

**MINUTES**  
**RPA 14/ATURA POLICY BOARD MEETING**

**Tuesday, May 8, 2018**  
**The Office in Lenox, Iowa**  
**1:41 p.m.**

**I. Call to Order**

Chairman Twombly called the meeting to order at 1:41 p.m. at The Office in Lenox, Iowa.

**II. Roll Call of Policy Board, Technical Committee and Guests**

The following people were present:

**Policy Board**

Adair County	John Twombly
Adams County	Merlin Dixon
Ringgold County	Lyle Minnick
Taylor County	Charles Ambrose
Union County	Ron Riley
City of Creston	Gary Lybarger

**Technical Committee**

Adams & Taylor County	Eldon Rike
Ringgold County	Travis Malone
City of Creston	Kevin Kruse

**Administrative**

SICOG	Becky Nardy
SICOG	Nancy Groth
SICOG	Tim Ostroski

**III. Additions to the Agenda**

There were no changes or additions to the agenda. Riley moved to accept and approve the agenda. Ambrose seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

**IV. Approval of the March 13, 2018 Minutes**

Riley moved to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2018 meeting. Twombly seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

**V. Action Items**

- A. Public Hearing – Final RPA 14/ATURA FY2019 Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP)**

Twombly announced it was time to open the public hearing. Ambrose moved to open the public hearing at 1:42 p.m. Dixon seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried. This public hearing is in regard to federal spending proposed in the Final FY2019 RPA 14/ATURA Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP).

Nardy has not received any oral or written comments from the public regarding the use of federal transportation funds for this project. No additional comments were made during the hearing for this item.

Dixon moved and Ambrose seconded the motion to close the public hearing at 1:43 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.

**B. Resolution Approving Final FY2019 Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP)**

Prior to the meeting, Nardy sent a draft version of the FY2019 Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP) to the Technical Committee and Policy Board members for their review. This document was also made available for public review and comments. No comments were received from the committee, board or public. This document outlines the work program for SICOG to provide administration for RPA 14/ATURA. Upon approval, it will be the contract with SICOG for FY19. The Technical Committee recommended approval of this document.

Dixon moved to approve the Resolution Approving Final FY2019 Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP). Minnick seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

**C. Second reading and consideration of approval and adoption of amended RPA 14/ATURA By-Laws**

The amended By-Laws would allow Southern Iowa Trolley to be a voting member of the Transportation Technical Committee. Also updated is the date of adoption and the name of the most recent Transportation Act – FAST Act. Other items remain unchanged.

Following the second reading of the proposed By-Laws, Ambrose moved to approve and adopt the RPA 14/ATURA By-Laws (*Article VIII, Section C – Committees*) to give voting rights to the Regional Transit Operator on the Transportation Technical Committee. Twombly seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

**C. Moving District 4 DOT Office from Atlantic to Council Bluffs**

Scott Suhr, Iowa DOT, joined the group by telephone. He was not able to come to the meeting because he had a meeting regarding the DOT's plans to consolidate and move the Atlantic office to Council Bluffs. The Policy Board and engineers discussed the disadvantages of the move at length. They

included high moving costs of approximately \$20 million, a negative economic impact on Atlantic, increased commute time, and increased construction costs due to the longer traveling time from our counties to Council Bluffs, which is not centrally located for our region. The group agreed that it doesn't make sense to move further away from the people they serve. To consolidate the existing Atlantic office at Council Bluffs, the DOT will need to ask for appropriations from the legislature and they plan to do so in 2021 or 2022.

It was the consensus of the group not to support the move of the District 4 DOT office to Council Bluffs, as they feel southern Iowa would be better served by the current, central location in Atlantic. The board agreed upon the need to contact their legislators and the Iowa DOT now before appropriations are asked for. Nardy was asked to draft a letter on behalf of the Policy Board. She will do so and send it out to the board for their review.

## **VI. Discussion Items**

### **A. Technical Committee**

Rike reported for Adams / Taylor County. Adams County has completed their Railroad overpass project. Taylor County continues to work on a joint project with Ringgold County on a truss bridge. Rike and Malone both indicated the project is moving along well.

Malone stated the Ringgold County is progressing well with two BRS projects. They are finishing up on the box culverts with permanent seeding remaining.

Kruse stated the City of Creston does not have any federal aid projects at this time.

### **D. Southern Iowa Trolley (SIT)**

Nardy reported she had not received any information from Lester to share at the meeting.

### **E. SICOG**

1. At the March meeting, Nardy reported that she had been contacted by the City of Creston who had received correspondence from a passenger rail organization asking for support for continued federal funding for Amtrak's California Zephyr route through southern Iowa, as such funding was not included in the President's proposed budget.

As requested by board members, Nardy mailed a letter of support to federal elected officials regarding continued federal funding for Amtrak. She received responses from Grassley and Young stating they would note our concerns and keep our views on this issue in mind as the House Appropriations Committee debates and votes on federal appropriations measures for the upcoming fiscal year. Ernst did not respond.

2. Nardy noted this is Eldon Rike's last ATURA meeting, as he is retiring. She expressed her appreciation for his many years of service on the Technical Committee and added that he has been great to work with, always responsive, and willing to assist in the work of the RPA. He served as Chairman of the Technical Committee for more than 20 years.
  
4. Ostroski announced that SICOG has offered the position of Transportation Planner to Marcus Amman. He is from the Sioux City area, has a military background, and is a graduate of ISU's planning department. He and his family will be moving from Idaho to Creston in June. He will have a chance to work with Nardy for 3 or 4 months before her retirement this fall.

**VII. Informational Items**

None.

**VIII. Set Date of Future Meeting and Host County**

Discussion was held that the next meeting is scheduled for July 10, 2018. The City of Creston will host the meeting at the Pizza Ranch in Creston, Iowa.

**IX. Adjournment**

Ambrose moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:19 p.m. Dixon seconded the motion. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

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Secretary

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Date