



Policy Committee

Date: Wednesday, April 14th, 2021

Time: 3:00pm

Location: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting was held as a Virtual Public Meeting.

Attendance:

Voting Members

City of DeKalb: Jerry Smith
City of DeKalb: Bill Finucane
City of DeKalb: Bill Nicklas (Vice-Chair)
City of Sycamore: Maggie Peck
City of Sycamore: Mark Bushnell
Town of Cortland: Brandy Williams
DeKalb County: Brian Gregory (Chair)
NIU: Not Present
IDOT District 3: Nicholas Spence

Non-Voting Attendance

City of DeKalb: Cohen Barnes (3:24pm)
DeKalb Transit: Marcus Cox
IDOT District 3: Tom Magolan
IDOT OP&P: Doug DeLille
DSATS Staff: Nathan Schwartz, Brandon Geber

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: Chair Gregory called the meeting to order at 3:00pm.

1. Roll Call

2. Approval of Agenda (Action)

Motion to approve the April 14, 2021 meeting agenda made by Ms. Peck; seconded by Mr. Finucane; Motion approved unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes (Action)

Motion to approve the February 10, 2021 meeting minutes made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Peck; Motion approved unanimously.

4. Public Comments

No public comments.

5. New Business

a. 2021 Public Participation Plan (PPP) (Action)

Mr. Geber presented on the update of the MPO's PPP, including key modifications to the previous program. The draft 2021 PPP was available for public review from February 15th – March 31st, including a public hearing on March 31st. No comments were received. Both TOC and TAC recommended the adoption of the plan at their April 7, 2021 meetings. The final draft document is presented to the committee for adoption. Mr. Nicklas commented the change in the general feedback period is more appropriate given the general level of feedback received. Motion to adopt the 2021 Public Participation Plan made by Mr. Nicklas, seconded by Ms. Peck; Motion approved unanimously.

b. 2021 Title VI Program (Action)

Mr. Geber presented on the update of the MPO's Title VI Program, including key modifications to the previous program. The draft 2021 Title VI Program was available for public review from February 15th – March 31st, including a public hearing on March 31st. No comments were received. Both TOC and TAC recommended the adoption of the plan at their April 7, 2021 meetings. The final draft document is presented to the committee for adoption. Motion to adopt the 2021 Title VI Program made by Ms. Peck, seconded by Mr. Smith; Motion approved unanimously.

c. SFY 2022-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Update

Mr. Geber presented on the update of the MPO's TIP for SFY 2022-2026, including updated document elements and the initial program of projects. Mr. Geber also presented a draft version of the new electronic TIP (eTIP), a complimentary map that illustrates programmed projects. The draft is available for public review from April 2 – May 2, including a public hearing on April 29. The draft TIP will come before the committee in May for potential adoption. Mr. Nicklas stated he likes the eTIP.

d. SFY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Update

Mr. Geber provided an update on the budget and work program for State Fiscal Year 2022 (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022). The draft budget was approved by IDOT and a Notice of Award has been received. The MPO is now waiting on a final agreement. The draft UPWP will come before the committee in May for potential adoption. Although a public review period is not required, the MPO will make the draft UPWP available on the DSATS website for review.

6. Other Business

a. Staff and Project Updates

Mr. Cox reported NIU classes end at the end of April and the transit system will transition to its summer/break schedule on May 1. Staff is focusing on the transit facility project and working with the architectural and engineering firm to move the project forward. With recent federal grant opportunities released, staff will be preparing applications to secure funding for the facility project.

Mr. Smith reported the DeKalb City Council is now against the proposed facility location on Dresser Road and inquired about how the decision will impact their work with DSATS members. Mr. Nicklas answered the City is going to work with their engineering firm to revise their scope of work for site selection, quickly working to address the location change and not put dedicated funding at risk. Mr. Geber added with the potential adoption of the draft SFY 2022-2026 TIP in May, the facility project will be approved by the MPO and can be discussed and modified in the future to reflect a new location. Mr. Nicklas mentioned they will continue to work with DSATS and member agencies to move the project forward. Mr. Smith clarified he wanted to make sure everyone was on the same page with the project and funding.

Mr. Schwartz reported DSATS will be piloting a data collection process to update google street view imagery for the region. Staff has also been working on an updated bike map and bringing back counting of bicyclists and pedestrians on regional trails and other active transportation facilities.

Mr. Geber presented a draft version of a web-based map displaying regional trails and parks in response to feedback received as part of the Active Transportation Plan. The map was sent to the Active Transportation Subcommittee upon request from TOC and TAC. Mr. Schwartz clarified the map will only display destination and connecting trails rather than internal paths within small parks. Mr. Geber mentioned this was due to an effort to keep the map clear and easy to understand.

Mr. Geber reported staff is planning to count active transportation facilities this year and a request for potential active transportation counting locations has been sent to the Active Transportation Subcommittee.

Mr. Nicklas reported City of DeKalb has been working with IDOT to improve active transportation connections in Downtown DeKalb during scheduled improvements and to establish more East-West connections throughout the City. Mr. Schwartz added IDOT has reached out to DSATS regarding the project and the MPO supports the City's decision.

Mr. Bushnell reported a traffic signal project at the intersection of Mt. Hunger Road and IL 23 is nearing completion. Mr. Bushnell added the MPO is doing a great job in preparing data resources that are essential for member organizations in preparing grant applications and useful as a general resource.

b. What's New with our State and Federal Partners

Mr. Spence reported both the IL 23 resurfacing project between Sycamore and Genoa and the crack and joint sealing project on IL 23 between DeKalb and Sycamore are complete. A railroad crossing improvement to upgrade safety features at the intersection of IL 23 and IL 38 is pending information from the railroad. The latest MYP is expected to be published in late spring/early summer and pavement condition studies and traffic counting will be performed throughout the region this summer.

Additional Business

Chair Gregory recognized the contributions of DSATS members who are retiring at the end of the month, including City of DeKalb Mayor Jerry Smith and Alderman Bill Finucane and City of Sycamore Mayor Curt Lang. Chair Gregory requested an overview of DSATS acronyms and projects be prepared for new members.

Mr. Schwartz reported the plan is to hold the May 12, 2021 meeting to wrap up business for the fiscal year and potentially cancel the June and July meetings.

Mr. Schwartz presented Certificates of Appreciation for the retiring members and thanked the members for their years of guidance.

Mr. Schwartz also congratulated Mr. Spence on the pending arrival on of a newborn.

Chair Gregory mentioned the next meeting with be held virtually via zoom and future meetings will then be reassessed.

7. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Nicklas, seconded by Mr. Smith; meeting adjourned at 3:47pm.

Note: These minutes are not official until approved by the Policy Committee at a subsequent meeting.