

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
(SIMPO)

MINUTES OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
ON DECEMBER 12, 2016
IN MARION, ILLINOIS

Members Present:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Gary Williams	City of Carbondale
Brad Robinson	City of Carterville
Steve Frattini	City of Herrin
Ron Mitchell	Village of Crainville
Julie Peterson	Jackson County
Ron Ellis	Williamson County
Adam Lach, Proxy	Rides Mass Transit
Carrie Nelson	IDOT

Others Present:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Betsy Tracy (by phone)	FWHA
Doug Keirn	IDOT
Cary Minnis	Greater Egypt
Joe Zdankiewicz	Greater Egypt
Margie Mitchell	Greater Egypt

Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Ellis, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm and welcomed everyone. He asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Approval of November 14th, 2016 Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

Ms. Peterson moved to approve the November 14, 2016, Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting as received. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lach. The motion carried.

Approval of TIP Amendments

Mr. Zdankiewicz requested approval of two amendments to the TIP. Both amendments are for Transit Agencies. One is for the Mobility Management-Rides to Wellness, a new grant, and the other is for Operating Assistance, funding increased in Jackson County.

Ms. Peterson moved to approve FY 2017-20 Tip Amendment #2, Mobility Management-Rides to Wellness project and Amendment #3 Operating Assistance, an increase of funds. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lach. The motion carried.

Transit Study Report

Joe noted the TAC was authorized to approve the contractual bills. Copy of the bill from Lochmueller is attached for your information. It was approved by the TAC at their meeting last week.

Joe reported Lochmueller group has received data from the three transit providers and will be delivering summary of the findings on the existing systems later this month, they have identified areas including coordination, dispatch coordination. The Saluki had lower ridership due to the lower student population. Rides ridership doubled in 2014-2015, they are serving a larger group of people, and Jackson County had an increase in FY 2016. The Saluki Express does not receive federal transit funds, so they don't prepare the same reports as Jackson County and Rides

Mass Transits. It is hoped that the data gathered will meet the targets of the Small Transit Intensive Cities Fund to get additional transit funds for the area. Locmueller has identified some opportunities for better coordination between the transit districts.

FY 2018 UPWP Kickoff

Joe noted there will be funds in the FY 2018 budget for Consultants. We have previously discussed a study to identify sidewalks around schools that need improvements and would be eligible for Safe Routes to School Funds. Would meet with schools to identify needs, get estimated costs, and be ready for to apply when funds are available. Also IDOT requested that areas with housing for adults with disabilities be included in the study. Also with increased computer capabilities, some other studies could be done in house. If members have other ideas, please advise staff.

STU Voting Rule for Project Selection

Joe reviewed the results of the Project Evaluation Procedure by the TAC members. (Q) Fairness of the current procedure: Very fair-1 vote; Fair-8 votes. Comments: There are many factors to consider and it is difficult to capture all these factors in the analysis and ranking. Consider adding bonus points for projects where the member has not had a project selected for the last three years. (Q) Need to change the STU project evaluation process: Process is Satisfactory-7 votes; Current process is adequate but could be improved-1 vote; current process is unsatisfactory and should be changed -1 vote. The current process is acceptable to the TAC Committee members and no action was taken at the TAC meeting to make any changes. The current process will remain in place.

Joe reviewed the STU Voting Rule Procedure for the Policy Committee members. (Q) Fairness of current voting rule: Fair -5 votes, Unfair-1 vote. Comment: have accommodated all the members as well as we could. (Q) The need to change the current STU voting rule: Current rule is satisfactory and should not be changed-4 votes, Current rule is adequate but could be improved-1 vote, Current rule is unsatisfactory and must be changed-1 vote. Comments: Perhaps a small community would have a better chance of getting projects funded with a different system. Beneficial to have a technical committee review all projects. It has been done so in an impartial manner. Not all members sent in a survey response.

Joe also reviewed the procedure if the voting procedures were to be changed as stated in Article 17 of the Intergovernmental Agreement. Any changes would have to be approved and signed off by all members of the MPO since the voting rule is included in the Intergovernmental Agreement – changes to the agreement require ratification of a new agreement that includes the proposed changes.

The Technical Advisory Committee reviews the STU applications but cannot rank their own projects. Carrie noted that Project Readiness is a key criterion. Question was asked if we are losing opportunities for more funds. Joe mentioned that District 9 Local Roads has had to make adjustments to project fiscal years to balance funds due to projects not meeting their target fiscal year. District 9 Local Roads has been able to accommodate these changes in the past without loss of funds to the MPO; however there is a risk of loss of funds when projects do not go to letting in the scheduled fiscal year. It was noted that more information was needed from the applicants, telling us why the project should be funded. A resolution is now needed from the local government supporting and committing local share for the project. Should there be presentations from the applicants? The Policy Committee wants more information than has been available to them before voting on projects. Quarterly updates on the approved projects are reported at the MPO meetings. Question was asked when is the next vote on STU projects - is not until next Fiscal Year, probably in October. Should the selection process be changed? No action was taken, the topic was tabled until such time that it is resurrected by the members.

Discussion centered on small communities getting projects and also spending the MPO funds that were allocated.

Other MPO Business

Joe request approval to purchase equipment, a camera that can be mounted to count traffic, pedestrians, bike riders, such as at an intersection for traffic safety studies. Cost would be about \$1,200. There is an option that the company will process the video for us. The camera would be an efficient way to obtain traffic and bike/pedestrian data for various studies.

Mr. Frattini made a motion to purchase a Counting Camera in the amount of about \$1,200 from MPO funds. The motion was seconded by Ms. Nelson. The motion carried.

Ms. Peterson noted that county governments are required to prepare and file a report with the General Assembly identifying any local public entity that the county appoints members to.

Adjourn

Ms. Peterson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Frattini. The meeting adjourned at 2:20 pm.