

BLACK HAWK COUNTY METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2024

MINUTES

Chair Kobliska called the meeting of the Black Hawk County Metropolitan Area Transportation Policy Board to order at 10:00 AM.

Meeting Attendees:

Name	Title	Representing	Role
DeAnne Kobliska	Mayor	City of Evansdale	Policy Board Member (Chair)
Lisa Smock*	Mayor	City of Elk Run Heights	Policy Board Member (Vice-Chair)
Scott Becker	Councilperson, Mayor Pro Tem	City of Gilbertville	Policy Board 1 st Alternate
Gail Bunz	Mayor	City of Hudson	Policy Board Member
Aric Schroeder	City Planner	City of Waterloo	Policy Board 2 nd Alternate
Steven Kjergaard	Director of Aviation	Waterloo Reg. Airport	Policy Board 1 st Alternate
Ryan Brennan	Assistant County Engineer	Black Hawk County	TTC Member
David Wicke	City Engineer	City of Cedar Falls	TTC Member
Rob Werner	Public Works Director	City of Gilbertville	TTC Member
Chrissi Wiersma*	City Administrator/City Clerk	City of Hudson	TTC Member
Mark Durbahn*	Senior Project Manager	AECOM	Attendee
Michelle Sweeney	Associate VP – Area Ops. Manager	AECOM	Attendee
John Dornoff	Planner II	City of Waterloo	Attendee
Curtis Young	Chair	Waterloo Complete Streets	Attendee
Krista Billhorn*	District Transportation Planner	Iowa DOT	Attendee
Kyle Durant	Transportation Planner II	INRCOG	MPO Staff
Nick Fratzke	Director of Transportation	INRCOG	MPO Staff

**Attended Online*

The first item was approval of the agenda. It was moved by Kjergaard, seconded by Bunz to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Next was to review and consider approval of the minutes for the November 14, 2024 meeting. It was moved by Bunz, seconded by Kjergaard to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Next was the Election of Officers for 2025. It was moved by Kobliska, seconded by Schroeder to nominate Lisa Smock as Chair. Motion carried unanimously. It was moved by Smock, seconded by Schroeder to nominate DeAnne Kobliska as Vice-Chair. Motion carried unanimously.

Next was Discussion Items:

1. Review the [draft SS4A Comprehensive Safety Action Plan](#)

Durant provided an overview of the draft CSAP, which is scheduled to be presented to the Waterloo City Council during a work session on Monday, December 16. The final document is targeted for Council consideration and approval in February 2025. The group expressed concerns about reducing the number of lanes on US 63 northbound north of the river, given its reconstruction by the Iowa DOT within the past decade. Durant encouraged the group to submit comments via the online PDF by January 10.

2. EPA Community Impact Grant, City of Waterloo

Durant said that UNI's Center for Energy and Environmental Education (CEEE), in collaboration with the MPO and the City of Waterloo, applied for the [EPA's Community Change Grant](#). Titled *Green Waterloo: Implementing Neighborhood Strategies for Community Health and Resilience*, the project seeks over \$17 million in full funding to revitalize disadvantaged portions of Waterloo through innovative initiatives. Transportation-focused projects include 19 miles of new bike accommodations, a vanpool program, and an e-bike share system to promote clean mobility and reduce air pollution. Other key components include green infrastructure, resilient housing, pollution reduction, and workforce development programs aimed at lowering greenhouse gas emissions. This grant opportunity is specifically designed to support disadvantaged communities, helping to address environmental and health disparities.

3. Tripmaster Software Implementation for OnBoard Public Transit

Fratzke said OnBoard Public Transit sent out a request for proposals for transit operation software and selected Tripmaster. Tablets with cellular service capabilities were purchased to install in all vehicles. The software and tablets will enhance efficiency by streamlining scheduling and dispatch, enabling optimized routes that reduce fuel costs and travel. The tablets also give drivers real-time updates. Additionally, it simplifies data collection and reporting, making it easier to comply with funding requirements and make data-driven decisions.

4. Project Updates

a. City and county project updates

Cedar Falls

Wicke said construction on Main Street has been shut down for the winter. Phase III, which includes the construction of a roundabout at the intersection of 18th Street, will start next spring.

Waterloo

Sweeney said the Park Avenue Bridge is open following the initial bridge inspection. The 11th Street Bridge is anticipated to be opened in January, weather permitting. The sidewalk will remain closed until materials for the railing are available. Construction on La Porte Road is continuing. The design PMT meeting for Phase II will be held soon.

Iowa DOT

Sweeney noted that the PMT meeting for the Iowa Highway 58 and Greenhill Road interchange project is scheduled for today. AECOM is currently focused on value engineering and preparing for the D3 submittal. Additionally, they are working on a RAISE grant application for the project. Billhorn reported that the cost estimate for the US 218 reconstruction project, currently programmed with \$914,000 in STBG funds for 2027, has significantly increased. As a result, Iowa DOT staff may propose changing the project scope to pavement rehabilitation during the April 2025 programming session.

Evansdale

Kobliska said work on Lafayette Road is continuing.

b. NCMM Learning Launch

Durant requested that this item be tabled until the next meeting.

c. NEIA NEPA Study

Durbahn noted that the first Steering Committee meeting was held last month. AECOM is currently working on the purpose and need statement, emphasizing safety and connectivity improvements. The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for January, and additional draft materials will be provided to the committee before the meeting.

d. SS4A Comprehensive Action Plan

No additional updates provided.

Next was general discussion. Durant noted that the MPO is now accepting applications for STBG, TASA/TAP, and CRP funds. For more details on how to submit applications, funding amounts available, and deadlines, please visit [the MPO Funding Opportunities page](#).

There being no further business, it was moved by Becker, seconded by Schroeder to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:16 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Durant
Secretary