



Transportation & Infrastructure Policy Committee

December 6, 2021

DRAFT MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brad Anderson, Goodhue County	Jeff Mergen, Stearns County
Kevin Anderson, Hennepin County	Brian Napstad, Aitkin County (virtual)
Barb Becker, Todd County	John Okeson, Becker County
DeRon Brehmer, Lac qui Parle County	Rafael Ortega, Ramsey County (virtual)
Robert Burns, Houston County	Robert Paplow, Nobles County
Kevin Campbell, Clay County	Eric Rudningen, Swift County
Raeanne Danielowski, Sherburne County	Scott Schulte, Anoka County
Jim Duckstad, Marshall County	Dean Simonson, Brown County
Derrick Goutermont, Lake County	Wayne Skoe, Koochiching County
Ron Gregg, Fillmore County (virtual)	Dave Sorenson, Pennington County
Mary Liz Holberg, Dakota County (virtual)	Kevin Stevens, Cottonwood County
Stephen Hallan, Pine County	Vance Stuehrenberg, Blue Earth County
Roger Imdieke, Kandiyohi County	Michael VanDeVere, Lincoln County
Paul Johnson, Meeker County	Bob Van Hee, Redwood County
Scott Johnson, Benton County	Gordy Wagner, Pope County
Wayne Johnson, Otter Tail County	Lance Wetzel, Le Sueur County
Tim Kalina, Douglas County	Mike Weyer, Wadena County
Peter Koch, Sibley County	Mike Wilson, Morrison County
Jack Kolars, Nicollet County	Greg Young, Faribault County
Bob Kopitzke, Stevens County	Loren Younggren, Kittson County
Brad Krause, Waseca County	

GUESTS:

Darrick Anderson, Cass County
John Brunkhorst, McLeod County
Chris Byrd, Benton County
Brennan Furness, Hennepin County
Brian Giese, Pope County
Guy Kohlhofer, Dodge County
Dennis Luebbe, Rice County
Jeff Marlowe, Renville County
Sam Muntean, Lac qui Parle County
Emily Murray, AMC Staff

Jed Nordin, Hubbard County
Dave Overbo, Clay County
Serge Phillips, MnDOT Federal Relations
Wayne Sandberg, Washington County
Rich Sanders, Polk County
Rhonda Sivarajah, Anoka County
Bob Svaleson, Cook County
Jodi Teich, Stearns County
Joe Triplett, Chisago County
Pat Veraguth, Douglas County
John Welle, Aitkin County
Diane Wells, Office of Broadband Development

I. Call to Order

Chair Stuehrenberg called the Transportation and Infrastructure Policy Committee to order at 8:00 AM. The committee recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Anoka County Commissioner Scott Schulte moved to approve the September Transportation & Infrastructure Policy Committee minutes, second by Goodhue County Commissioner Brad Anderson. Motion passed.

II. Federal Infrastructure Bill (IIJA) Overview – What Does it Mean for MN?

Serge Phillips, MnDOT Federal Relations Manager, provided a background of the IIJA and highlighted the transportation-related contents of the bill as well as discussing the Build Back Better bill and a timeline for its negotiation and potential passage. Serge outlined the highway reauthorization money in the IIJA in addition to the new programs for highway/bridge as well as discretionary grants that are available, the new EV charging program, and rail/transit funding. Serge discussed the next steps once appropriation is secured as Minnesota will need state legislative authority to spend most federal funds. MnDOT will work closely with state lawmakers to secure needed matching funds during the 2022 legislative session.

III. Broadband Update

Diane Wells, DEED Office of Broadband Development, provided an update on current federal broadband funding opportunities and highlighted the portions of IIJA relating to broadband funding. Diane also touched on the latest developments relating to the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) and answered questions relating to federal funding being used in areas of the state with a current RDOF auction winner.

IV. Final Platform Review and Approval

Chair Stuehrenberg and Emily Murray led the process for final platform review and approval. The Committee reviewed and took action on the following policies:

TRANSPORTATION FUNDING (Commissioner Kevin Anderson, Hennepin County)
AMC supports funding the Active Transportation Program for local bicycle, trail, and pedestrian infrastructure, including but not limited to ADA improvements and safe routes to school infrastructure.

Hennepin County Commissioner Kevin Anderson made the motion to accept the platform amendment, second by Otter Tail County Commissioner Wayne Johnson. Motion passed.

CHANGE TO CURRENT PLATFORM (Emily Murray, AMC)
~~AMC supports efforts to bring the Bridge Grant Program MN Stat. 174.50 Subds. 7(f) and 7(g) into alignment with Subd. 6(d) by removing reference to total project cost in order to provide consistency and to limit the total grant award to less than \$7,000,000.~~

Goodhue County Commissioner Brad Anderson made the motion to accept the platform amendment, second by Pope County Commissioner Gordy Wagner. Motion passed.

PUBLIC LAND SURVEY SYSTEM (Patrick Veraguth, Douglas County Surveyor)
AMC supports remonumentation and maintenance of all Public Land Survey System corners in the state.

Anoka County Commissioner Scott Schulte made the motion to accept the platform amendment, second by Lac qui Parle County Commissioner DeRon Brehmer. Motion passed.

CHANGE TO CURRENT PLATFORM (John Welle, Aitkin County Engineer)
~~AMC supports establishing maximum axle weights and gross weights for implements of husbandry on public highway bridges.~~

CHANGE TO CURRENT PLATFORM (John Welle, Aitkin County Engineer)
~~AMC supports eliminating the implements of husbandry exemptions for posted bridge weights, authority for implements of husbandry to be weighed by law enforcement officials, and civil penalties for excess weight.~~

Kandiyohi County Commissioner Roger Imdieke made the motion to withdraw both platform amendments related to implements of husbandry following discussion from the amendment author, second by Anoka County Commissioner Scott Schulte. Motion passed.

The TIPC also reviewed four amendments from other committees – three from the Environment & Natural Resources Policy Committee and one from the General Government Policy Committee:

CLIMATE CHANGE (Commissioner Paul Drotos, Goodhue County)
AMC supports financial and technical assistance to local governments for development and implementation of climate change adaptation and mitigation plans, and ongoing support and evaluation of tools for efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. These programs and policies must not create unfunded mandates or preemptions on counties and/or their local economies.

UNDERGROUND UTILITY MAPPING (Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt, Ramsey County)
AMC supports reducing the risks of water and environmental contamination and improving public safety when work is being done near underground utility infrastructure by establishing a method for public and private sector utility providers in Minnesota to share data on underground utility infrastructure in a secure and confidential manner, which will be used to create an accurate inventory of Minnesota's underground utility infrastructure.

PUBLIC WATERS INVENTORY (Commissioner Luke Johnson, Pipestone County)
AMC supports maintaining the regulatory certainty of public waters designations established under the Public Waters Inventory Program.

LICENSING (Josh Milow, Blue Earth County Deputy Administrator)
AMC supports the examination of the increased work for Deputy Registrars and Driver's License Agents as well as the appropriate level of compensation/filing fees in completing these duties as determined by the legislative study.

Anoka County Commissioner Scott Schulte made the motion that the TIPC review the amendments from other committees and take no formal action, second by Redwood County Commissioner Bob Van Hee. Motion passed.

V. Election of Committee Chair and Vice Chair

Chair Stuehrenberg opened the floor for nominations for Chair. Stevens County Commissioner Bob Kopitzke nominated Pope County Commissioner Gordy Wagner for Chair, second by Nicollet County Commissioner Jack Kolars. Seeing no further nominations, Chair Stuehrenberg closed the floor. Otter Tail County Commissioner Wayne Johnson made the motion to close the nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Pope County Commissioner Gordy Wagner for Committee Chair, second by Blue Earth County Commissioner Vance Stuehrenberg. The motion passed and Pope County Commissioner Gordy Wagner will serve as the new Chair.

Pope County Commissioner Gordy Wanger opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair. Blue Earth County Commissioner Vance Stuehrenberg nominated Kandiyohi County Commissioner Roger Imdieke for Vice Chair, second by Sherburne County Commissioner Raeanne Danielowski. Faribault County Commissioner Greg Young nominated Nicollet County Commissioner Jack Kolars for Vice Chair, second by Lincoln County Commissioner Mic VanDeVere. Seeing no further nominations, Pope County Commissioner Gordy Wagner closed the floor. Both nominees for the position of Vice Chair had a few minutes to state their case. The committee submitted anonymous ballots for Vice Chair. The final vote was in favor of Kandiyohi County Commissioner Roger Imdieke, who will serve as the new Vice Chair.

VI. Adjourn

Lac qui Parle County Commissioner DeRon Brehmer moved to adjourn the meeting, second by Hennepin County Commissioner Kevin Anderson. Motion passed. The Transportation & Infrastructure Policy Committee adjourned at 9:54 AM.