



## STP PROJECT SELECTION COMMITTEE

### MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT

Thursday, February 10, 2022

9:30 AM

Please join from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

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### 1.0 Call To Order

Chair Dobbs called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m., and reminded the members that as permitted by the Governor's Disaster Declaration of February 4, 2022, the determination has been made that an in person meeting is not practical or prudent for this committee. To ensure that the meeting is as transparent as possible, staff posted the meeting materials one week in advance, we will provide a recording of this meeting linked on our website, and will take all votes by roll call. Ms. Weber called the roll.

**Present:** Kama Dobbs, Dan Burke, Alice Gallagher, Leon Rockingham, Jeffrey Sriver, and Grant Davis

**Absent:** Kevin O'Malley, Jeffery Schielke, Tony Greep, Jennifer (Sis) Killen, and Chad Riddle

**Non-Voting:** John Donovan, Heather Mullins, and Tara Orbon

**Staff Present:** Teri Dixon, Kate Evasic, Doug Ferguson, Elizabeth Ginsberg, Jane Grover, Elliott Lewis, Tim McMahon, Jason Navota, Yousef Salama, Gordon Smith, Blanca Vela-Schneider, Mary Weber

**Others Present:** Elaine Bottomley, Joseph Breinig, Len Cannata, Eric Czarnota, Jon Paul Diipla, Jackie Forbes, Mike Fricano, Scott Hennings, Kendra Johnson, Tom Kelso, Mike Klemens, Daniel Knickelbein, Heidi Lichtenberger, Brittany Matyas, Ryan Peterson, Troy Simpson, Jazmin Vega, Kyle Whitehead

### 2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

There were no agenda changes or announcements.

### 3.0 Approval of Minutes

Approval of Minutes - October 28, 2021

[22-067](#)

**Attachments:** [DRAFT minutes STP PSC 10282021](#)

A motion was made by Mayor Gallagher, seconded by Mayor Rockingham, to approve the minutes of October 28, 2021, as presented. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Kama Dobbs, Dan Burke, Alice Gallagher, Leon Rockingham, Jeffrey Sriver, and Grant Davis

**Absent:** Kevin O'Malley, and Jeffery Schielke

**Non-Voting:** John Donovan, Tony Greep, Jennifer (Sis) Killen, Heather Mullins, and Chad Riddle

#### **4.0 Active Program Management Reports**

##### **4.01 Shared Fund Status Updates**

**22-068**

**Attachments:** [STP and CRRSAA Shared Fund Active Program Status Report - Feb 2022](#)  
[STP Shared Fund Contingency Program Status Report - Feb 2022](#)

Ms. Weber provided an overview of the current status of STP and CRRSAA Shared Fund active and contingency projects, highlighting recent changes and additions. Ms. Weber also highlighted a new section of the report intended to keep the committee and CMAP partners informed of current year cost increase requests that have been received by staff that cannot currently be accommodated due to fiscal constraint. She noted that as the year progresses, if funds become available due to low bids, obligation remainders, or any other reason, staff will process the requests according to the active program management policies. Once all of the programmed shared funds are obligated for the year, it would also be possible to utilize funds redistributed at the end of prior years to accommodate the requests.

President Gallagher inquired how staff determines eligible cost increase requests. Chair Dobbs explained that all projects are eligible to request cost increases and that staff will provide additional details on the reason for the requests in future reports. Staff applies the priorities of the active program management policies when accommodating increases and will request that committee assist staff with programming decisions in the event that there are more requests than funds available and the requests are determined by staff to be of equal priority.

##### **4.02 Regional Accounting Update**

**22-069**

**Attachments:** [STP Regional Accounting Report Feb2022](#)  
[CRRSAA Regional Accounting Report Feb2022](#)

Ms. Weber provided a summary of the attached Regional Accounting reports, noting that within the shared fund, just under \$8.5 million has been obligated so far in FFY 2022. Within the local programs, \$15.8 million of the \$188 million programmed has been obligated, and about \$3 million remains unprogrammed across the region. None of the \$5.3 million in CRRSAA funding programmed by this committee has been obligated yet, as those projects are targeting late summer and fall lettings. However, within the local CRRSAA programs, \$2 million has been obligated. Throughout the remainder of FFY 2022, the councils will work with sponsors to ensure that the \$812 thousand that is currently unprogrammed can be obligated.

#### **5.0 STP Shared Fund Methodology**

Chair Dobbs introduced discussion about the Shared Fund scoring methodology emphasizing that staff and the committee are committed to reviewing and updating the methodology following each Call for Projects cycle to address comments and lessons learned. The purpose of today's discussion was to gain direction and a general consensus from the committee for the development of staff research and recommendations for committee discussion throughout the year. She stressed that there will be no voting today. Final decisions about changes to the methodology will be made in the fall to prepare for the next call for projects in January 2023.

## 5.01 Eligible Project Types

[22-070](#)

**Attachments:** [STPPSC Methodology Memo Project Types 02032022](#)

Mr. Lewis introduced three items for discussion as detailed in the memo included in the agenda packet.

First, Mr. Lewis reported that the committee had received public comment regarding limiting or eliminating the road expansion project type eligibility, noted that this project type includes new through lanes, new or extended roads, new interchanges, or new ramps at existing interchanges, and requested the committee's thoughts regarding the continued eligibility of these projects.

President Gallagher asked what reasons the public comments gave for not funding road expansions. Ms. Dobbs stated that the comments were brief and spoke to controlling emissions and investing in transit. Ms. Dobbs then noted that these comments were for last fall's program, which funded zero road expansion projects. Mr. Sriver suggested that this may be best addressed through changes to the evaluation process, commenting that there are road expansion projects that could score well while also working toward regional planning goals. President Gallagher agreed that the methodology shouldn't preclude road expansion projects. Ms. Mullins agreed that it makes sense to include road expansions, and noted that these projects benefit transit as well. Mayor Rockingham also agreed that the projects should remain eligible and noted that these projects are an opportunity for multi-jurisdictional congestion relief. Mr. Burke stated that the committee should neither incentivise nor preclude expansion projects. Ms. Orbon stated that the counties in the region would like to advocate for continued inclusion of expansion projects.

With no further discussion from committee members, Chair Dobbs invited members of the public to comment. Mr. Kyle Whitehead of the Active Transportation Alliance noted that the Shared Fund is not the only transportation fund source available in the region. The Active Transportation Alliance does not believe that the current analysis fully captures the impact of expansion projects nor do expansion projects typically align with regional plans. Mr. Mike Klemens from the Lake County DOT expressed support for road expansions as an eligible project type and highlighted a road expansion project in Round Lake that encompasses many other desirable elements such as bicycle and transit facility improvements.

Ms. Dobbs thanked everyone for the thoughtful discussion and comments and noted that achieving a balance between enhancements and expansion of our system is critical and the types of projects funded in the region should continually be re-examined. Based on the discussion, staff will not propose any changes to the eligibility or scoring of road expansion projects.

Mr. Lewis then continued by reviewing clarifications proposed by staff for the existing project type descriptions included in the methodology. President Gallagher and Mayor Rockingham expressed agreement with the changes and there was no other discussion.

Finally, Mr. Lewis discussed potential new project types. He suggested that electric vehicle charging, vehicle to grid technology, protective features to increase resiliency, and wildlife crossing structures, while now eligible for STP funding, should not be added as stand-alone project categories at this time due to lack of specific federal guidance and data sources to determine need and project improvements. He further recommended that these features should be considered as eligible costs if

included in the scope of an eligible project type. Ms. Dobbs reiterated that data sources for scoring the needs and improvements associated with projects is critical and agreed that incorporating these new eligibilities into the planning factor scoring makes the most sense for this cycle.

Chair Dobbs asked if the committee would like to consider any other new project types and noted that in the past the committee has discussed rail yard expansions or improvements as a project type. President Gallagher suggested that further staff research regarding rail yards would be welcome. In response to a question from Ms. Orbon, Ms. Dobbs noted that McHenry County had requested consideration of funding for a new rail yard in the Woodstock area that would allow for increased Metra capacity. Mr. Scott Hennings of the McHenry County DOT provided additional details of the project, emphasizing that this investment would have improvements along the entire UP-W line. Mr. Davis inquired whether the suggestion would consider public or private rail yards. Ms. Dobbs stated that it is unlikely that Shared Funds could be used by private entities not serving commuter rail. Mr. Davis stated that there are many eligible improvements in the region and that the Shared Fund was established to focus on a small number of core improvement types and that it may be disadvantageous to the region to include one-off project types. Mayor Rockingham commented that rail yard expansion could have negative effects on communities by increasing train traffic. He suggested a high-level review to understand whether it is feasible to include this project type. Ms. Dobbs concluded that staff will bring additional information to the next meeting for further committee discussion.

## 5.02 Scoring Criteria Review

[22-072](#)

**Attachments:** [STP PSC Methodology Memo Criteria Discussion Proposal 02032022](#)

Chair Dobbs led a discussion on refinement of the scoring criteria. Through the first two cycles, most of the scoring criteria have been successful in elevating the projects that do the most in their category to the highest rank. However, there is always room for improvement. The table in the memo provides staff comments for each criteria, and a recommendation for the level of discussion staff proposes for each in the coming months. Ms. Orbon thanked staff for the suggested refinements. There were no other scoring criteria that the committee would like staff to investigate over the next few months. Staff will prepare the discussions recommended in the memo for future meetings.

## 6.0 Other Business

There was no other business.

## 7.0 Public Comment

There was no public comment.

## 8.0 Next Meeting

Chair Dobbs reminded the committee that the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 14, 2022 and stated that staff will reach out to committee members regarding the format of the meeting when the date draws nearer.

## 9.0 Adjournment

On a motion by Mayor Rockingham, seconded by President Gallagher, the meeting was adjourned by a unanimous voice vote at 10:25 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Mary Weber.