

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
(SIMPO)

MINUTES OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
ON May 08, 2023
IN MARION, ILLINOIS

Members Present:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Julie Peterson	Jackson County
Tim Atkisson	Williamson County
Molly Maxwell	City of Carbondale
Glenn Clarida	City of Marion
Adam Lach	RIDES

Others Present:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Doug Keirn	IDOT
Tom Caldwell	IDOT
Betsy Tracy (Zoom)	FHWA
Shane Hermetz (Zoom)	EECA
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 1:05 pm and welcomed all present.

Approval of the April 10, 2023 Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Clarida and seconded by Mr. Atkisson to approve the April 10, 2023 Policy Committee meeting minutes as presented in the handout. The motion carried.

Consultant Studies Update/Payment of Bills

The following FY-23 Consultant Studies were discussed:

- Bikeway Map & Route Study – Jackson & Williamson Counties – FY23 (Bacon Farmer Workman Engineering & Testing Inc.) - the consultant has billed \$42,000.00 to date with \$18,000.00 remaining. The initial draft files have been received and an in-house review of those files has been completed with comments returned to the consultant.
- East Grand Ave Bike, Pedestrian, & Motor Vehicle Study – FY23 (Oates Associates) – the consultant has billed \$28,903.50 to date with \$21,096.50 remaining. The consultant is working on developing design alternatives addressing motor vehicle travel lanes, bike lanes, sidewalks, shared use paths, etc. incorporating the feedback following last month’s meeting.
- Electric Vehicle Charging Station Needs Study - FY-23 (Walker Consultants) - the consultant has billed \$34,620.20 to date with \$25,379.80 remaining. The section of grant research and plan/strategy approach in the initial report is complete. Multiple grant funding and go/no-go federal funding webinars have been attended. Stakeholder interviews are being organized/conducted. Research continues on traffic volumes, demand analysis, and potential sites. Background/current conditions are being incorporated into the appropriate report sections. The National EV Summit and Expo was attended and the information will be worked into the report. Mike also noted that he received, reviewed, and returned (with comments) the initial section from the consultants. The study is anticipated to be completed by the end of June.

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

1. Bikeway Map & Route Study – Bacon Farmer Workman: Inv #41823 - \$6,000.00
2. East Grand Ave Multi-Modal Study – Oates Associates: Inv #36971 - \$4,797.00
3. EV Charging Station Needs Study – Walker Consultants: Inv #310095610004 - \$7,759.70

End of State COVID-19 Disaster Proclamation

Mike referred to the letter from Governor Pritzker in the handout. The Public Health Emergency ends May 11th, 2023. After this date, voting members will have to attend in person, those attending via Zoom will not be counted towards the quorum and will not be able to vote.

FY2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Update

We need a vote to approve the draft UPWP. We only have one application for this round of funding, a joint effort with Williamson County and the City of Marion for a traffic study on Boynton and Cochran along South Market Street. The application has gone to stakeholders for comments and we are waiting on the final approval from Travis Emery. The only other consultant study will be the in-house Google Streetview study.

A motion was made by Mr. Lach and seconded by Mr. Clarida to approve the draft UPWP. The motion carried.

TIP Modifications #19, 21, and 25 (Amendments)

#19: This is for the Carbondale project of reconstruction and construction engineering for New Era Rd from Airport Rd to Glenn Rd.

#21: This is for the Preliminary engineering at Pleasant Hill Road in Carbondale.

#25: This amendment adds new resurfacing right-of-way to the Main St/Bainbridge/Pentecost in the City of Marion.

These amendments are all funded with STU dollars and we do not have a supermajority and can't vote on these items today. It was decided to call an emergency meeting for this Thursday so that these TIP modifications can get voted on before the deadline.

TIP Modification #26 (Amendment)

This amendment adds a state project to the TIP for a bridge replacement at Grassy Road over I-57, 1.9 miles North of IL 148. It does not use STU funds and can be voted on today.

A motion was made by Mr. Lach and seconded by Mr. Atkisson to approve TIP Modification #26. The motion carried.

IDOT Letter – Loss of Designation

Mike referred to the letter in the packet received by our office on 5/1/23. It officially states that SIMPO is to be disbanded and that our final round of funding will be for FY2024. Population must be over 50K to maintain MPO status and with the new split, we no longer qualify. The current MPO areas will be split into two Urban Areas (Marion/Herrin/Carterville and Murphysboro/Carbondale), although Carterville is actually part of both areas. Jay Kranz from IDOT will be in charge of distributing funds to the local areas.

IDOT NHS MPO Highway Structures (2020, 2021, 2022)

Mike referred to the list of highway structures included in today's handout and announced that Tom Caldwell is here to answer any questions.

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. Kelsey Bowe has been working on cleaning up shape files so they are ready for submission to IDOT.

IDOT Complete Streets / SS4A Match Waiver Fund Proposal

The SS4A funding cycle is open again. The State is leading an effort for a group level application, and we are participating. Mr. Minnis urged members to get their communities covered by this group application, as applicants must have an action plan in order to get funding for implementation.

FY2024 Metropolitan Planning Budget Update

The total budget is \$415,819 and there will be \$218,000 for consultant studies and there is also money budgeted for the Google Street View in-house project. We currently only have 1 consultant study so there will be some remainder reserved to cover staff or more studies. The RFQ is out for the South Market Street project and we anticipate starting in August.

Illinois Healthy MPO Learning Collaborative

This is a joint effort with the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Illinois Department of Transportation. The next meeting for this is on 5/22/23, Mike plans to attend. There is a roundabout pop-up demonstration project available in Carbondale.

FY-2023 SIMPO Planning Study Application (DSATS360 / Google Street View)

The Dekalb legal teams have not released the DSAT Google Street View manual yet, so the local 'SIMPO Street View' project remains at a standstill for now. Mike requested that this item be moved into "other business" for the next meetings in order to free up agenda space. The members present agreed.

Other MPO Business

Mike referred to the article in the packet about a blogger from Chicago who was struck by unsecured equipment from a pickup while biking in Marion. He said it is worth the read and gives some insight as to why we need to continue to work on projects and studies related to bike safety.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Mr. Lach and seconded by Ms. Maxwell to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 2:03 p.m.