

Minutes of the

**REGION 9
TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE**

Serving Rural Scott County and all of Muscatine County

Friday, July 14, 2023 – 3:00 p.m.

Walcott City Hall
128 West Lincoln St
Walcott, Iowa
Mike Limberg, Chair

Technical Committee Members Present

Brad Bark	Mayor, City of Muscatine
Mike Limberg	Mayor, City of Long Grove
Ross Paustian	Scott County Board of Supervisors
Scott Sauer	River Bend Transit Board
Jeff Sorensen	Muscatine County Board of Supervisors

Others Present

Gena McCullough	Bi-State Regional Commission
Bryan Schmid	Bi-State Regional Commission
Zach Sutton	Bi-State Regional Commission

1. Public Hearing on Region 9 FFY2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program. Mr. Limberg called the meeting of the Iowa Region 9 Transportation Policy Committee to order at 3:05 p.m. Mr. Limberg asked for details about the public notice, and Ms. McCullough informed the committee that the notice had been posted in the Quad City Times. Ms. McCullough also informed the committee that no public comments had been made. Mr. Sorensen motioned to close the discussion on the public hearing, Mr. Sauer seconded, and the discussion was closed unanimously.
2. Approval of Minutes of the March 30, 2023 Region 9 Transportation Policy Committee Meeting. Mr. Sorensen made a motion to approve the Transportation Policy Committee minutes from the March 30, 2023 meeting as written. Mayor Bark seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
3. Consideration of Revision to the Region 9 FFY2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program. Ms. McCullough briefed the committee on the revision required to the FFY 2023-2026 TIP regarding the Long Grove multi-use path project, LG-23-01 1st Street Multi-Use Path Phase I First Street (Grove Road – Pine Street) in FFY2023. Because the project is being split into two separate phases, the existing TIP needs to be updated to reflect this. A brief discussion was held in which Mayor Limberg provided the committee with more details about the project. Mr. Sorensen motioned to approve, Mr. Paustian seconded, and the revision was approved unanimously.

4. Consideration of the FFY2024-2027 Region 9 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Ms. McCullough presented the draft FFY2024-2027 TIP to the committee for consideration for approval. The presentation gave background information about what makes up a TIP, as well as details about the TIP process. The presentation also included a handout of the STBG table from the TIP document, as the table had been revised after the draft of the document was sent to the committee. Mayor Bark asked about the process by which projects are submitted to the unmet needs table, Ms. McCullough explained the process. Ms. McCullough also briefly explained what kind of project changes would require an amendment vs. which projects would only require an administrative modification. Mr. Sorensen then asked for clarification on the remaining TAP funds, to which Ms. McCullough explained how that number was arrived at and what that meant going forward. Mr. Sutton then presented on the changes that had been made to the STBG table. Mr. Sorensen asked about federal requirements for projects. Ms. McCullough explained that the requirements varied depending on the funding source. Ms. McCullough also informed the committee that Rural Surface Transportation Grant was currently open. Following the discussion, Mayor Bark motioned to approve the FFY2024-2027 TIP as presented, Mr. Sorensen seconded, and the TIP was approved unanimously.
5. Consideration of the Bi-State Region Transit Development Plan. Mr. Schmid gave a brief presentation on the Bi-State Region Transit Development Plan (TDP), informing the committee that the TDP had received tentative approval from the Iowa DOT, they just needed to see more meeting minutes before giving final approval. After no further comments from the committee were made, Mr. Sorensen motioned to approve the TDP, Mr. Paustian seconded, and the motioned carried unanimously.
6. Great American Rail Trail – Trail Initiative and Other Trail Efforts. Ms. McCullough and Mr. Schmid presented on the Great American Rail Trail, and upcoming efforts to promote it in the region. Ms. McCullough gave a brief overview of the Rail Trail project, while Mr. Schmid elaborated on the efforts being made to reduce existing gaps in the trail. Mr. Schmid highlighted the influencer tour as one such effort. The tour would be arriving in Davenport on September 26, and then continuing to Ottawa, Illinois by September 28. Mr. Schmid also highlighted the gaps in the Bi-State region, which include the gaps between Colona and Silvis, and gaps between Davenport and Buffalo and Buffalo and Muscatine. Mr. Sorensen asked if trail funds could come from TAP, to which Ms. McCullough replied that TAP funding is an option, but it is not the only option for trail funding. Mayor Limberg commented that the trail between Eldridge and Long Grove was showing signs of aging. This prompted further discussion among the committee on funding for trail repair. Mr. Schmid also added that possible changes could be coming to Muscatine County's trail plan.
7. Public Comments. None.
8. Other Business. Ms. McCullough explained new Rural Surface Transportation Grant funding. Ms. McCullough explained that it is a discretionary program that provides assistance for both large and small projects at varying amounts. Ms. McCullough then elaborated on the types of projects that can receive assistance.
9. Adjournment. Mayor Bark motioned to adjourn, Mr. Sauer seconded, and the meeting adjourned unanimously.