

Minutes of the
REGION 9
TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
Serving Rural Scott County and all of Muscatine County

Wednesday, May 22, 2024 – 10:30 a.m.
Long Grove City Hall
119 S 1st Street
Long Grove, IA 52756
Angie Kersten, Chair

Technical Committee Members Present

Bryan Horesowsky	Muscatine County
Jeff Horne	City of Wilton
Angie Kerston	Scott County
Sam Shea	Iowa Department of Transportation
Brian Stineman	City of Muscatine
Randy Zobrist	River Bend Transit

Others Present

Gena McCullough	Bi-State Regional Commission
Charlie Rice	Bi-State Regional Commission
Zach Sutton	Bi-State Regional Commission

1. Approval of Minutes of the March 13, 2024 Region 9 Transportation Technical Committee Meeting. Ms. Kersten called the meeting of the Iowa Region 9 Transportation Technical Committee to order at 10:32 a.m. and asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Zobrist made a motion to approve the Transportation Technical Committee minutes from the March 13, 2024 meeting as written. Ms. Horesowsky seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
2. Discussion of Iowa Region 9 Candidate Projects for Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Funds and Consideration of Programming. Mr. Sutton gave a presentation to the committee on the on the status of STBG funds and the candidate projects for said funds. He first informed the committee that the combined requests for STBG funds by the City of Muscatine, Scott County, and Muscatine County totaled \$10,900,000. The initial memo requesting applications only requested projects through FFY2027, which would mean that \$4,132,826 in STBG dollars would be available. It would be possible to program projects through FFY28, allowing \$5,968,667 to be programmed, but this would require a 30-day wait for public notice of the extension. Mr. Sutton then gave a brief summary of the projects submitted for STBG funds. These projects and funding requested are as follows:
 - City of Muscatine – Carver Corner Roundabout, \$2,560,000
 - Scott County – Y52 Resurfacing, \$2,240,000
 - Muscatine County – N Mulberry Rd. (x54) and 155th St. Resurfacing, \$4,000,000
 - Muscatine County – F58 Reconstruction, \$2,100,000 (additional funding request, originally awarded \$1,900,000 in 2021)

Mr. Sutton then showed the committee how they collectively scored the projects and what the final project rankings were. The City of Muscatine's project ranked first with a total score of 272, Scott County's project ranked second with 207, and Muscatine County's project ranked third with 164. Because Muscatine County's project requesting additional funding had already deemed worthy of funding, it was not re-ranked against the new projects. The final part of Mr. Sutton's presentation was a historical review of the distribution of STBG funding from 1996 to 2024. Scott County had received the highest percentage of STBG funds in that time with 32.4%, followed by Muscatine County with 29.5%, the City of Muscatine with 29.3%, and small communities and transit with 7.9%. Mr. Horesowsky expressed his desire to extend the funding through FFY 28, and the other members agreed. It was decided that a public notice would be submitted, and the Region 9 Transportation Police Committee meeting would be held after the 30-day period.

Mr. Sutton then showed the committee a few possible scenarios, based on the way the committee had scored the projects. One scenario that was presented was that the committee could fund both the City of Muscatine and Scott County Projects, with the remainder of funds going to Muscatine County's additional funding request. Ms. Kersten said that Scott County had originally planned to fund the entire project through state farm-to-market funds, and so could take less in STBG funds without it costing the county any additional money. Because of this, she motioned to fund the City of Muscatine's project and Muscatine County's additional funding request to their full amounts – in FFY 26 and 28 respectively – and then award the remainder of the STBG funds to Scott County in FFY 28. After a brief discussion, the consensus was to vote on and subsequently approve Ms. Kersten's motion. However, it was determined that there would not be enough funding available in FFY 27 to fully fund Muscatine County's request, as the request exceeded available funds by \$527,174.

Mr. Horesowsky said that Muscatine County could not move this project to a different fiscal year because this project was part of a larger joint project with Cedar County and the City of Durant and was tied to their timelines. After a discussion, it was decided through the agreement of Mr. Horesowsky and Ms. Kersten that, if the Iowa DOT did not approve the \$527,174 overage, Muscatine County would be awarded the maximum amount of dollars available in FFY 27 for their additional funding, and that Scott County would receive the remaining available STBG funds.

Ms. Kersten then amended her initial motion to recommend the awarding of funds as outlined in the original motion, but contingent on the DOT approving the overage. If the DOT did not approve the overage, then the Policy Committee recommendation would be that the projects be funded in the manner discussed by Ms. Kersten and Mr. Horesowsky. Mr. Stineman seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Soon after, Mr. Shea received confirmation from the Iowa DOT that the DOT would not approve the overage, as it was too large an amount. Since the overage was not approved, the committee would be recommending that the funding be awarded as follows:

- City of Muscatine – \$2,560,000 (FFY2026)
- Muscatine County (F58 reconstruction) – \$1,572,826 (FFY2027)
- Scott County – \$1,836,000 (FFY2028)

3. Consideration of the FFY 2025-2028 Region 9 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). A draft copy was sent to Committee members prior to the meeting. Mr. Sutton gave a presentation on the draft of the FFY 2025-2028 Region 9 TIP document. The presentation included a brief overview of what a TIP document is, as well as the process of creating and amending the TIP. The presentation also included a table of some notable projects in the TIP for the next two fiscal years (FFY 2025-2026). Mr. Sutton told the committee that this draft would not be the final version of the TIP, as the Policy Committee would have to approve the STBG funding awards. Once the Policy Committee approved those projects, they would then be added to the TIP. Mr. Stineman motioned to recommend approval of the draft TIP contingent on the Policy Committee’s approval of the Technical Committee’s STBG funding recommendations. Mr. Horesowsky seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
4. Discussion of Muscatine County Trail Plan Update. A copy of the trail plan was sent to Committee members prior to the meeting. A discussion led by Ms. McCullough and Mr. Sutton was held regarding whether or not the members would like to see the plan updated/altered and, if so, what they would like to see changed. Mr. Horne stated that he would like to see a more concrete plan be created, one that prioritized trails to be built and had more jurisdictional buy-in from the cities and the county. He said that the lack of buy-in and the fact that the plan was not much more than a “wish list” of trails had led to missed funding opportunities. The other members indicated that a trail plan update would be something they would be interested in pursuing further.
5. Public Comments. There were no public comments.
6. Other Business. None
7. Adjournment. Mr. Horesowsky made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved by consensus, and the meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.