

# BLACK HAWK COUNTY METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2025

## MINUTES

Chair Smock 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 (Vice-Chair)
Lisa Smock	Mayor	City of Elk Run Heights	Policy Board Member (Chair)
Scott Becker	Councilperson, Mayor Pro Tem	City of Gilbertville	Policy Board 1 <sup>st</sup> Alternate
Gail Bunz*	Mayor	City of Hudson	Policy Board Member
Aric Schroeder	City Planner	City of Waterloo	Policy Board 2 <sup>nd</sup> Alternate
Steven Kjergaard	Director of Aviation	Waterloo Reg. Airport	Policy Board 1 <sup>st</sup> Alternate
Ryan Brennan	Assistant County Engineer	Black Hawk County	TTC Member
David Wicke	City Engineer	City of Cedar Falls	TTC Member
David Sturch	General Manager	MET Transit	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
Krista Billhorn*	District Transportation Planner	Iowa DOT	Attendee
Kyle Durant	Transportation Planner II	INRCOG	MPO Staff
Nick Fratzke	Director of Transportation	INRCOG	MPO Staff
Oghogho Oriakhi	Transportation Planner I	INRCOG	MPO Staff

\*Attended Online

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

Next was to review and consider approval of the minutes for the December 12, 2024 meeting. It was moved by Kobliska, seconded by Becker to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Next was to consider the appointment of Jamie Knutson to the Statewide Urban Design and Specifications (SUDAS) Board. Durant noted that this board oversees the development and maintenance of SUDAS, which provides standardized public works design and construction for cities and counties across Iowa. Knutson is seeking to continue serving as a representative for our region for the next two-year term. There being no further discussion, it was moved by Schroeder, seconded by Kobliska to appoint Knutson to the SUDAS Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Next was Discussion Items:

1. Project Updates

a. City and county project updates

**Cedar Falls**

Wicke said construction on Main Street has shut down for the winter. Phase III, which includes the construction of a roundabout at the intersection of 18<sup>th</sup> Street, will start as soon as the weather allows.

## **Waterloo**

Schroeder reported that the 11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge remains closed as the contractor awaits railings and lighting, with a goal of fully opening it to all modes by July. The Sergeant Road Trail Bridges TAP project is on track for a fall 2025 letting, while Phase II of the La Porte Road project remains on schedule for a December 2025 letting. Waterloo and Cedar Falls plan to submit a joint TAP application for trail pavement rehab behind the Cedar Valley Soccer Complex and John Deere Engine Works. Sweeney noted that construction on La Porte Road Phase II is progressing well.

### **b. NCMM Mobility Design Challenge Grant**

Fratzke shared that the Black Hawk County metropolitan area was awarded a grant to identify solutions for youth transportation barriers. During the first round of funding, interviews were conducted with individuals experiencing such barriers. INRCOG received a \$20,000 grant to implement a Learning Launch, a required step toward securing funding for a pilot program. However, finding an agency to operate the Learning Launch has been challenging. Staff are in discussions with the Boys and Girls Club of the Cedar Valley, as they may have the necessary staff and fleet to successfully conduct a soft launch.

### **c. NEIA NEPA Study**

Durbahn noted that a Steering Committee meeting took place on Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, a meeting was held with John Deere last Friday. The team is working on the traffic operations Analysis and developing alternatives that improve efficiency to the study area. The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM at the INRCOG office.

### **d. SS4A Comprehensive Safety Action Plan**

Durant reported that the draft Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP) was distributed in January to city elected officials, staff, Iowa DOT staff, and the steering committee for comments. The consultant presented the draft at a January City Council work session, gathered feedback, and incorporated revisions into the final CSAP. The plan has now been submitted to the City Council for review and approval in March. Once adopted, it will allow the city to apply for SS4A implementation funds to support identified improvements.

Next was general discussion. Durant noted that the City of Waterloo's application for the Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Program, focused on the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> Street One-Way to Two-Way Conversion Project, was not selected for funding. A staff debriefing is not expected. Additionally, the University of Northern Iowa's Center for Energy and Environmental Education's application to the EPA's Community Change Grant for various transportation projects in Waterloo was not recommended for funding. The MPO is currently accepting applications for STBG, TASA/TAP, and CRP funds. Updated funding amounts for each program are listed on the [MPO Funding Opportunities page](#), reflecting new targets provided by the Iowa DOT. Application materials and deadlines can also be found on the same webpage.

There being no further business, it was moved by Becker, seconded by Kjergaard to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:34 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Durant  
Secretary