

**MINUTES  
OF THE  
EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE  
Thursday, February 15, 2024, 1:30 p.m.  
Zoom/3rd Floor Rose Quartz Conference Room  
Rapid City, South Dakota**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jafar Karim – South Dakota Transportation Commission, Vicki Fisher via proxy for Jason Salamun – Mayor of Rapid City, Larry Larson – Mayor of Box Elder, Talbot Wiczorek – Meade County Commission, Patrick Dame – Rapid City Regional Airport and Lloyd LaCroix – Pennington County Commission

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Gary Drewes – Pennington County Commission, Richard Liggett – Meade County Commission, John Roberts and Greg Strommen – Rapid City City Council and Michael Knight – Box Elder City Council

**STAFF PRESENT:** Kelly Brennan and Melissa Bloomberg – Rapid City Department of Community Development, Megan Gould-Stabile – Rapid City Transit Division and Jamie Toennies – Rapid City Grants Division

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Sarah Gilkerson and Mike Carlson – South Dakota Department of Transportation and Greg Heitmann – Federal Highway Administration

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

Meeting quorum was met.

**General Public Comment**

No General Public Comment.

**Business**

**Wiczorek moved, Karim seconded and motion carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the December 14, 2023 meeting.**

**24TP001 – Approve the 2023 Unified Planning Work Program Annual Report.**

Brennan reviewed the 2023 Annual Report listing the accomplishments and expenditures associated with the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) activities conducted during the past year. Discussion ensued on what amounts carry over to the next UPWP.

**Fisher moved, Wiczorek seconded and motion carried unanimously to approve the 2023 Unified Planning Work Program Annual Report.**

**24TP002 – Approve the Memorandum of Agreement Covering Metropolitan Planning within the Rapid City Metropolitan Planning Area.**

The Federal Transit Administration requires a formal Memorandum of Agreement between the State of South Dakota, acting by and through its Department of Transportation, the Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, and the City of Rapid City Public Transit Operator

(Rapid Ride) to ensure that a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive metropolitan transportation planning and programming process is in place, as required by Federal regulations. The agreement outlines the roles and responsibilities of each agency in regards to performance measures relating to public transit operations. Brennan and Gould-Stabile reviewed this Memorandum.

**Wieczorek moved, Karim seconded and motion carried unanimously to approve the Memorandum of Agreement Covering Metropolitan Planning within the Rapid City Metropolitan Planning Area.**

**24TP003 – Approve the Citizens Advisory Committee Vacancy Recommendations.** The committee discussed alternatives to the Citizens Advisory Committee meeting configuration and/or times and determined it best to move this agenda item to April Executive Policy Committee meetings.

**Fisher moved, LaCroix seconded and motion carried unanimously to move the Citizens Advisory Committee Vacancy to the April Executive Policy Committee meeting.**

**24TP004 – Approve the Letter of Support for the Rapid City Country Road RAISE Grant Application.** The City of Rapid City is seeking RAISE Grant Program funding for the Country Road Reconstruction Project. Country Road does not currently meet City street standards, and is in poor condition. Additionally, Country Road lacks bicycle and pedestrian, drainage, and safety infrastructure. A letter of support from the Metropolitan Planning Organization may assist in the grant application process. Brennan and Toennies reviewed this grant support letter. Discussion ensued regarding the location of the study.

**Fisher moved, Wieczorek seconded and motion carried unanimously to approve the Letter of Support for the Rapid City Country Road RAISE Grant Application.**

**24TP005 – Approve the Letter of Support for the Downtown Railroad Crossing Improvements Study RAISE Grant Application.** The City of Rapid City is seeking RAISE Grant Program funding for the Downtown Railroad Crossing Safety Study. Railroad crossing throughout the downtown area lacks 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. Brennan and Toennies reviewed this grant support letter.

**Fisher moved, LaCroix seconded and motion carried unanimously to approve the Letter of Support for the Downtown Railroad Crossing Improvements Study RAISE Grant Application.**

**24TP006 – Acknowledge the 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #24-002A.** Brennan reviewed amendment #24-002A. This amendment removes funding from the County Secondary and Off System Projects category for county pavement marking projects. This change was developed in conjunction with the South Dakota Association of County Highway Superintendents to allow more flexibility by

allocating funding proportionally based on the percentage of paved miles of county roads in each jurisdiction.

**No action was taken on this item.**

**24TP007 – Acknowledge the Highway 1416 and Radar Hill Road Corridor Study – Draft Report.** Pennington County and the City of Box Elder, in conjunction with the Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, contracted with KLJ, Inc. to conduct a corridor study on Highway 1416 and Radar Hill Road. With the planned expansion of Ellsworth Air Force Base (EAFB), providing safe and efficient access to the installation will help to ensure the success of the B-21 Raider Bomber mission. Traffic to and from EAFB is anticipated to increase over the next 20 years, and Highway 1416 and Radar Hill Road are critical links in the transportation infrastructure. The study analyzed traffic patterns and safety issues on the corridors, and provides recommended improvements to the corridors to provide a multi-modal transportation system for EAFB, Pennington County, and the City of Box Elder. Brennan provided a presentation on the recommendations.

**No action was taken on this item.**

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

Carlson provided information on the current construction projects within the Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization area. Brennan provided information on current Rapid City construction projects.

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

Brennan provided information on the current planning projects within the Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization area.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:18 p.m.