

**BISMARCK-MANDAN METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
March 17, 2008**

The Bismarck-Mandan Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on March, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. in the Bis-Man Transit Building, 3750 East Rosser Avenue. Chairman Saunders presided.

Members present were Sarah Baehurst, Paul Benning, Bob Johnston, Mark Berg, Mel Bullinger, Ben Ehreth, Carl Hokenstad, Kevin Levi, Paul Trauger, Robin Werre, and Steve Saunders.

Members absent were Jon Mill, Chuck Morman, and Chuck Peterson.

Others present were Bill Troe, Steve Windish, and Bob Shannon.

MINUTES

Chairman Saunders called for consideration of the minutes of the February 19, 2008, meeting.

MOTION. Mr. Benning made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2008, meeting. Ms. Werre seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved with Sarah Baehurst, Paul Benning, Bob Johnston, Mel Bullinger, Carl Hokenstad, Paul Trauger, Robin Werre, and Steve Saunders voting in favor of the motion.

TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT (TE) APPLICATIONS

Mr. Benning stated the Transportation Enhancement Committee met and selected the projects and assigned dollar values and are in the process of sending out notification letters. Letters should be sent out within the next couple of weeks and applicants should now (the status of their application) by the April TAC Meeting.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL UPDATE

Mr. Benning stated that the Safe Routes to School Committee met last week and selected infrastructure and non-infrastructure projects. Every year the state of North Dakota gets \$1,000,000 for Safe Routes to School projects with 90% going to infrastructure and 10% going to non-infrastructure specific projects. Projects have been selected with dollar values assigned to the subject projects. The projects have been submitted to the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) Director for his review and approval. After review and approval notification letters will be sent out to the applicants. It is hoped that the projects will be identified by the April TAC meeting

URBAN PROJECTS LIST SUBMISSION

Mr. Benning stated not much to report regarding the projects. The NDDOT is in the process of putting together a program for 2009-2012. The 2009-2012 program has been submitted and reviewed by the various NDDOT districts. The NDDOT Office Holders are currently reviewing. There appears to be some funding uncertainties and one item needs to be addressed. It is anticipated that the issue will be resolved within the next two to three weeks. It is hoped that projects can be identified for the Bismarck-Mandan area by the April TAC meeting.

Mr. Saunders asked if the Federal Highway Administration was involved in the project selection? Mr. Benning replied that they are not directly involved other than recommending the use of certain scoring criteria.

UPDATE ON REGIONAL NORTH/SOUTH BELTWAY CORRIDOR STUDY

Mr. Windish indicated that a Steering Committee Meeting was held with good representation from one side of the river. Route selection was discussed prior with Morton County. Various routes were discussed but long range 24 Avenue was still the likely choice for the Morton county portion of the "Beltway". On the Burleigh County side the consensus for the Beltway was 71st Avenue on the North, 66 Street on the East, and 48th Avenue on the South. Significant discussion regarding 71st and 84 Avenues for the northern portion of the "Beltway". 71st was ultimately selected due to connection with associated northern bridge routes. Analysis will continue to be conducted to verify routes. A few residents on the Burleigh County side have contacted the consultants expressing concern regarding potential "Beltway" locations, specifically on 66th Street, 48th Avenue, and 71st Avenue. The consultant is in the process of updating the website.

Mr. Saunders asked if the consultant was able to discuss the proposed routes with staff from the Morton/Mandan side of the study area? Mr. Windish indicated that they had not but will contact in the near future.

UPDATE ON 71ST AVENUE/CENTENNIAL ROAD CORRIDOR STUDY

Mr. Troe indicated since the last update there have been several meetings regarding the study. A meeting was held recently with the NDDOT with the goal to develop a funding partnership. The result was not the intended partnership that would allow the implementation of the study with the recommended time frame. The NDDOT discussed the possibility of utilizing "Safety Funds" to make more "spot" improvements throughout the subject corridor. The implementation time frame will likely be extended and modifications have been made to the document to reflect the subject changes. Questions were raised as to the priority of this project versus other projects in the region.

Mr. Benning restated the option of pursuing "Safety Funds" for portions of the project. Burleigh County could identify portions of the corridor in the study area to apply for "Safety Funds". Mr. Troe indicated that modifications have been made to the study to reflect "spot" type improvements.

Mr. Troe discussed the upcoming Burleigh County Commission Meeting and the Bismarck-Mandan Chamber of Commerce Meeting regarding the study.

TRAFFIC SIGNAL COORDINATION STUDY UPDATE

Mr. Berg stated that interviews for consultant selection were conducted on February 21, 2008. The selection committee recommended the consulting firm of URS. A contract and scope of work are attachment C of the Bismarck-Mandan MPO Agenda Packet.

MOTION: Mr. Bullinger made a motion to recommend approval of the contract. Mr. Hokenstad seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved with Sarah Baehurst, Paul Benning, Bob Johnston, Mel Bullinger, Carl Hokenstad, Paul Trauger, Robin Werre, and Steve Saunders voting in favor of the motion.

2009 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN RFP

Mr. Ehreth stated that two consultant teams were interviewed on March 12, 2008 for the 2009 Long Range Transportation Plan. The selection team recommended the consulting team of URS/Houston Engineering.

MOTION: Mr. Bullinger made a motion to pursue contract negotiations with URS/Houston Engineering. Ms. Were seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved with Sarah Baehurst, Paul Benning, Bob Johnston, Mel Bullinger, Carl Hokenstad, Paul Trauger, Robin Werre, and Steve Saunders voting in favor of the motion.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Saunders stated that Diana Nadeau has accepted a new position and will no longer be able to assist with minutes associated with the Bismarck-Mandan MPO TAC and Policy Board. Mr. Saunders wished Diana luck in her new position.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m. to meet again on April 14, 2008, at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ben Ehreth
Recording Secretary

APPROVED:

Steve Saunders, Chair