Minutes
SIOUXLAND INTERSTATE METROPOLITAN PLANNING COUNCIL (SIMPCO)
METROPOLITAN PLANNING COUNCIL (MPO) Policy Board
Thursday, September 3, 2026, at 1:30 p.m.
SIMPCO, 6401 Gordon Drive, Sioux City, IA & Teams

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ken Beaulieu, (Chair)	Dakota Dunes CID, SD
Kass, Don (Substitute for Craig Anderson)	Plymouth County, IA
Chris Bogenrief	City of North Sioux City, SD
Randy Meyer	City of South Sioux City, NE
Dave Dietrich	Woodbury County, IA
Mark Reinders	City of Sergeant Bluff, IA
Julie Schoenherr	City of Sioux City, IA
Bob Scott	City of Sioux City, IA
Mike Tokarczyk	Sioux City Transit System

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT/GUESTS:

Jessica Felix	Department of Transportation – IA
Steve Gramm	Department of Transportation-SD
Sarah Tracy	Department of Transportation – IA
Lisa Kirkpatrick	Department of Transportation - IA
Gordon Phair	City of Sioux City, IA
Renae Billings	City of Sioux City, IA

STAFF PRESENT:

Michelle Bostinelos, Executive Director	SIMPCO
Corinne Erickson, Regional Planning Manager	SIMPCO
Brian Pearson, Transit Director	SIMPCO/SRTS
Ryan Brauer, Regional Planner I	SIMPCO
Nate Kistner, Regional Planner I	SIMPCO
Emily Guthrie, Executive Assistant	SIMPCO

The Policy Board met on Thursday, September 3, 2026, at 1:30 p.m., via in person, at 6401 Gordon Drive, Sioux City, Iowa and via Teams. A quorum was present. Chair Ken Beaulieu called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m. A quorum was in attendance

I. **Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call/Introductions:** Chair Ken Beaulieu opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call.

II. **Approval of the Agenda:** Chair Beaulieu asked if there were any additions or corrections to September 3, 2026, regular meeting agenda.

Don Kass moved to approve the agenda presented, seconded by Mark Reinders*. Motion carried.*

III. **Approval of the Minutes:** Chair Beaulieu asked if there were any additions or corrections to the June 25, 2026, regular meeting minutes.

Julie Schoenherr moved to approve June 25, 2026, regular meeting minutes, seconded by Mark Reinders, Don Kass Abstain. Motion carried.

IV. **Review Monthly Correspondence:** Regional Planning Manager, Corinne Erickson provided an overview of current projects and staff activities outlined in the Director's Report included in the meeting packet.

V. **Transportation Improvement Progress Report:** Members provided an update on the progress of transportation improvements currently underway throughout the MPO area.

VI. **FY 2026-2029 and FY 2027 - 2030 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments and Administrative Modifications** - Michelle Bostinelos presented the following amendments and administrative modifications to the FY 2026- 2029 and FY 2027 – 2030 TIPs. She noted the TTC made a positive recommendation for approval

FY 26-29 Amendments:

- Iowa DOT IA 376: Lincoln Way to N of Cunningham Drive Sioux City needs to be programmed for a total cost of $2,105,206 with $1,684,165 Federal participation (NHPP) and $421,041 State match (PRF) in FY 26.

Julie Schoenherr moved to approve the amendment as presented, seconded by Randy Meyer. Motion carried all ayes.

VII. **Presentation on Gordon Drive Viaduct/Bacon Creek Conduit and Bacon Creek Channel Projects** – Renae Billings from the City of Sioux City provided an update on the redevelopment of the Bacon Creek Channel. Originally constructed in the 1930s as a flood control project, the channel now faces structural risks and deteriorating conditions. Recognizing its historical significance and potential for community revitalization, the city, in partnership with the EPA, has developed two conceptual design plans aimed at transforming space. The first option involves a costly, enclosed box covert solution, which is less feasible given budget constraints. The preferred plan proposes filling in the concrete sections to create a naturalized, linear park. This redesigned area would feature walking paths, wetlands, an amphitheater, and potential commercial spaces. Next steps include hiring an engineering firm for detailed planning and seeking grant funding to support construction.

Gordon Phair outlined the Bacon Creek conduit replacement project in conjunction with the Gordon Drive project, which involves replacing three aging culverts under Gordon Drive and nearby streets. The project aims to address the deteriorating conditions of these culverts, which are in fair to poor condition with drainage issues within the watershed area. The South culvert, located underneath Gordon Drive, contains spots with no bottle rebar and a sanitary sewer pipe running through it. The center culvert, possibly constructed in conjunction with the Bacon Creek Channel, runs under Correctionville Road and extends toward North of First Street. The North culvert starts around Fairmont Second Street and ends at the Bank Creek Channel, which is part of the Bacon Creek watershed. The proposed 2027 Bacon Creek plan layout involves installing a new conduit between Correctionville Road and Gordon Drive to remove and replace these structures, eliminating the embedded sanitary sewer pipes to improve drainage and infrastructure stability. Construction is

scheduled to begin with the Fairmont crossing and outlet in March, focusing initially on these two segments, with plans to follow up starting in July of the following year to complete the remaining segments.

Jessica Felix from the Iowa Department of Transportation outlined the Gordon Drive Viaduct and Bacon Creek conduit project, which aims to replace the structurally deficient viaduct over railroads near Grand Avenue with two new bridges, improving safety and traffic The existing viaduct, with issues and emergency closures since 2024, will be replaced about 10 feet south, featuring wider lanes and pedestrian facilities. The project also includes reconstructing the Lewis Boulevard interchange grade raise and signalized and replacing the Bacon Creek conduit between Gordon Drive and Correctionville Road to enhance shared-use paths and connectivity. Construction is scheduled to begin in July 2027, with a target completion in 2030. Current activities involve aesthetics, utility coordination process, environmental testing, demolition, and pile driving preparations. An unveiling of aesthetic features is scheduled for October. IA DOT is working on permits and funding efforts, including a new grant application, monthly newsletter and a project website is being developed to keep the public updated.

VIII. <u>Additional Comments</u>:

- Next Meeting: Thursday, November 5, 2026, at 1:30 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings:

- January 6, 2027
- March 3, 2027
- May 5, 2027

IX. <u>Adjournment</u>:

Randy Meyer moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded Mike Tokarczyk. Chair Ken Beaulieu adjourned the meeting at 2:07 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Tonia Abell. (not in attendance).