

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
(SIMPO)

MINUTES OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
ON June 12, 2023
IN MARION, ILLINOIS

Members Present:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Julie Peterson	Jackson County
Tim Atkisson	Williamson County
Ron Mitchell	Village of Crainville
Adam Lach	RIDES
Carrie Nelson (Zoom)	IDOT

Others Present:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Michael Ziarnek	SIMPO/Greater Egypt
Cary Minnis	Greater Egypt
Abra Phillips	Greater Egypt

Welcome and Introductions

Julie Peterson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:14 pm and welcomed all present. There is no quorum, so there will be no voting today, only discussion.

Consultant Studies Update/Payment of Bills

The following FY-23 Consultant Studies were discussed and Mike mentioned that all 3 studies should be wrapped up by the end of this month:

- Bikeway Map & Route Study – Jackson & Williamson Counties – FY23 (Bacon Farmer Workman Engineering & Testing Inc.) - the consultant has billed \$54,000.00 (includes bill to be approved today) to date with \$6,000.00 remaining. Updated GIS data addressing bicycle infrastructure was received recently and included an inventory of infrastructure evaluated from a Level of Traffic Stress Perspective. Greater Egypt staff has reviewed the data and sent it back for some minor revisions.
- East Grand Ave Bike, Pedestrian, & Motor Vehicle Study – FY23 (Oates Associates) – the consultant has billed \$32,952.00 (includes bill to be approved today) to date with \$17,048.00 remaining. Work on the final corridor sections, plans, and the final report is underway. The final report and ITEP application exhibits are expected to be fully completed before the end of this month.
- Electric Vehicle Charging Station Needs Study - FY-23 (Walker Consultants) - the consultant has billed \$42,379.90 (includes bill to be approved today) to date with \$17,620.10 remaining. Development of the final report continues. Section 1 (EV Content and Current Conditions) is complete and Sections 2 and 3 (Future Charging Station Needs and Operation; Funding Opportunities and P3s) are nearing completion. The federal government updated “Charging Forward” on May 3, 2023.

There were three bills approved at last week’s TAC meeting (included in handout):

1. Bikeway Map & Route Study – Bacon Farmer Workman: Inv #42128 - \$12,000.00
2. East Grand Ave Multi-Modal Study – Oates Associates: Inv #37211 - \$4,048.50
3. EV Charging Station Needs Study – Walker Consultants: Inv #310095610005 - \$7,759.70

TIP Modification #27 (Administrative Action)

This administrative action moves this project for safety improvements on N. Marion Street in Jackson County from FY2023 to FY2024. No vote is needed.

IDOT VRU Engagement Webinars

Mike attended webinars for this on June 7th, 2023. The links are included in the packet. Both Cary Minnis and Carrie Nelson mentioned that they are already seeing more VRU in high traffic areas.

FHWA Memorandum HEPH-10 (dated May 19, 2023) – Bike & Pedestrian Planning

Mike referred to the memo in the packet and the 32-page document sent to all members via email and it was discussed. There are multiple resources and links embedded within the emailed document for more information. Mike also announced that he attended the Statewide Transportation Meeting virtually June 6, 2023.

IDOT Bicycle Facility Inventory System

This is a new effort by IDOT to create a database with an interactive map with bike facilities in the State of Illinois and is up and running.

Walk Roll Active Illinois Transportation Plan

This program has been successfully launched and Mike will share more information as he learns about it.

Illinois Healthy MPO Learning Collaborative

This is a joint effort with the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Illinois Department of Transportation. Staff has attended all 5 meetings and there are links in the packet. One issue that has been noted is that people are leaving electric scooters all over the place.

Other MPO Business

- Mike reminded all that the RFQ for the City of Marion/Williamson County project closes on June 16, 2023 and consultant selection will follow shortly after.
- Tim Atkisson asked when the crossing at Ray Fosse Park is scheduled to start and Carrie Nelson answered that it should be under construction this summer.
- Cary Minnis mentioned that not approving the UPWP before June 30th could cause issues and we will need to check with Tom Caldwell to see if it can wait until July. If not, we will need to have another emergency meeting.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Mr. Atkisson and seconded by Mr. Lach to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 1:37 p.m.