

Minutes of the

REGION 9 TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Serving Rural Scott County and all of Muscatine County

Wednesday, March 8, 2023 – 10:00 a.m.
Scott County Administrative Center
600 West 4th Street, Room #605 – 6th Floor
Davenport, Iowa 52801
Angie Kersten, Chair

Technical Committee Members Present

Amy Fortenbacher	MuscaBus
Bryan Horesowsky	Muscatine County
Jeff Horne	City of Wilton
Angie Kersten	Scott County
Brian Stineman	City of Muscatine

Others Present

Jennifer Bizarri	Bi-State Regional Commission
Gena McCullough	Bi-State Regional Commission
Claudia Vallejo	Bi-State Regional Commission

1. Approval of Minutes of the July 6, 2022 and August 3, 2022 Region 9 Transportation Technical Committee Meeting. Ms. Kersten called the meeting of the Iowa Region 9 Transportation Technical Committee to order and asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Stineman made a motion to approve the Transportation Technical Committee minutes from the July 6, 2022 and the August 3, 2022 meetings as written. Mr. Horesowsky seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
2. Presentation on FY2024 Region 9 Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP). Ms. McCullough presented on the elements of the FY2024 Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP). A draft copy was provided with the Committee agenda packets. She noted the linkage back to the *2045 Long Range Transportation Plan for Iowa Region 9* goals and the federal Planning Emphasis Areas (PEAs) – sustainability, equity/inclusion, complete streets, public involvement, coordination to Department of Defense and federal land management agencies, use of the Planning and Environmental Linkages approach to decision-making, and using data to make decisions. Accomplishments in FY2023 to-date included completion of the regional ITS architecture, and Transit Development Plan, along with the TPWP and TIP documents. Technical assistance is another aspect where staff have assisted with trail counting, general planning efforts, and monitoring activities that may impact the region, such as the Corn Belt Ports efforts and the CP-KC rail merger. For FY2024, regional Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds are not anticipated to be used for planning. The total planning effort cost is 80% federal and 20% local from member dues at \$66,434. The Technical Committee was asked for comments on the planning activities. Mr. Horne noted that an update of the Muscatine County Trails Plan should be

included in the planning activities. He asked that there be some ground checking on the feasibility of routes, and would like to see stronger prioritization within the plan.

3. Review Draft of *Bi-State Region Transit Development Plan*. Ms. McCullough presented the draft *Bi-State Region Transit Development Plan*. A link to the draft plan was provided with the Committee agenda packet. She outlined the purpose of the plan is to guide and help coordinate human services transportation to enhance mobility within the Bi-State Region. Public involvement is an aspect of the plan development. Both human services agency and citizen surveys were conducted to collect feedback on transit services and mobility within the region. Common barriers to the use of transit include limited hours of service, funding limitations limiting service availability, and limited marketing and education. Others include fragmented systems, service complexity, lack of convenience, lack of connectivity, and service hours mismatched to shift work hours. The plan includes a transit accessibility analysis that showed geographic accessibility within Muscatine's MuscaBus service area. The transit systems asked that the analysis data be shared with them for their reference. Comments are being accepted through the spring, and consideration of approval will follow at the next Technical Committee meeting.
4. Discussion on Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Evaluation Process Ms. McCullough discussed the status on updating the STBG evaluation process. She outlined prior discussion points, including keep it simple and not purely quantitative, make it transparent and not purely qualitative, and the initial hybrid was not desired. Hybrid #1 was: quantitative ranking on physical aspects ordinally by Bi-State staff and qualitative ranking on economic impact and project investment as comparative ranking by the Technical Committee, then add the results together. Hybrid #2 was: provide the qualitative data to the Technical Committee as a point of reference, and use the pre-2018 qualitative ranking criteria as a comparative ranking by the Technical Committee. The later was the preferred method. Bi-State staff will prepare a manual update in early summer to bring to the Technical Committee for review. A solicitation round is planned for Fall 2023.
5. Public Comments. There were no public comments.
6. Other Business. Ms. Kersten mentioned a project that will need to be moved from 2025 to 2026 and will provide a follow-up request. There was also discussion on inflation and its impact on project costs. MuscaBus mentioned changes in cost for the Wash Bay project.
7. Adjournment. Mr. Horesowsky made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Fortenbacher seconded the motion. The motion was approved, and the meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.