

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
(SIMPO)

MINUTES OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
ON August 14, 2023
IN MARION, ILLINOIS

Members Present:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Mitch Burdick (filling in for Julie Peterson)	Jackson County
Travis Emery (proxy vote for Tim Atkisson)	Williamson County
Brad Robinson	City of Carterville
Glenn Clarida	City of Marion
Adam Lach	RIDES
Shawn Freeman	Jackson County Mass Transit
Doug Keirn (proxy vote for Carrie Nelsen)	IDOT

Others Present:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Tom Caldwell	IDOT
Betsy Tracy	FHWA
Daniel Weitkamp	IDOT
Michael Ziarnek	SIMPO/Greater Egypt
Cary Minnis	Greater Egypt
Abra Phillips	Greater Egypt

Welcome and Introductions

Mitch Burdick called the meeting to order at 1:01 pm and welcomed all present.

Approval of the July 10, 2023 Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

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

Consultant Studies Update/Payment of Bills – August 2023

Mike announced that the FY-23 Consultant Studies were fully completed and final reports have been uploaded to the SIMPO website:

- East Grand Ave Bike, Pedestrian, & Motor Vehicle Study – FY23 (Oates Associates) – the consultant has billed \$50,000, the entire amount of the contract. The HSIP grant application documents have been delivered to the City of Carbondale and this project is complete.
- Electric Vehicle Charging Station Needs Study - FY-23 (Walker Consultants) - the consultant has billed \$59,690 to date with \$310 underspent. This project is complete.

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

1. East Grand Ave (Carbondale) Study – Oates Associates: Inv #37478 - \$6,449.00
2. EV Charging Needs Study – Walker Consultants: Inv#310095610006 - \$5,372.10
3. EV Charging Needs Study – Walker Consultants: Inv#310095610007 - \$11,938.00

TIP FY2024-2027 Modification #03 (Amendment)

This is for a new HSIP project being added to the TIP. It is a state project for construction of a modern roundabout at the intersection of IL 148 and Old IL 13. Doug Keirn mentioned negotiations are ongoing regarding the right-of-way.

A motion was made by Mr. Robinson and seconded by Mr. Lach to approve adding this project to the FY2024-2027 TIP. The motion carried.

South Market Street (Marion) Study Selection Committee Results

Mike explained to the group that we received 5 RFQs for this project, and that Horner & Shifrin scored the highest. The TAC voted last week to recommend to the policy committee that Horner & Shifrin be awarded this contract.

A motion was made by Mr. Robinson and seconded by Mr. Lach to award this contract to Horner & Shifrin. The motion carried.

USFW Grants – Local Agency Permission to be Added

Williamson County Highway Engineer Travis Emery contacted Mike with information regarding the Fish and Wildlife folks applying for funds to connect Crab Orchard Greenway bike trail gaps. They want community involvement in order to make sure everyone is okay with being part of the application. Cary Minnis urged Mike and members present to reach out to health departments and people that are trying to incorporate and encourage healthy lifestyles.

Other MPO Business

- Accessibility Reports (Auto, Bike, & Transit) – Mike referred members to the reports included in the handout, provided by Tom Caldwell, and prepared for the State of Illinois by the Accessibility Observatory at the University of Minnesota.
- Safe Routes to School (SRTS) / Safe Routes Partnership - Mike referred to IDOT Circular Letter 2023-24 and requested members to contact him if they'd like a copy or had questions. He also noted that there is no local match this SRTS cycle due to IDOT using HSIP funds to cover the 20% local match.
- MPO Learning Collaborative - Links and other information are in today's packet. This concentrates on the Economic Benefits of Walking and Biking Infrastructure. The final session is on 9/20/23.
- Energy.gov (Livewire Data Platform) - Mike referred to the page in the handout regarding Energy.gov and pointed out the link for members to explore the forward-thinking transportation technology (i.e., Electric Vehicles) within the site.
- E-bikes Fact Sheet (FHWA-HEP-23-032) – This is included within the packet for informative purposes.
- Cary Minnis announced that there is money left for consultant studies in the FY24 grant and it needs to be spent before June 30, 2024. A lot of members have been discussing doing more SRTS studies and he urged members to have recommendations ready at the next TAC meeting. Betsy Tracy announced to the group that FHWA has no objections with extending contracts to the full 18 months of the FY24 SIMPO grant (December 31, 2024).
- Mitch Burdick asked about using previous Safety Studies to complete HSIP applications. Betsy Tracy agreed that this is a wonderful idea, and it shouldn't be an issue to do so.
- Cary Minnis announced that Greater Egypt received an award from the National Association for Development Organizations (NADO) for the Greater Egypt Regional Safety Study for Rural Municipalities. This study was developed based upon previous MPO safety study formats. The latest study resulted in securing approximately \$8-9 million in safety funds, and the submission of 9 HSIP applications for area projects.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Mr. Emery and seconded by Mr. Robinson to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 1:34 p.m.