

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
(SIMPO)

MINUTES OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
ON
March 11, 2024
IN MARION, ILLINOIS

Members Present:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Julie Peterson	Jackson County
Robert Hardin (for Gary Williams)	City of Carbondale
Doug Keirn	IDOT
Tim Atkisson	Williamson County
Ron Mitchell	Village of Crainville
Adam Lach	RIDES

Others Present:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Michael Ziarnek	SIMPO/Greater Egypt

Welcome and Introductions

Julie Peterson called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm and welcomed all present.

Approval of the February 12, 2024 Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Lach and seconded by Mr. Atkisson to approve the February 12, 2024, Policy Committee meeting minutes. The motion carried.

Consultant Studies / Payment of Bills Update – March 2024

South Market Street – Marion (Horner & Shifrin, Inc.) – the consultant has billed \$70,106.64 to date with \$4,893.36 remaining. Noted completed actions:

- Recommended Intersection Improvements
 - Preliminary Drawings and estimates prepared at following locations
 - Market and Boyton Turn lane improvements
 - Market and Boyton Roundabout
 - Market and Golf Course Turn Lane Improvements
- Recommended Safety Improvements
 - Preliminary Drawings and estimates prepared for following safety improvements
 - Guardrail removal and shoulder work south of Boyton Street
 - Horizontal Curve Correction north of Crab Orchard Creek
 - Vertical Curve Correction near Crab Orchard Creek
 - Market Cochran Intersection realignment
 - Market Cochran Roundabout

- Crab Orchard Creek Drainage Analysis
 - Review existing Hydrology
 - Performed Hec-Ras Analysis for Crab Orchard Creek & West End Creek for 5-to-500-year storm events
 - Performed HY-8 Calculations for Timberline/Cochran watersheds
 - Provide recommendations to remove Market Street from the floodzone at Crab Orchard Creek & Westend Creek
 - Provide culvert sizing recommendations at Timberline & Cochran Stream Crossings
 - Prepare various drainage exhibits for inclusion in the final report

Safe Routes to School

Mike met with Horner & Shifrin staff on Thursday, March 7th, 2024, to briefly discuss the development of a matrix to evaluate K-12 schools within the SIMPO planning area. A formal kick-off meeting is planned for a later date.

Greater Egypt GIS Bike Southern Illinois Website

Mike encouraged the meeting attendees to visit the Bike Southern Illinois GIS website (<https://greater-egypt-gis-greateregypt.hub.arcgis.com/pages/bike-southern-illinois>), share it with their communities, and to contact us if there were any requests for updates, revisions, or additions.

IDOT Statewide Planning & Research (SPR) Funds Fiscal Year 2025

Based upon feedback from SIMPO TAC members, staff will move forward and prepare an IDOT SPR (Statewide Planning & Research) funds application for a region-wide Safe Routes to Schools Plan for Greater Egypt.

Google Street View

Staff is currently working to develop a list of equipment to be purchased including price estimates of the equipment.

IDNR Bike Path Program and other IDNR Grant Opportunities

Mike shared that we expect the IDNR bike path program grant opportunity to open any day now. The Illinois Bicycle Path Grant Program provides grants to eligible local governments for projects that develop or rehabilitate bike paths and/or acquire land for bike path development. Other new grant opportunities now accepting applications:

- Federal Recreational Trails Program
- Land and Water Conservation Fund Program
- Voluntary Fire Assistance Grant Program

SS4A - Safe Streets and Roads for All

Mike shared that he had been in communication with SS4A consulting professional engineer Priscilla Tobias of Aurora and Associates, and that the SS4A effort continued to move forward with plans to pursue funding to conduct video analytics of intersections to determine where there might be higher risk to develop high-injury networks and identify areas of greater crash frequency.

Chairwoman Peterson suggested that we consider a local public awareness campaign to show support for the Safe Streets and Roads for All effort similar to the Start Seeing Motorcycles public awareness / public education campaign that included use of bumper stickers on motor vehicles.

Other MPO Business

Mike reported that IDOT has released several new Circular letters numbered four (4) through ten (10).

Mike attended a SS4A webinar. Sidewalks are eligible for SS4A funding providing the deficient sidewalks / sidewalk gaps are identified in the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan.

Doug Keirn shared information regarding sidewalk gaps along state highways. The State is currently looking into and reviewing statewide guidance and policy to address sidewalk gaps located within cities and villages.

Mike shared information that IDOT released the 2023 Annual Report.

Mike shared information that the Southern Illinoisian online reported that RIDES Mass Transit was awarded 41 new vehicles from IDOT.

Mike shared information that Illinois Route 3 would have \$11.6 million patching and resurfacing work completed on a 25-mile stretch from Howardton Road near Grand Tower to the Cape T-intersection (IL 3 / IL 146) in Alexander, Jackson, and Union counties.

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 1:33 p.m.