

NATS Transportation Alternative Program Funds Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes

July 23, 2013 at 1:00p.m.

Attendees: Suzann Flowers, Gautam Mani, Joe Bellina, Kim O'Haver, Darrell Harden, Dawn Bolock

Bellina called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

1. Review the TAP program-what is funded, what is not, who is eligible, etc

Flowers reviewed the agenda and handouts that were made available. Flowers took several minutes reviewing the program requirements, how much money was available for each fiscal year, agencies eligible to apply.

Bellina asked who was sent copies of the notice and how. Flowers noted that those with email were given an email notice and those without email were mailed items. She noted that all schools in the MPO area were mailed notices, along with at least 1-2 representatives from each community in the planning region.

2. NATS application process

Flowers explained that the timeline for submitting projects started July 1 and will end on August 1. Flowers noted that all applications will be submitted through MDOT's online application process and that MDOT will only review the projects for TAP eligibility and will not be making the decision on which projects should be funded.

3. Selection factors for Projects, connections to other transportation projects, expressed need during public comment of LRP or TIP, scoring, etc

Flowers reviewed that since we must have a competitive process for selecting projects that we need to make sure that we have criteria we will use to determine which projects should be funded. She continued that the items on the agenda were just some of the ideas that could be used and that we will also need to decide if we want to score the projects with numbers or if we want to use a yes or no system. She thought that once the factors were determined that an evaluation form could be filled out by each subcommittee member and then compiled by SWMPC staff to ensure that each person that evaluated the project would be anonymous.

After a bit of discussion, it was decided that each member would submit their thoughts via email on what they thought should make up the selection criteria. Flowers would then take those thoughts and send them out to the subcommittee members. Flowers reminded everyone that the new fiscal year starts on October 1 and that we need to make sure that we have projects selected so that designs and coordination with MDOT Local Agency Programs can progress in a timely manner.

Concepts that could be used to determine priorities:

- NATS Long Range Plan Goals
- Connection to projects programmed in the 2014-2017 TIP
- Currently listed project in TIP or illustrative list
- Is listed as one of the priority projects identified by local jurisdiction (master plan, rec plan or regional plan)
- Is there other funding sources being utilized for this project

- increasing transportation options for pedestrians, bicyclists and other non-drivers;
- enhancing walkability and accessibility within regional activity centers
- promoting accessibility for people with disabilities and for disadvantaged communities;
- enhancing safe bike/ped access to schools;
- providing public involvement opportunities; and
- demonstrating local commitment to project completion, including verification that projects complement local plans and providing local matches greater than the percent minimum requirement

Bellina added that he believed that connecting to existing transportation facilities should also be a factor in determining projects.

Bellina adjourned the meeting at 1:26p.m.

Minutes compiled by Suzann Flowers and Gautam Mani, 2013