



PROJECT SELECTION COMMITTEE MEETING

MEETING MINUTES
27 JANUARY 2015– 10:00 A.M.
MEETING # PS0115

ATTENDANCE

- City of DeKalb (1 votes): **John Laskowski**
 - City of Sycamore (1 votes): **Brian Gregory**
 - Town of Cortland (1 vote): **Noah Carmichael**
 - DeKalb County (1 vote): **Nathan Schwartz**
 - DSATS Staff: Brian Dickson
- Others Present: none

(**BOLD** indicates main voting member. *Italics* indicates proxy voting member.)

CALL TO ORDER

Nathan Schwartz called the meeting to order and established a quorum at 10:00 am.

Introduction of members present was made.

Motion #PS0115-01: A motion was made by Noah Carmichael to approve the January 2015 meeting agenda. Seconded by Brian Gregory and approved unanimously by voice vote.

BUSINESS

1. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

As this was the first meeting of the DSATS Project Selection Committee, there was no minutes to approve.

2. Public Comment

None -

3. Election of Officers

Motion #PS0115-02: Mr. Carmichael nominated Mr Schwartz as Chair and John Laskowski as Vice-Chair. Seconded by Mr. Laskowski and approved unanimously by voice vote.

Motion #PS0115-03: Mr. Gregory motioned to close nomination and approve appointments. Seconded by Mr. Carmichael and approved unanimously by voice vote.

4. Project Selection Criteria

Mr. Schwartz provided an overview of the goals of the Project Selection Committee. He distributed a number of handouts to the members and explained his findings of how various MPO's in Illinois score projects for funding with the Surface Transportation Urban (STU) fund, which is allocated directly to the DeKalb metropolitan region.

Mr. Schwartz identified the ways in which these funds can and cannot be allocated. The funds can be split into Large/Small projects. They can also be apportioned to geographical areas, however, they cannot be split and distributed specifically to member agencies.

After presenting an overview of the suggested Categories in which to score projects, Mr. Schwartz opened the floor to discussion.

- Mr. Gregory noted that using traffic volumes as a criteria limits project to only streets, and there are other transportation projects like trails, that do not involve streets.
- Mr. Schwartz noted that the County Administrator, Gary Hansen, has stated that DSATS should look to more than funding overlay projects, suggesting items such as laying conduit, fiber optics, and funding trails.
- Mr. Gregory asked if DSATS staff could write more grants, with the addition of a new staff person. Mr. Laskowski said that grant writing is an activity the DSATS staff will be able to do.
- Mr. Schwartz noted that Kane County has different scoring criteria for different types of projects:
 - New Construction / Addition of Lanes
 - Maintenance of Existing structures
 - Non-roadway projects
- Mr. Schwartz noted that it is good to have a scoring mechanism to identify the regional value of projects, but that the Project Selection Committee should be able to override the scoring system designations if needed.
- Mr. Laskowski noted that the committee needs to be able to change the weights and percentages in the scoring system based on the type of project.
- Mr. Schwartz said that the scoring system should only be guidelines for project selection and the committee should have the ability to go outside of those guidelines when selecting projects.
- It was noted that with a scoring system in place, there is a process to select project outside of the regional political systems.
- Mr. Schwartz asked the members to consider if they would prefer to review Maintenance vs New/Expansion projects separately
- Mr. Laskowski noted that with the bike counters purchased by DSATS, that predestrian/bike traffic counts should be added as a criteria.
- Mr. Carmichael noted that for Cortland, they are not looking at using funds for roadway projects, but would like to use funding for bike trail projects.
- Mr. Dickson asked members if there was any interest in using zones to separate projects geographically. Mr. Gregory noted that with higher traffic volumes, urban areas need to have greater access to funding as they have much higher usage.
- The committee agreed to adjourn the meeting and continue discussions at the next meeting.

5. Additional Business

Mr. Schwartz noted that members would be contacted about when next meeting should occur.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion #PS0115-04: The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 am.