

POLICY BOARD MEETING

May 19 , 2021

3:30 P.M.

City Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT:

In-Person: **Jim Francis**, City of Idaho Falls Council Member; **John Walker**, Bonneville County Commissioner and **Rebecca Casper**, City of Idaho Falls Mayor.

Via WebEx/Phone: **Sean Coletti**, City of Ammon Mayor and Vice-Chair; **Dan Gubler**, Iona Mayor; **Karen Hiatt** of ITD District 6 for Jason Minzghor.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jim Freeman, Larry Gilmore, John Radford

ALSO PRESENT: BMPO Director, **Darrell West** 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 and **Kelly Hoopes** of Horrocks Engineering also joined the meeting in-person.

CALL TO ORDER: Jim Freeman called the meeting to order at 3:45 PM.

CONSENT ITEM(S)

Minutes: Policy Board Mtg- April 21st, 2021

Jim Francis made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 21st meeting. This was seconded by John Walker. The vote was unanimous.

ACTION ITEMS

FY 2020 End of Year Summary

Darrell gave an overview of the Year-End report for FY 2020, going through programmed costs versus expenditures. Rebecca Casper had some questions about the time extension and the funds balanced in our budget. She asked if we needed to have more uncommitted dollars in the bank at this time Rebecca Casper questioned the expended percentage of hours (157%) for Data Support and Modeling. Rebecca Casper made a motion to accept the FY 2020 End of Year Summary. This was seconded by Dan Gubler. The vote was unanimous.

FY 2022 BMPO Budget

Darrell went through the FY 2022 Budget for the BMPO. Darrell compared FY 2022's budget to FY 2021 and showed the funding resources, local match requirements and the High Capacity Roadway Study. Darrell had to make estimates in the budget as the needed information from the City had not yet been obtained. Also, the City is evaluating a new step and pay grade

process. Jim Francis asked what the miscellaneous budget is used for and Darrell responded that it is mainly for Safe Routes to School (SR2S) funds. Rebecca Casper asked if BMPO employee salaries were comparable to other MPO's. Darrell responded that, based on discussions with other Idaho MPO's, he believes that BMPO salaries are comparable. However, an assessment has not been accomplished. Sean Coletti asked about the \$7,500 difference between 2020 and 2021 budget under Professional Services. Professional Services was reduced by \$7,500 because the model will be complete and thus the need for engineering services is not expected to be as great. Darrell also went through the local matches. Jim Francis made a motion to approve the FY 2022 Budget. This was seconded by Dan Gubler. The vote was unanimous.

FY 2021 TIP Amendment #2

Darrell presented the FY 2021 TIP Amendment #2, key number 19530, which is the 97th South Bridge Replacement. It was advanced from preliminary development into FY 2021. It received no public comment. This project includes adjustment for inflation and COVID funding. Rebecca Casper made a motion to approve the FY 2021 Tip Amendment #2 and was seconded by Dan Gubler. The vote was unanimous.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

FY 2021 TIP Modifications #6 and #7

Tip Modification #6 was made at the end of April and Modification #7 was made in May. Modification #6 for key number 20490 changed from federal aid to state funded. Also, Modification #7 to key number 20630 went from moving \$10,000 of funding from CE/CN to PE/PC. (Project key number 20490 increased in funding by \$497,000. Karen Hiatt gave an explanation as to the details of the project key number 20630 and Kent confirmed this). Project 20490 has a goal of relieving some of the congestion on I-15 Exit 113 with roundabouts. Rebecca Casper requested visuals associated with this project from Karen Hiatt in order to better assist the public with their questions.

STP-Urban Application Scoring Process Subcommittee and Schedule

This subcommittee will be led by Kent Fugal, Chair of the TAC to evaluate the STP-U application and scoring process. The committee is working on a schedule.

Status of I-15/US 20 Interim Project

Kelley Hoopes gave us an update of the I-15/US 20 Interim Project. This project is currently under construction and almost finished for the west side. The project is scheduled to be substantially completed before the July 4th weekend.

Status of I-15/US 20 EIS Schedule and Process

There was a kick-off meeting for this project last Thursday. The project is in pre-NEPA. They are hoping to file the Notice of Intent (NOI) and get NEPA moving later this fall. That NOI will require action by the Federal Highway Administration. Studies are moving forward pertaining to wetlands, endangered species and noise studies that could be taking place this summer. They are hoping for robust public involvement both in-person and online. They are anticipating work to be performed at an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) level and a Record of Decision from the EIS. Jim Francis asked about when public involvement will begin with EIS, and Kelly said they've been continually receiving public comments and anticipate that to continue. Karen Hiatt explained more about why the NEPA process took a little longer, and it was partially due to the change in President of the United States as the makeup of the Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) is changing. Federal Highways would like to make sure the participating agencies in the NEPA document are well informed. The public hearing that was due to take place this summer might instead take place this fall. Karen Hiatt addressed Rebecca Casper's question about how they are anticipating the most public comment will likely come from the results of the EIS. Rebecca Casper had concerns about the public swaying the process or decision. Karen responded that the public sometimes needs to be reminded that their comments do not count as a vote, but rather help shape the decisions that are made. Sometimes there is re-evaluation that needs to happen but it needs to be part of the EIS standards. The public can also appeal decisions within the statute of limitations.

Karen also mentioned that the Idaho Transportation Board will be here in September and would like to meet with the Policy Board. Karen said that they will send dates when they are known.

NEXT MEETING

June meeting cancelled-agenda item polled

The meeting adjourned

Kaitlin Burbank
Recording Secretary