

REGIONAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
JULY 24, 2013
COMMUNITY PLANNING ASSOCIATION



**** MINUTES ****

ATTENDEES:

Sabrina Anderson, Ada County Highway District
Mary Barker, Valley Regional Transit
Jeff Barnes, City of Nampa
Richard Beck, Ada County Development Services
Clair Bowman, City of Nampa, **Chair**
Michael Garz, Idaho Transportation Department, District 3
Ryan Head, Ada County Highway District
Chris Hopper, Canyon Highway District No. 4
Rob Howarth, Central District Health Department
(Ex-Officio)
Wendy Howell, City of Kuna
Kathleen Lacey, City of Boise
Meg Leatherman, Ada County Development Services
Justin Lucas, City of Meridian, **Vice Chair**
Robb MacDonald, City of Caldwell
Patricia Nilsson, Canyon County Development Services
Nicole Nimmons, Boise State University
Eric Shannon, Nampa Highway District No. 1
Nichoel Baird Spencer, City of Eagle
Michael Toole, Department of Environmental Quality

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Nathan Mitchell, Mayor, City of Star
Deanna Smith, Public Participation Committee
Darin Taylor, City of Middleton
Craig Telford, Mayor, City of Parma
Jenah Thornborrow, City of Garden City

OTHERS PRESENT:

Liisa Itkonen, COMPASS
Megan Larsen, COMPASS
Amy Luft, COMPASS
Don Matson, COMPASS
Toni Tisdale, COMPASS
Cheyne Weston, Boise Park & Recreation
Deborah Winchar, COMPASS

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CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bowman called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES

None.

OPEN DISCUSSION/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ryan Head announced Ada County Highway District has an opening for a Transportation Funding Coordinator.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approve June 26, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Nichoel Baird Spencer moved and Sabrina Anderson seconded to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Recommend Approval of an Amendment to *Communities in Motion 2035*

Toni Tisdale said after RTAC's June 26, 2013 meeting, staff discussed the impact of the Committee's motion and voiced concerns because *Communities in Motion* (CIM) normally shows only corridor level projects not individual intersections. The motion made recommended safety improvements at two intersections on US 20/26 in Ada County and also referred to the Environmental Assessment. The draft Environmental Assessment has not yet been released for public comment. To be consistent with the rest of the plan, the language regarding two safety improvements on the intersections should be removed.

Staff requests the Committee revisit the motion and consider a revised recommendation.

Toni said there is one additional change; US 20/26 from Smeed to Middleton Road near Caldwell does not have construction funding yet so it is just design at this point. Staff is requesting a motion to design a project to widen the roadway. The design funds are substantial, approximately \$775,000, so it needs to be amended as partially funded.

After discussion, **Sabrina Anderson moved and Chris Hooper seconded to:**

- **amend *Communities in Motion 2035* to widen Eagle Road in Meridian,**
- **design a project to widen US 20/26 from Smeed Parkway to Middleton Road near Caldwell,**
- **update the corridor descriptions for Eagle Road (State Highway 55) and US 20/26 to reflect the "funded" improvements and note future improvements on US 20/26 will be to be guided by an Environmental Assessment, which is currently nearing completion.**

After further discussion, **motion was unanimously approved.**

B. Recommend Draft FY2014-2018 Regional Transportation Improvement Program Project List

Toni Tisdale presented the draft FY2014-2018 Regional Transportation Improvement Program Project List for recommendation.

Discussion:

- Under New Projects, two local intersections are listed which normally do not fall under the TIP: KN IN202-06, Ustick Road and Meridian Road Intersection (Local) and KN RD211-01, Cole Road and Franklin Road Intersection (Local). Intersections do not fall under regionally significant category.

Toni replied those projects should be removed from the list.

After discussion, **Ryan Head moved and Chris Hopper seconded to recommend approval of the draft FY2014-2018 Regional Transportation Improvement Program Project List with the removal of construction funding for US 20/26 to Middleton Road and removal of intersection projects, KN IN202-06 and KN RD211-01.**

Discussion:

- Under Advanced Roadway Projects; KN RD207-16, Cole Road, Meridian Road to Locust Grove Road, does not exist.

Toni replied that is a typo. It should read, Cole Road, I-84 to Franklin Road.

Ryan Head and Chris Hopper accepted the amendment to the motion.

After further discussion, **the motion was unanimously approved.**

C. Recommend a Course of Action regarding the Proposed Grant Implementation Program for a Sustainable Environment (GIPSE)

Don Matson presented a review of GIPSE and said at RTAC's June 2013 meeting, it was decided to have a subcommittee revisit the proposed program and bring a recommendation back to the Committee. RTAC is requested to accept recommendation from the subcommittee and make recommendation to the COMPASS Board.

Discussion:

- There is a concern that economic development and health would be very difficult to implement with a small grant and also difficult for a committee to make a determination and difference in those categories.
- The City of Eagle supports Option 2: recommend the Board remove program from UPWP and CIM 2040. This is a more complicated process than necessary to get so little funds out of the process.
- The match should be low. Some of the smaller agencies struggle to match the smallest of grants.

- Based on this presentation, the City of Meridian would support Option 2. More information was needed on this program. It is time to move on and focus more on the things we already do rather than create something new. What projects don't already have a funding source?
- Ada County Highway District supports Option 2. We're talking local funds; a redistribution of dues. We all have the ability to put together packages to make projects happen now. We have the ability to be creative within our own partnerships.
- Committee procedures are frustrating. Why keep bringing this up after we voted on it?
- Did the Board give direction to consider the status of this project?

Don replied direction was to continue to build a program to prepare for the next fiscal year. By the end of 2014, a program needs to be in place.

Liisa Itkonen replied when the Board approved a scope of work in 2011 for CIM 2040, in that motion they included there would be a grant program in CIM 2040. This started the whole discussion and why there is a need to go back to the Board to remove it from CIM 2040. It has been discussed every year in CIM discussions.

- If it doesn't make sense, it is our duty to bring that forward.
- The City of Boise led a recommendation in 2011 to provide a grant program to implement CIM. The intent was to focus on aspects of CIM that weren't funded through existing programs. It is still extremely valuable and viable. RTAC is not ready to take action and this item should be deferred.
- A recommendation to the subcommittee: if RTAC takes action, it should include an increase in the amount that would be distributed.
- Included in the subcommittee's work, an understanding of the cost benefits of how many staff hours would be needed both at the COMPASS level and local staff level. What is the overall benefit?
- If we are looking at local funds, ACHD provides nearly 25% of the local member dues and ACHD is not interested in pursuing this. There are statutory requirements on local funds and how they can and cannot be used. If there is any debate or question on using federal STP funds, currently COMPASS is using STP funds to pay for the work they do as staff because the member dues are not sufficient.
- Smaller amounts do help smaller agencies, however, this structure is not a service this metropolitan planning organization seems to be desirous for or has the experience to do this.
- The subcommittee needs to answer these key questions and provide examples of projects and total amount of funding we would be expected to give for the program. How will the program be funded? Changing the funding every year

seems a little complex; just decide how it is going to be funded and move forward with the plan. These questions have been asked a lot and never received answers.

- As this discussion moves forward, one item for consideration would be that we look at using COMPASS staff to support the development of grant applications by member agencies rather than consolidate a new grant program under COMPASS' direction.
- If this level of funding is not going to be enough to make the program successful in terms of the amount of time it will require, then go back to the Board and say this program will work, but at a minimum it will have to be funded at a certain level in order to have a successful project.
- We need more time to prepare a program to evaluate.
- The Committee is trying to implement a Board directive.

Chair Bowman suggested Don go back to Matt Stoll and the Executive Committee and express the kinds of thoughts expressed in today's discussion and ask for further direction.

- Also express to the Executive Committee that RTAC is having difficulty because the Board only allocated \$2,500.

Don replied it is the Board's direction to move ahead. If RTAC does not take action, direction has been given to him to continue to develop a more concrete idea for the Committee in order to endorse a recommendation.

- If this program is really important it would be better funded. At \$2,500, the grant program is not beneficial at this point in time. If there was meaningful funding, the discussions at the table may be different. For \$2,500, a UPWP request for assistance is sufficient.

After discussion, **Mary Barker moved and Nichoel Baird Spencer seconded that RTAC directs staff to go to the Finance Committee and the Executive Committee and say that it is the Committee's recommendation that the program not go forward with further research or implementation at this funding level and if they would reconsider a \$20,000 funding level ongoing commitment, then RTAC would recommend further work on the project.**

After discussion, **Chris Hopper made a substitute motion and Nichoel Baird Spencer seconded that RTAC recommends to the Board to not proceed with the GIPSE program at the current levels.**

Clair's clarification of the motion:

"It is a motion to direct staff to go to the Finance and/or Executive Committee to indicate that this program should not go forward at current funding levels."

Clarification from Kathleen Lacey: "I would like staff, when they give that presentation in the memo, to list components in today's discussion."

Chris Hopper amended the substitute motion and Nichoel Baird Spencer concurred to include direction to staff to also provide a summary of RTAC's discussion of this topic.

There being no further discussion, **the motion was unanimously approved.**

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Review of Transit Mobility Programs

Mary Barker made a presentation regarding transit mobility programs.

B. Update on 2013 Leadership in Motion Award Program

Amy Luft reviewed the 2013 Leadership in Motion Award Program. Nominations will be accepted Monday, August 5 through Thursday, September 26, 2013; awards will be presented at the annual COMPASS holiday luncheon on Monday, December 16, 2013, at the Nampa Civic Center. Amy will contact members of the selection committee in early October regarding the process for selecting the winners.

OTHER

A. Next RTAC Meeting: August 28, 2013, 10:00 a.m., in COMPASS' 1st Floor Board Room.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.