

POLICY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 21 , 2021

3:30 P.M.

City Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT:

In-Person: Jim Freeman, City of Idaho Falls Council Member and Board Chair; Jim Francis, City of Idaho Falls Council Member; Larry Gilmore, City of Ucon Council Member and Rebecca Casper, City of Idaho Falls Mayor.

Via WebEx/Phone: Sean Coletti, City of Ammon Mayor and Vice-Chair; John Radford- City of Idaho Falls Council Member; Karen Hiatt of ITD District 6 for Jason Minzghor.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dan Gubler

ALSO PRESENT: BMPO Director, Darrell West; BMPO Transportation Planner, DaNiel Jose and BMPO Office Assistant, Kaitlin Burbank joined the meeting in-person. Kent Fugal, TAC Chair and Idaho Falls City Engineer, joined the meeting via WebEx.

CALL TO ORDER: Jim Freeman called the meeting to order at 3:32 PM.

CONSENT ITEM(S)

Minutes: Policy Board Mtg- March 17, 2021

Jim Francis made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 17th meeting. This was seconded by Sean Coletti. The vote was unanimous.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

STP-Urban Projects and COVID Relief Funds

Darrell presented an update of the STP-Urban meeting. There were about \$4 million dollars of additional funds allotted to the STP-Urban project. The remaining needed funds for Project #14024, 17th Street and Woodruff Intersection, were covered with these dollars. #20535, 1st widening CE/CN advanced from PD to FY 2026 and #23023, Elm Street PE/PC advanced from PD to FY 2025. STP-U Committee accepted to program funding for all three project priorities selected by TAC and the Policy Board into preliminary development. The Science Center Blvd Project, #22008, was the only project that was not approved to advance.

Evaluation of STP-Urban Project Scoring

Darrell facilitated a discussion following TAC's review of what needed improvement in the STP-Urban project application scoring process. Darrell presented the TAC's priorities in the scoring process (see slideshow). It was asked how long it's been since the five million dollar cap had been adjusted. Darrell said that it is a STP-U Committee decision and will be discussed in further meetings. A subcommittee is being formed to address these topics and a meeting will be scheduled soon.

Local Match for High Capacity Roadway Study

This project could be started as soon as October first. It was suggested by the TAC to put together an MOU between the entities and the BMPO to commit their share. Policy Board needs to approve the table in order for the public be able to budget and prepare for their contribution. The amounts in the table are in addition to the regular contributions for the budget and are just a one-time cost. We can get an RFP in August but the study would begin in FY 2022. The amounts were approved by the Policy Board.

FY 2021 TIP Modification

Darrell presented the modification to key number 19530, 97th South Bridge - Idaho Canal Bridge Replacement, which was an increase to the programmed cost of the PE/PC from \$26,000 to \$31,000.

Freight Action Plan

ITD is working to put together a Freight Advisory Committee that includes involvement from MPO's. Darrell presented the goals of this, what needs to be prioritized, and how freight can be improved. There will be an opportunity for locals to submit freight projects. Rebecca Casper asked for clarification on the definition of freight. Darrell said that this could mean trucking, rail, and air freight. The Policy Board discussed examples of where an MPO would be involved.

Future "No Build" Level of Service

Darrell presented a chart with the future "No Build" Levels of Service (LOS), depicting free flow to forced flow. This will be documented in the LRTP, as well. Darrell then presented a chart of roadway segments and lanes and the levels of service from 2019 to 2035 and 2050 projections. Darrell presented a map of existing roadways and congestion that showed increased congestion between 2019 to 2035 and 2050. A LOS "D" shown in the first spreadsheet presented is the goal for roadway congestion.

2050 Long Range Transportation Plan

DaNiel presented the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). DaNiel reviewed other LRTP's from other states and based the goals, objectives and performance measures off of what she thought would work well in our area. The six she came up with are:

1. Maintain Existing Transportation System
2. Congestion Relief and System Operation
3. Land Use and Transportation Plans
4. Safe and Secure Transportation
5. Environmental Stewardship
6. Economic Vitality

DaNiel is planning to take this to the public and see what their recommendations are, as well. These are not in priority order. DaNiel is also working on developing the Connecting Our Communities Plan. She has met with planners and a few of the engineers from the City of Idaho Falls and the City of Ammon and addressed growth. She has also met with the county for a meeting. A new map is planned to be out this summer. Rebecca Casper talked about the City of Idaho Fall's status on carbon emissions and initiated a discussion with the Board on these issues.

Jim Freeman wanted to provide an update on the I-15/US 20 right-hand turn lane provided to Board members. Karen Hiatt said that she could send a copy of the project plan sheets to the group or at least to BMPO. Karen gave a little more of an update, clarifying that this will not be a free-flowing right, but instead, a second lane after viewing the traffic analysis.

NEXT MEETING

April 21, 2021

The meeting adjourned

Kaitlin Burbank
Recording Secretary