

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
(SIMPO)

MINUTES OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
ON AUGUST 14, 2017
IN MARION, ILLINOIS

Members Present:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Travis Taylor, Proxy	City of Carbondale
Brad Robinson	City of Carterville
Ron Mitchell	Village of Crainville
Julie Peterson	Jackson County
Ron Ellis	Williamson County
Bill Jung	Rides Mass Transit
Carrie Nelson	IDOT

Others Present:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Curtis Jones (by phone)	IDOT
Doug Keirn	IDOT
Kyle Harfst	SIU
Cary Minnis	Greater Egypt
Joe Zdankiewicz	Greater Egypt
Margie Mitchell	Greater Egypt

Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Jung, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm and welcomed everyone.

Approval of July 10th , 2017 Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

Mr. Robinson moved to approve the July 10, 2017, Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting as received. Seconded by Mr. Taylor. The motion carried.

Approval 2017 STU Project Application Form and Scoring Criteria

Mr. Zdankiewicz discussed the draft STU Project Application, noting that it does need to be approved today. The application has been talked about previously. The one item in question is the addition of Project Readiness. At the last Policy Committee meeting the Committee wanted to add Project Readiness to the application. This was discussed at the TAC meeting and they recommended not to include project readiness but if included have one point for engineering and one point for Right-of-Way. The scoring could be—Engineering (Phase I-Design Approval & Phase II-plans completed (1 point), ROW Acquisition Complete (1 point).

Members discussed if Project Readiness should be included in the application. Ms. Nelson noted Phase I should stand alone, and Phase II and ROW together. Can't buy Right of Way until the plan is designed. The TAC urged against project readiness as to get any points they would have to pay for engineering with local funds for a project four years in the future. Ms. Nelson noted that if federal monies were used for a project, they would have to follow federal procedures in obtaining the ROW.

There was discussion about allocating part of funds for small projects? Mr. Minnis noted that local funds would be verified in the resolution from the local government agency. The resolution is only needed if a project is selected for funding.

After discussion, Mr. Mitchell moved to include project readiness and include how the applicant plans to keep the project on schedule and the plans for local match, with 1 point for Phase I engineering, one point for Phase II engineering and ROW, and 1 point for project funding and schedule. Seconded by Mr. Ellis. Motion carried.

Joe said the letter to be sent out with the STU application is included in the packet. The STU balance is about \$1,500,000 which includes the amount that was deobligated from the Herrin project this spring; we don't lose the money, but lost our place in line for that money. The minimum allocation we will receive for FY 22 is about \$750,000 the maximum is unknown at this time but could not be more than the current STU balance of about \$1,500,000. Probably don't want to spend all the funds on one project, may want smaller amounts for engineering, the smaller amounts are easier to switch around, this may make it easier to recoup the deobligated funds. Another alternative would be to advance part of a project, such as engineering or right of way.

The letter and the STU application will be sent out this week and will be due September 20 so the TAC can review and score the applications before their October meeting. The TAC recommendations will be reviewed for selection at the October Policy Committee meeting.

Included in the packet is the approved SIMPO STU funded projects.

Other MPO Business

The consultant contracts are ready to sign when the Intergovernmental Agreement is signed by the State, which should be soon.

Marion to Carbondale Bike Plan: Meetings were held with most stakeholders, still need to meet with John A. Logan College and local cyclists. Meetings with Fish & Wildlife meetings went very well with discussions on a permanent easement on old Rt. 13 for the bike trail.

The State Safety Targets will be out by August 31, we can accept their targets as we did last year.

Joe mentioned that ITEP applications will be accepted from October 2 to December 1. If anyone needs help on these applications, please contact staff.

Safety on the area interstates was discussed, noting the number of fatal accidents lately on I-57. District 9 has reviewed crashes, there were 27 crashes. Crash stats are available from IDOT. Solution would be added lanes and median barriers from Marion to Mt. Vernon. IDOT has design approval for a project, but lack funding, need to find ways to fund the improvements. IDOT plans need to be supported.

Mr. Minnis noted that this group needs to advocate solutions to the Legislators and pay attention to ideas and solutions brought forth. A letter from SIMPO would be appropriate. Ms. Nelson said they will be asking for letters of support from everyone.

Adjourn

Mr. Ellis made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Mitchell. The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.