

Call to Order

The DMATS Technical Advisory Board meeting was called to order by DMATS Technical Advisory Board Chair, Laura Carstens.

Review/Approve the Agenda for the Thursday, September 14, 2017 DMATS Technical Advisory Board meeting

Motion by Psihoyos, second by McKinley to approve the agenda for the Thursday, September 14, 2017 DMATS Technical Advisory Board meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Review/Approve the minutes and receive and file the secretarial notes from the Thursday, August 17, 2017 meeting

Motion by Psihoyos, second by McKinley to approve the minutes and receive and file the secretarial notes from the Thursday, August 17, 2017 DMATS Technical Advisory Board. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion on IA DOT Federal-Aid Swapping funds

Ravada referred to the email received from Stu Anderson of the IA DOT requesting input from the DMATS Tech Board members in regards to the Federal-Aid Swap funding. Ravada and DMATS Tech Board members discussed the questions asked by Anderson.

First question. Should projects still be limited to the federal-aid system? Carstens asked to clarify what funds are being swapped. Ravada stated the state will take the federal funds and the localities will get the state funds.

Discussion followed.

DMATS Tech Board concluded all road projects should be included, including roads on the federal-aid system and farm to market system, should be eligible for swap funding. Also recommending all previously eligible projects still be eligible.

Second question. Should there be funding match requirements? Ravada stated staff will be recommending 100% funding, no match required. DMATS Tech Board members agreed no match requirements with 100% funding.

Third question. How are construction funds disbursed/reimbursed for individual projects? Ravada explained most cities and counties do not have funds readily available for projects so they borrow money and then are reimbursed by state once they pay the general contract. Ravada questioned if the cities and counties could have the money upfront.

Discussion followed.

Ravada stated that the issue is with small cities not having the funding to complete projects within their areas. Ravada suggested project funding be disbursed into the members' accounts once the project is let.

Discussion followed.

DMATS Tech Board agreed the funds be disbursed into members' accounts rather than receiving reimbursement and also would like to have a local letting.

Fourth question. How are existing balances of STBG funds going to be handled? Ravada stated staff's recommendation is to swap project-by-project and program projects as they are presented to the DMATS Board.

Discussion followed.

DMATS Tech Board members' agreed for all balances to remain and swap project by project.

Fifth question. Should the use of a federal-aid swap be required statewide or implemented on a project-by-project or RPA/MPO basis? Ravada stated if implemented statewide, the federal-aid funds will turn into state money, therefore the balances will become zero.

Shea stated this question is simply asking do you want your federal-aid swap implemented statewide, project-by-project, or on a RPA basis.

Discussion followed.

DMATS Tech Board members' suggested IA DOT determine how to utilize the federal-aid swap funding.

Ravada stated the DMATS staff will be recommending to also follow the STBG process while funding other projects, to make sure other modes of transportation are eligible to apply for funding. Ravada provided examples such as; transits, trails and safe rides to schools.

Ravada stated with all the input given today, staff will draft a letter to the IA DOT with the Boards recommendations.

Comments from public on an item that did not appear on the agenda

No comments were made by the public.

Other Business

Ravada stated Rockford MPO and Blackhawk Hill council of governments, were invited to meet with District 2 to discuss improvements to US 20 in Illinois. Ravada explained making US 20 on the Illinois side a four lane highway is not in the budget at this time, due to the lack of funding. Ravada stated staff are requesting District 2 to look at the corridor of US 20 within Illinois to see if they can improve the safety conditions.

Long stated ILDOT has started working on improving the safety of that corridor along US 20 within Illinois.

Adjournment

Motion by Bardgett, second by McKinley to adjourn the Thursday, September 14, 2017 DMATS Technical Advisory Board meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The DMATS Technical Advisory Board meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chandra Ravada
ECIA Director of Transportation and Planning