

SOUTHWEST IOWA PLANNING COUNCIL

SWIPCO Policy Council Meeting

June 25, 2026, 1:30 p.m.
SWIPCO Conference Room (1501 SW 7th St., Atlantic, IA)
OR via Zoom

MNUTES

1. Call to Order. Chair Green called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.
2. Roll Call. SWIPCO Policy Council Members Present: Monica Bartlett, Fran Branan, Alex Burton, Rob Clausen, Joe George, Steve Green, Ross Hastert, Susan Miller, Charlie Parkhurst, Jenna Ramsey, Susan Shepherd, Tony Smith, Sherman Struble. SWIPCO Staff Present: John McCurdy, Mark Lander, Daurine Peterson, Chris Parks. Others: Daryn Richardson, VODEC.
3. Discuss/Approve Agenda. Parkhurst moved to approve the agenda. Ramsey seconded. The motion carried with all ayes.
4. Discuss/Approve Minutes – May 28, 2026. Miller moved to approve the May 28, 2026, meeting minutes. Branan seconded. The motion carried with all ayes.
5. Discuss/Approve Financial Report. McCurdy discussed the April and May financial sheets and recent checklist. He said the end of year is looking a little short on the planning side but is very good on the transit side. Expenses are well on track for estimates. Burton moved to approve the financials. Ramsey seconded. The motion carried with all ayes.
6. Discuss/Approve Payment of Bills. McCurdy noted the big line-item for the annual ICAP insurance payment. There was actually a reduction in costs because some larger claims expired and base rate went up only slightly. Parkhurst moved to approve the payment of bills. Struble seconded. The motion carried with all ayes.
7. Discuss/Approve Agency Expenditures. None.
8. Discuss/Approve FY 27 Budget. McCurdy discussed the budget on both the transit and community development sides of the house. Transit will have lots of revenue expected because we are expecting a large number of vehicles coming in this year. Farebox and contracted services are expected to remain steady, FTA assistance is slightly down, and dues to cities and counties stayed the same. Asking for a 3.5% wage increase for staff and driver starting wage bumped up to \$17/hour. Health insurance planned for a 10% increase and \$15,000 put into HRA fund. Fuel budgeted at \$4.25/gallon. Hastert asked about diesel vehicles and Lander confirmed SWITA only runs two of them, so McCurdy said they don't separate that out for budgeting. On the Community Development side some programs have been delayed or eliminated effecting the current cycle and the governor's budget zeroed out COG assistance. McCurdy said some positions have been eliminated and staff have been reorganized to fit programs better. The budget does account for adding a Planner position because he feels capacity in that area needs to be better. Griswold building sale was factored as well. A 3.5% wage increase for staff was

requested. McCurdy thanked the budget committee for their work. Parkhurst moved to approve the FY27 Budget. Struble seconded. The motion carried with all ayes.

9. Discuss/Approve FY 27 Capital Budget. McCurdy explained SWITA is planning for 5 new light duty buses, 3 Ford Transit vans, and 4 minivans. Capital budget also calls for a vehicle repair budget of \$85,000, including 6 engine replacements and 2 transmission replacements. Some discussion was had about recent Ford engine issues and Lander talked about some of the steps that are being taken to address the issue. Struble moved to approve the FY27 capital budget. Parkhurst seconded. The motion carried with all ayes.
10. Transit Report. Lander reported rides were steady, miles and hours slightly down for the past month. He discussed a workroute that has started from Council Bluffs to Neola for Heartland Harness. He also said the Jenny Ed/Mercy hospital transportation arrangement has started to pick up and he expects the growth to continue and fund draws will start to happen for that project after July 1 from the special projects grant. Lander also discussed SWITA being named the Iowa DOT Regional Transit System of the Year for the fourth straight year. SWITA Scheduler Tracy Clark was named Iowa Dispatcher of the Year and SWITA Driver of the Year Leon Zaiger was also recognized at the recent IPTA Driver Awards.
11. Executive Director's Report. McCurdy reported on a number of current grant awards and projects. The Atlantic Rock Island Depot received a grant for some structural work through Iowa Rural Heritage Revitalization. CDBG Water and Sewer awards were announced for Henderson, Defiance, and Elk Horn. Other ongoing projects finishing up include Atlantic EV chargers, Malvern daycare, and Glenwood DTR. Other ongoing include Atlantic Water, Little Sioux, and Walnut Daycare. He also discussed the current situation with Hamburg Disaster Recovery. The City is completing infrastructure, and the new possible plan is to have the Southwest Iowa Housing Trust Fund possibly work as the contractor to bring in 6 Homes For Iowa homes to be placed with garages and sold at a \$125,000 price point. These discussions will continue.
12. Public Comment Period. None.
13. Board Sharing. Miller thanked Lander for coming to speak to the Pott County Supervisors this week. She said the workroute to Heartland Harness was great news to hear. She also asked about a public hearing that was discussed in the news about a quarry being proposed and rural water being concerned about. It was determined this was in Shelby County along Highway 59 and the hearing is on Monday, June 29th. She was concerned about the time and money that has been invested into rural water which has had a number of issues in recent years and we'd hate to see that impacted by another project.
14. Other Business. None.
15. Adjourn. Parkhurst moved to adjourn. Ramsey seconded. Chair Green adjourned the meeting at 2:20 p.m.

Transit Board Report 06-25-2026

May---We have run into an input issue that is throwing our numbers off for the month and are working on correcting it. I expect May numbers to be typical.

Estimated

Rides---42,500 Miles---165,500 Hours—10,250

We have started a work route from CB to Neola for first shift employees of Heartland Harness (Neola) and ridership has been strong.

We have also started to see our Jennie Ed/Mercy Hospital transportation slowly pick up it has been slow going but now we are seeing trips almost daily. As a side note are able to start drawing funds from our special projects grant on 7/1/26 for this service.