

TAC Meeting Minutes 12/05/2022

Called meeting to order @ 1:05 pm

Present at meeting- Ken Bronson, Reagan Maudlin, Marilyn Smith, Barry Hoffman, Kindra Oliver, Jo Ann McQueary, Dawn Mitchell, Ted Frazier, Cris Kostol, Jennifer Boardman, Nick Meltzer, Kristin Preston, Brad Dillingham

*Adopt meeting minutes – Tabled for next meeting

*No Public commenters

*TAC Recommendations for STIF Payroll proposed Projects-

Ken opens the meeting by suggesting the Reserves be decided first. At the end of the meeting on Dec. 1st, the proposed projects totaled \$8,483,430.00 and the estimated total resources are \$6,323,850. A few members asked if they could have a recap of proposed projects from the last meeting.

Outstanding questions from the last meeting were answered. Project specific carry forward balances do not stay with the project or applicant that the funds were unused from; they are combined with the total QE resources and can be reassigned during the next biennium.

Barry mentioned the percentage allocation as part of the process which was responded to by providing the dollar amount of the 23-25 allocation that the Albany area represents; \$2,485,855.50

For the proposal reviews, presenters were asked to answer these four questions the best they could as part of what they share:

- 1) What is your ask on paper?
- 2) What was the funding from the last biennium?
- 3) What is the amount you can live with?
- 4) What is your drop dead, bottom dollar?

Some applicants had come prepared with voluntary reductions in their project proposals: SCOSHI reduced their ask by 20% or \$350K, Lebanon reduced their ask by 10% or \$177,000, OCWCOG reduced their ask by 44% or \$154K. Albany did not prepare a reduced ask.

Through discussions, Albany said they could not be generous in reductions if their proposed expansion project was going to be successful. They said the expansion project proposal could not be scaled or reduced. They did offer to reduce two tasks in their application by 5% totaling \$143,500 reduction.

With these voluntary reductions, the sum of project proposals reduced to \$6,541,430 which did not include any allotment for reserves and still exceeded the resources available by \$217,580.

At this point the TAC asked to have the projects separated by type for review, operations and capital. Operations projects (with reductions) totaled: \$5,976,000; Capital projects (with reductions) totaled: \$565,430

Providers shared information on their existing operations including number of routes, rides provided, changes, increased expenses and hopes for their programs going forward. Some applicants shared their cost per ride analysis and information around services they provide in underserved areas, areas outside of their designated payroll collection area and that those services also support the programs that operate in those areas.

Senior Citizens of Sweet Home (SCOSHI) and Lebanon Linx explained their reduced proposals reflect a minimum ask to only continue existing services; voluntarily abandoning any potential new expansion in the biennium or immediately pursuing of needed vehicles from STIF funds; a further reduction in SCOSHI or Lebanon from their reduced ask would result in a reduction of services. OCWCOG reduced their ask prioritizing the existing Seamless Transit project and reducing the Mobility Hub match request by half hoping for the reduced match from their STIF D application that would provide the majority of the funding.

Cris Kostol asked Albany how many years the ATS expansion project has been granted funds and what kind of progress they have made. Have they been providing any new services in the years of support? Albany shared that they had taken steps towards the project but no new services are being provided yet; the project success was hinged on receiving the current STIF ask.

Conversations circled back to addressing the reserve. It was suggested that the historical standard minimum reserve of \$500K be observed and that an additional \$500K be set aside for future distribution to the proposed capital needs that are awaiting outcome from their primary funding source and that they focus on directly award operational asks in the immediate. 21-23 reserves are currently \$1.678M; that would immediately allocate 678K to direct project proposals.

~~Cris Kostol moves that the TAC recommend 1M be put in reserves, with 500K representing a balance prioritized for match projects inside the 23-25 biennium. Dawn Mitchell seconds.*~~

Discussion included disagreement from Marilyn Smith, Ted Frazier, and JoAnn McQueary, who collectively agreed that the reserve should have \$500K and the other \$500K should be included in the balance to be immediately distributed to proposals.

Votes: Cris Kostol, Dawn Mitchell, Ken Bronson, and Kindra Oliver vote in favor of 1M in reserves with \$500K representing match for capital projects.

Marilyn Smith, Ted Frazier, and JoAnn McQueary, vote in opposition.

Motion passes by majority.

Ken suggested that budgeting for a potential 20% increase should be added to reserve for later distribution because it is not included in the 23-25 estimate, merely suggested by ODOT to include in case there is bump.

The remaining balance of resources for project proposals is now \$5,323,850 and the balance of Operations project proposals is \$5,976,000.

The TAC acknowledges that all projects being proposed have positioned any further reduction in ask is to a detriment of their existing program or will result in failure of new expansion.

Barry Hoffman requests that it be specifically reflected in the minutes that he feels strongly the sub allocation method and STIF rule reflects percentage of payroll taxes collected should be observed as the first consideration and that smaller, rural, programs should not be given priority funding allocation because of this consideration.

Marilyn Smith comments that there are other considerations in the Sub-allocation method that are supported by STIF rule that focus on other things such as the needs of elderly, disabled, and underserved populations both rural and urban.

Through further deliberation and conversation, the suggested draft allocations reflect the percentage of revenue collected as the first consideration and the priority to preserve existing services, consideration of services for targeted populations, and support expansion as resources are reasonably available as per the Linn County Sub-allocation method.

*Review of 23-25 TAC DRAFT STIF Plan Recommendations:

23-25 payroll allocation estimate of \$4,361,150

Area	% 23-25 allocation represented in dollars	23-25 Request	% requested of 23-25 allocation	TAC Recommended Allocation 23-25	% of base allocation recommended
Albany	2,485,855.5	3,012,800	69%	2,058,850	47%
Lebanon	610,561	1,731,430	40%	1,618,000	37%
Sweet Home	174,446	622,000	14%	502,000	11%
Linn Shuttle		1,128,000	26%	880,000	20%
OCWCOG		200,000	5%	50,000	1%
Other communities	1,090,287.5	0	0%	SPLIT	NA
Linn County		215,000	5%	215,000	5%
Reserve		1,000,000	23%	*1,000,000	23%
Total	4,361,150	7,909,230	182%	6,323,850	144%

**Reserve in table does not reflect 20% ODOT recommended budget increase*

The **request** column numbers represent asks that had been adjusted from original application during conversations at the 12/5 TAC meeting. All but one program cut all of their expansion efforts and capital requests from their application request and only asked to continue existing services.

144% of 23-25 estimated allocation used totaling \$6,323,850; additional resources from estimated carryover, accrued interest, and reserve. All of the project recommendations reflect only operating needs and exceed the anticipated 23-25 allocation. *These recommendations are not likely sustainable for operations unless there is a considerable increase in base allocations going forward.*

40% of 21-23 reserves added to direct project allocations for 23-25.

An additional 20% of the total 23-25 estimated allocation (\$872,230 payroll) will be added to the 1M reserves, in hope there is a bump in quarterly payments. Reserves may be accessed through the biennium by projects represented in the STIF plan with Albany having operations priority regarding any increase in quarterly payments for the expansion project ~~and 500K given priority to capital match requests awaiting outcomes from other fund applications.~~

The additional 20% for population estimates (\$134,164) will be combined with the population contingency/reserve for prioritization of those project.

Capital projects, which were not immediately funded, will be represented in the STIF plan in a manner to retain eligibility to potentially apply for reserve funds during the biennium.

JoAnn McQueary moves to approve the DRAFT STIF Plan recommendations, Cris Kostol 2nd. No further discussion. Votes: Dawn Mitchell, JoAnn McQueary, Cris Kostol, Kindra Oliver, and Ken Bronson vote in favor. Ted Frazier and Marilyn Smith vote in opposition.

Motion passes by majority.

*Next meeting to discuss: Review of DRAFT 23-25 STIF Plan, make recommendations for BOC approval. Review and make recommendations for 5310 applications.

*Other Business- Kindra Oliver asked if there will be updated STIF estimates in December. Reagan Maudlin will investigate an answer and report out.

Meeting adjourned at 5:37 pm.

Minutes prepared by: Reagan Maudlin, LC Special/Rural Transp. Coordinator

Approved: 12/22/22

* TAC requested strikethrough edits to reflect inconsistent memory amongst TAC members of the specifics in the motion to vote regarding reserve funds during review of the minutes. See 12/22/22 minutes for continuing discussion.