



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, March 17, 2015

Study Session

Item C1

Presentation of Grand Island Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (GIAMPO) Long Range Transportation Plan

Staff Contact: John Collins, P.E. - Public Works Director

Council Agenda Memo

From: John Adams, MPO Program Manager

Meeting: March 17, 2015

Subject: Grand Island Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (GIAMPO) Long Range Transportation Plan

Item #'s: 1

Presenter(s): John Collins PE, Public Works Director

Background

On July 8, 2014, by Resolution No. 2014-187, City Council approved the program agreement with the Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) for the purpose of assisting the Local Public Agency (LPA) [i.e. the City of Grand Island] in obtaining Federal approval and financial assistance to ensure a continued, comprehensive, and cooperative transportation planning process between the state and local governments for the 2015 fiscal year.

On August 12, 2014, by Resolution No. 2014-215 City Council approved the agreement with NDOR and the City for the purpose of Performance Based Long Range Transportation Planning, which allows the City to received federal funds for the development of this process. Such agreement was developed in accordance to Map-21, for the City of Grand Island; which upon approval became effective until such time the LPA's Federal-aid project is finished and final financial settlement has been completed. If the LPA determines for any reason not to continue with the development of this project as a Federal-aid project, the LPA shall notify the State to negotiate any necessary project termination conditions. The Federal share payable on a portion of this project at that time was 80% of the eligible costs up to maximum of \$150,000.00.

City Council approved Resolution 2015-67 on March 10, 2015 which provided for the City to meet the core requirement of the Transportation Planning Process by developing a multimodal Long Range Transportation Plan, identifying existing and projected deficiencies in the Transportation System within the urbanized area.

Discussion

The Grand Island Metropolitan Planning Organization (GIAMPO) is preparing a 20-year Long Range Transportation Plan as well as implementing a transportation planning process, which is Comprehensive, Cooperative and Continuous. The plan will identify

areas where the existing and projected transportation system has deficiencies. This work is being closely coordinated with other regional efforts and on-going studies and comprehensive plans. The work products from this plan development will include maps, tables, graphics, travel modeling plots, and micro-simulation demonstrating the existing and proposed transportation system identified in the plan, and a long range planning document. A consultant, Olsson Associates has been contracted to complete the plan.

A long range plan is one of the major work items that the federal government and Nebraska Department of Roads requires to be completed in order to receive federal or state funding for transportation. Over time, the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration have developed a set of factors required for MPOs to include in these plans. There are eight (8) major planning factors that the plan needs to address from the federal perspective. These include:

1. Support the economic vitality of the metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency.
2. Increase the safety of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users.
3. Increase the security of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users.
4. Increase the accessibility and mobility of people and for freight.
5. Protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, improve the quality of life, and promote consistency between transportation improvements and State and local planned growth and economic development patterns.
6. Enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes, people and freight.
7. Promote efficient system management and operation.
8. Emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system.

The Long Range Plan will include working with the staff, the MPO, the council and the public to identify what is important to the community and to then develop Goals, Objectives and Performance Measures to guide the plan.

We will also identify existing transportation needs and project what the future transportation needs may be. This will involve identifying needs on the highway system, for major city streets and bridges, examining the need for railroad crossing improvements, summarizing needs for sidewalks and trails, for freight movement, for aviation and for transit.

During the development of the Long Range Transportation Plan, a Travel Demand Model will be developed as a tool in making informed predictions about present and future

transportation needs, investigating and assessing alternative actions for meeting those needs, and making recommendations about which course of action to pursue. The information generated by this process will be used to assist decision-makers in selecting transportation policies and programs from the range of alternatives to improve safety, economic vitality, quality of life, and sustainably throughout the planning area.

The plan will include a financial analysis to identify what revenues are available for projects and programs. The output of the project will be a community based plan that identifies projects to be funded over the next five years, the next 10 years and the following 10 years (a total of 20 years). This plan will reflect Grand Island's intermodal needs and community input, and must be approved by the Grand Island Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (GIAMPO) Policy Board and, accepted by the Nebraska Department of Roads, Federal Highway Administration, and Federal Transit Administration.

Conclusion

This item is presented to the City Council in a Study Session to allow for any questions to be answered and to create a greater understanding of the issue at hand.