

# Secretarial Notes

## DMATS Policy Board meeting

**Date:** Thursday, February 9, 2023  
**Time:** 12:00 p.m.  
**Place:** ECIA, 7600 Commerce Park

### DMATS Policy Board Members Present:

- |  |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Brad Cavanagh (chair)</b><br><i>Mayor, City of DBQ</i>                          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Laura Roussell</b><br><i>DBQ City Council</i>                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Danny Sprank</b><br><i>DBQ City Council</i>  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Katy Wethal</b><br><i>DBQ City Council</i>                             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Ric Jones</b><br><i>DBQ City Council</i>  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>David Resnick</b><br><i>DBQ City Council</i>                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Susan Faber</b><br><i>DBQ City Council</i>   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>John Klosterman**</b><br><i>(proxy for DBQ City Council)</i>                      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Mike Van Milligen**</b><br><i>(proxy for DBQ City Council)</i>                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Gus Psihoyos**</b><br><i>(proxy for DBQ City Council)</i>                     | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Teri Goodman**</b><br><i>(proxy for DBQ City Council)</i>                          | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Marie Ware**</b><br><i>(proxy for DBQ City Council)</i>                           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Wally Wernimont**</b><br><i>(proxy for DBQ City Council)</i>                    | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Jim Adams</b><br><i>Mayor, City of Asbury<br/>(proxy John Richey)</i>                    | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Melvin Degenhardt**</b><br><i>Mayor, City of East DBQ<br/>(proxy Loras Herrig)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Vacant</b><br><i>Grant County Representative</i>                                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Vacant</b><br><i>Transit Rep. (RTA)<br/>(proxy Stacie Scott)</i>                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Francis Schelfhout</b><br><i>Wisconsin DOT<br/>(proxy Stephen Flottmeyer)</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Doug DeLille</b><br><i>Illinois DOT<br/>(proxy Rob Bates)</i>           | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Troy Maggied</b><br><i>SWWRPC City Council</i>                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Russ Pfab</b><br><i>Small Cities Rep.<br/>City of Peosta<br/>(Proxy Vacant)</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Don Zillig</b><br><i>Jo Daviess County</i>                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Robert Daughters</b><br><i>Jule Transit Rep.<br/>(proxy Ryan Knuckey)</i>          | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Ann McDonough (VC)</b><br><i>DBQ County Supervisor<br/>(proxy Wayne Kenniker)</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Sam Shea*</b><br><i>Iowa DOT<br/>(non-voting member)</i>                        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Beth Bonz**</b><br><i>ECIA<br/>(proxy Kelley Deutmeyer)</i>                   |  |   |

**Others Present:** Bob Schiesl, Hendrica Regez, Paul Uzel, Ryan Sempf, Dan McDonald, Daniel Nguyen, Angela DeVere

### Staff Present

- |   |  |  |   |
|---|--|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Chandra Ravada</b><br>*Non-Voting Member | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Dan Fox</b><br>**Voting member by Proxy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Sarah Berning</b> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Chris Wesseln</b><br>*** Attendance by phone |
|---|--|--|---|

**A quorum was present for DMATS Policy and Technical Advisory Board**

## **Call to Order**

The DMATS Policy Board meeting was called to order by DMATS Policy Board Chair Brad Cavanagh. Introductions were made at this time.

## **Review/Approve the Agenda for the Thursday, February 9, 2023 DMATS Policy Board meeting**

Motion by Roussell, second by Resnick to approve the agenda for the Thursday, February 9, 2023, DMATS Policy Board meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Review/Approve Election of Officers**

Ravada stated that each year an election of officers should be held. Ravada noted the Policy chair is always the City of Dubuque mayor. Ravada stated the current vice-chair of the DMATS Policy Board is Ann McDonough. Ravada opened it up for the Board to discuss if the board wants to keep McDonough as vice-chair, or if someone else wants to volunteer.

Motion by Resnick, second by Roussell to nominate McDonough as vice-chair of the DMATS Policy Board. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Review/Approve the minutes and receive and file the secretarial notes from the Thursday, January 12, 2023 meeting**

Motion by Resnick, second by Jones to approve the minutes and receive and file the secretarial notes from the Thursday, January 12, 2023, DMATS Policy Board meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Review/Approve letter to Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) through Corridor Identification and Development Program for Rockford to Dubuque Passenger Rail service**

Ravada presented a letter to the board, stating staff drafted a letter of support for the passenger rail. Ravada stated since the January 12<sup>th</sup> DMATS meeting there have been some events that took place, on January 30<sup>th</sup> the ride the rail met with ILDOT, Rockford MPO, Blackhawks Hills Regional Council, Stevenson County, JoDavie County, and Freeport. On February 1<sup>st</sup> Blackhawk Hills staff contacted DMATS staff to see if we can write the corridor identification and development program for phase I. February 2<sup>nd</sup> the ILDOT asked for clarification if DMATS staff are writing an application for phase I and was suggested to submit an application from Chicago to Dubuque, if an application is submitted. On February 6<sup>th</sup> DMATS staff sent questions to ILDOT asking for clarification on specific points. On February 8<sup>th</sup> DMATS staff confirmed with ILDOT if Rockford to Dubuque intercity rail projects can be applied to the corridor identification and development program in the future.

Ravada went over the questions DMATS staff asked ILDOT and the answers ILDOT provided.

1. The Dubuque MPO is requested to submit the FRA Corridor Identification and Development Program for Chicago to Dubuque Corridor. Who will be providing information from Chicago to Rockford corridor for this application?

IDOT will be submitting an application for Chicago-Rockford-Dubuque MPO will submit the application for extension from Rockford-Dubuque.

2. Why is the Rockford MPO or the Blackhawk Hills Regional Council not submitting this application? Why are the other cities, like Elgin, Freeport, etc., not taking the initiative to write this application?

IDOT has a project in development for Chicago-Rockford. Other cities can also take the initiative to write an application as well.

3. What is the role and commitment of ILDOT, Rockford MPO, and other cities with stations on this application?

There has been no commitment from IDOT.

4. Dubuque MPO needs to mobilize resources to get this application done. This will cost MPO time and funding. How is the MPO getting reimbursed?

IDOT will not be reimbursed for the application.

5. If funded, does Dubuque MPO need to deal with issues (the station location in Rockford, discussions with UP and Metra alignment between Chicago to Rockford, etc.) on Chicago to Rockford alignment, as the MPO will be the applicant with FRA?

If funded, the main focus should be Rockford-Dubuque.

6. If PHASE I is funded, Dubuque MPO would like to have ILDOT take the lead, and MPO staff can administer the project. Is this the plan?

If funded, Dubuque MPO will take the lead and administer the project.

7. If PHASE I is completed, then there is an expectation from FRA to apply for PHASE II, where there is a 10% match. Will ILDOT pay for the match?

IDOT cannot commit to funding.

Ravada stated staff recommend approving the letter to submit the intercity passenger rail corridor between Dubuque, Iowa and Rockford, Illinois, for consideration in the Corridor Identification and Development Program. DMATS staff recommends not moving forward, at this time with an application for PHASE I of the Corridor Identification and Development Program for the intercity passenger rail corridor between Dubuque, IA and Rockford, IL, due to a lack of financial commitment from PHASE II of the application. Ravada stated DMATS staff received no commitments of dollars from any other entity. Ravada stated DMATS will be able to apply for funding for the passenger rail corridor in the future.

Discussion followed.

Uzel suggested DMATS staff still draft a corridor proposal to be submitted to the FRA, as this will put the project in the front of the FRA and let the FRA know we are interested in the project moving forward.

Cavanagh stated the board is not ready to lead this project as there is no commitment from other entities. Cavanagh also stated in his experience showing commitment to a project and then later dropping the project does not fair well for the relationship DMATS has with the FRA.

Deutmeyer noted the meeting that happened between Ride the Rail, ILDOT, Rockford MPO, Blackhawk Hills Regional Council, Stevenson County, JoDaviess County, and Freeport, ECIA or DMATS staff were not invited to this meeting to discuss the submission of a draft application. Deutmeyer stated staff received a call from Blackhawk Hills stating all entities discussed that ECIA should write the application. Deutmeyer felt this was out of place, as Blackhawk Hills Regional Council has their whole planning area that covers the passenger rail corridor and DMATS is only a small part of the corridor.

Motion by Resnick, second by Jones to approve the letter to Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) through Corridor Identification and Development Program for Rockford to Dubuque Passenger Rail Service. The motion passed, Zillig opposed.

**Review/Approve developing application process for Carbon Reduction program funding**

Ravada referred to the handout stating these are some of the projects IADOT has stated the funding can be used towards; roundabouts, pike and ped, and electrical vehicle charging stations. Ravada stated at the last meeting there was discussion about using funding for only electric vehicle infrastructures or having the ability to use funding on any carbon reduction project. Ravada stated DMATS staff had discussion with members and the consensus was to allow funding to be used towards any carbon reduction project. Ravada stated staff need approval to start developing an application process for the carbon reduction program funding on an annual basis.

Motion by Zillig, second by Jones to approve developing an application process for Carbon Reduction program funding. The motion passed unanimously.

**Review/Approve to open application process to seek applications for DMATS Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds for Federal Fiscal Year 2024-2027**

Ravada requested the Board to approve the opening of the STP application process for FFY 2024-2027, so the staff can start receiving applications for STP funds

Motion by Resnick, second by Jones to approve opening application process to seek applications for DMATS Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds for Federal Fiscal Year 2024-2027. The motion passed unanimously.

**Review/Approve to open application process to seek applications for DMATS Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) funds for Federal Fiscal Year 2024-2027**

Ravada requested the Board to approve the opening of the TAP application process for FFY 2024-2027, so the staff can start receiving applications for TAP funds.

Motion by Zillig, second by Wethal to approve opening application process to seek applications for DMATS Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) funds for Federal Fiscal Year 2024-2027. The motion passed unanimously.

**Update on Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant program**

Ravada informed the board that DMATS received the funding for SS4A grant, which with match, a total of \$497,000.00 was approved. However federal highway would like DMATS to apply with one application and take out all the counties of the application. Federal highway also suggested having two plans, one for the metropolitan area and one for the rural area. Ravada stated previously staff said the plan will be completed by August 2024 in time for next phase of funding. Ravada informed the board that federal highway moved the deadline to April, therefore getting the plan completed by April 2024 might be a strain, but staff will work to do so, so that the plan is ready for the next stage of funding.

Wesseln stated staff are starting by reviewing other plans provided by other MPO's. SS4A plan will include a robust public outreach process with an educational aspect, include equity principles in the analysis, and quantitative analysis and ranking to identify high priority projects.

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

No comments were made by the public.

## **Other Business**

### **Automotive Traffic Enforcement**

Resnick asked if the automotive traffic enforcement has any impact on funding and is this something DMATS would get involved in.

Ravada stated DMATS will not have involvement on a local policy issue as this will not have impact on any of DMATS funding or issues.

## **Adjournment**

Motion by Wethal, second by Roussell to adjourn the Thursday, February 9, 2023, DMATS Policy Board meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The DMATS Technical Advisory Board meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chandra Ravada  
ECIA Director of Transportation and Planning