan reviewed this amendment.

**Fisher moved, Liggett seconded and motion carried unanimously to approve the 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #26-002.**

**26TP006 – Approve the Letter of Support for FY 2026 BUILD Opportunity: US 16 Reconstruction project, Pennington County, SD.** The SDDOT is submitting a BUILD Grant application to assist with funding the U.S. Highway 16 and Catron Boulevard (US 16 Bypass) intersection reconstruction project. The intersection will be converted to an interchange. The new interchange is estimated to cost \$34.3 million and is currently scheduled for construction in 2027. Through this USDOT grant program, the SDDOT

could receive up to \$25 million of the project cost. The MPO's support may enhance SDDOT's potential to receive this grant. Brennan reviewed this letter of support.

**Wieczorek moved, Pettigrew seconded and motion carried to approve the Letter of Support for FY 2026 BUILD Opportunity: US 16 Reconstruction project, Pennington County, SD, with Liggett and Karim abstaining.**

**26TP007 – Approve the Letter of Support for FY 2026 BUILD Opportunity: Eglin Street Reconstruction Project, Rapid City SD.** The City of Rapid City is submitting a BUILD Grant application to assist with funding the Eglin Street reconstruction project. Eglin Street is a collector street that provides access to the Rushmore Crossing Shopping Center, the largest neighborhood shopping center in Rapid City. Rapid population growth in Rapid City and surrounding communities since Eglin Street's original construction has caused traffic congestion along the roadway to increase significantly. The three-lane street struggles to support traffic flow efficiently, and safety for travelers is likely to decrease unless intersections are improved and the corridor itself is widened with additional lanes. Brennan reviewed this letter of support. Toennies provided additional information. Discussion ensued regarding what the types of costs the funding could be utilized for.

**Karim moved, Pettigrew seconded and motion carried unanimously to approve the Letter of Support for FY 2026 BUILD Opportunity: Eglin Street Reconstruction Project, Rapid City SD.**

**26TP008 – Approve the Letter of Support for FY 2026 BUILD Opportunity: Country Road Reconstruction Project, Rapid City, SD.** The City of Rapid City is submitting a BUILD Grant application to assist with funding the Country Road reconstruction project. Country Road provides a critical east-west corridor link across the north side of Rapid City. When constructed, it served a rural area of Pennington County, well outside of city limits. With population growth expanding city boundaries, Country Road from Haines Avenue to 143<sup>rd</sup> Avenue is now owned and maintained by the city. Country Road currently does not meet City Street standards. It is a narrow two-lane road with drainage ditches and no shoulder. Significant vertical curve issues lead to areas of poor sight distance and safety concerns. No pedestrian or bicycle facilities exist, forcing non-motorized travelers to walk or bike in the roadway. In 2016, two children riding a tricycle in the roadway were struck by a vehicle, resulting in one fatality and one serious injury. With the imminent arrival of the B-21 Raider bomber to nearby Ellsworth Air Force Base, additional housing growth is anticipated in the areas served by Country Road because of its proximity to the base. Reconstructing Country Road to current standards and providing bicycle and pedestrian improvements will enhance safety, provide more opportunity for development, and help to serve the B-21 Raider mission and national security. Brennan and Pavel reviewed this letter of support.

**Fisher moved, Liggett seconded and motion carried unanimously to approve the Letter of Support for FY 2026 BUILD Opportunity: Country Road Reconstruction Project, Rapid City, SD.**

**26TP009 – Approve the Letter of Support for FY 2026 BUILD Opportunity: Downtown Railroad Crossing Safety Improvements Project, Rapid City, SD.** The City of Rapid City is seeking BUILD Grant Program funding for the Downtown Railroad

Crossing Safety Improvements Project. Railroad crossing throughout the downtown area lack additional safety measures for all modes of transportation. The Study will analyze the crossings, recommend infrastructure improvements, and provide cost estimates. A letter of support from the Metropolitan Planning Organization may assist in the grant application process. Toennies reviewed this letter of support.

**Karim moved, Fisher seconded and motion carried unanimously to approve the Letter of Support for FY 2026 BUILD Opportunity: Downtown Railroad Crossing Safety Improvements Project, Rapid City, SD.**

**Wieczorek moved, Fisher seconded and motion carried unanimously to re-elect Larson as Chairman.**

**Fisher moved, Karim seconded and motion carried unanimously to elect Wieczorek as Vice-Chairman.**

#### **Update on Construction Projects**

Brennan 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. Liggett provided information on construction projects in Meade County.

#### **Update on Planning Projects**

Brennan provided information on the current planning projects within the Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization area. Gilkerson added additional information on the U.S. Highway 16 Corridor Study.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.