

Secretarial Notes DMATS Technical Advisory Board meeting

Date: Thursday, February 9, 2023
Time: 10:30 a.m.
Place: ECIA, 7600 Commerce Park

DMATS Technical Advisory Board Members Present:

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wally Wernimont
<i>City of Dubuque</i>
(proxy Jason Duba) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Beth Bonz
<i>City of Asbury</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Loras Herrig
<i>City of East Dubuque</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Tammy Henry
<i>Dubuque County</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gus Psihoyos (chair)
<i>Engineer,</i>
<i>City of DBQ</i>
(proxy Bob Schiesl) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Russell Weber
<i>Engineer,</i>
<i>DBQ County</i>
(proxy Wyatt Anderson) | <input type="checkbox"/> Steve Keeffer
<i>Engineer,</i>
<i>Jo Daviess County, IL</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Dave Lambert
<i>Engineer</i>
<i>Grant County, WI</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ryan Knuckey
<i>Jule Transit</i>
(proxy Jake Ironside) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stacie Scott
<i>Regional Transit</i>
<i>Authority (RTA)</i>
(proxy Gail Kuhle) | <input type="checkbox"/> Troy Maggied
<i>SWWPRC</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Kelley Deutmeyer**
<i>ECIA</i>
(proxy Holly McPherson) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kris Tobin**
<i>Illinois DOT</i>
(proxy Rob Bates)
(proxy Doug DeLille) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stephen Flottmeyer**
<i>Wisconsin DOT</i>
(proxy Francis Schelfhout) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sam Shea*
<i>Iowa DOT</i>
(non-voting member) | |

Others Present: Jason Duba, Bob Schiesl, Doug DeLille

Staff Present:

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chandra Ravada | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dan Fox | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sarah Berning | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chris Wesseln |
|---|--|--|--|

*Non-Voting Member

**Voting member by Proxy

***Attendance by phone

A quorum was present for DMATS Technical Advisory Board

Call to Order

The DMATS Technical Advisory Board meeting was called to order by DMATS Technical Advisory Board Chair, Gus Psihoyos.

Review/Approve the Agenda for the Thursday, February 9, 2023, DMATS Technical Advisory Board meeting

Motion by Weber, second by Wernimont to approve the agenda for the Thursday, February 9, 2023, DMATS Technical Advisory Board meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Review/Approve Election of Officers

Ravada stated that each year election of officers should be held. Ravada noted the current vice-chair of the DMATS Technical Advisory Board are Gus Psihoyos as Chair and Anthony Bardgett was the Vice-Chair but he has since moved onto another job, therefore he is no longer part of the RPA board. Ravada opened it up for the Board to discuss who would be DMATS Tech Board next vice chair.

Motion by Wernimont, second by Bonz to nominate Psihoyos as chair of the DMATS Technical Advisory Board and Weber as Vice-Chair of the Technical Advisory 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 Wernimont, second by Bonz to approve the minutes and receive and file the secretarial notes from the Thursday January 12, 2023, DMATS Technical Advisory Board meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Review/Recommend 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 12th DMATS meeting there have been some events that took place, on January 30th the ride the rail met with ILDOT, Rockford MPO, Blackhawk Hills Regional Council, Stevenson County, JoDaviess County, and Freeport. On February 1st Blackhawk Hills staff contacted DMATS staff to see if we can write the corridor identification and development program for phase I. February 2nd 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 6th DMATS staff sent questions to ILDOT asking for clarification on specific points. On February 8th 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.

Discussion followed.

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.

Discussion followed.

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 for PHASE II of the application.

Motion by Wernimont, second by Schiesl to recommend approval to the DMATS Policy Board the letter to Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) through Corridor Identification and Development Program for Rockford to Dubuque Passenger Rail Service. The motion passed unanimously.

Review/Recommend developing application process for Carbon Reduction program funding

Ravada referred to the handout stating these are some of the projects the 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.

Discussion followed.

Ravada stated staff need approval to start developing an application process for the carbon reduction program funding on an annual basis.

Motion by Schiesl, second by Wernimont to recommend approval to the DMATS Policy Board to develop an application process for Carbon Reduction program funding. The motion passed unanimously.

Review/Recommend 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 Wernimont, second by Schiesl to recommend approval to the DMATS Policy Board to open application process to seek applications for DMATS Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds for Federal Fiscal Year 2024-2027. The motion passed unanimously.

Review/Recommend 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 Wernimont, second by Schiesl to recommend approval to the DMATS Policy Board to open 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.

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.

Discussion followed.

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

No comments were made by the public.

Other Business

No other business at this time.

Adjournment

Motion by Bonz, second by Wernimont to adjourn the Thursday, February 9, 2023, DMATS Technical Advisory Board meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The DMATS Technical Advisory Board meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chandra Ravada
ECIA Director of Transportation and Planning