

Other Business

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of April 11, 2018

Subject: Appointments to the Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee (TAAC) Districts C, E – H, and Chair

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Minnesota Statute 473.375 9a.

Staff Prepared/Presented: Alene Tchourumoff, Chair

Division/Department: Chair's Office

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approve the following appointments to the Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee: **Darrell Paulsen** – District C; **Tzianeng Vang** – District E; **Bob Platz** – District F; **Kari Sheldon** – District G; **John Clark** – District H; **Patty Thorsen** – Chair.

Background

The Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee (TAAC) was established by the Metropolitan Council pursuant to MN Statute 473.375 9a. The TAAC's purpose is to advise the Council on "the development and management of policies regarding accessibility of all aspects of fixed regular route and special transportation services for persons with disabilities." The TAAC also advises the Council "on long-range plans to meet the accessible transportation needs of the disability community." The TAAC is a 16-member board which includes people who are elderly, have a disability, use special transportation, and represent appropriate agencies for people who are elderly or have a disability. The Metropolitan Council appoints eight members and the Chair. The remaining seven members are appointed by the Minnesota State Council on Disability (2), the Minnesota Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (2), the Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging (2), and the Minnesota state AARP office (1).

Rationale

Terms for the District E, F, G, and H and Chair positions expired January 1, 2018. The member for District C resigned in 2017 and the Chair recently stepped down in March 2018. A news release was issued on October 30, 2017 seeking applicants for the TAAC openings. Ten applications were received for the six positions and all applicants were invited to interview. Council Members Barber and Schreiber served as the interview panel and interviews were held on Monday, March 26. The applicants represented a very strong, highly qualified pool of candidates. Following the interviews, the panel reviewed the application materials and interview notes. The Council Members made appointment recommendations for the Chair's consideration as noted above. If approved, the District E – H appointments would serve two-year terms ending on January 1, 2020 and the District C and Chair appointments would serve the remainder of the vacated terms ending on January 1, 2019.

Thrive Lens Analysis

Appointing members to TAAC is necessary to keep the committee functioning. TAAC's perspective and work is critical to ensuring transit services serve all people, regardless of ability.

This influences all Thrive Outcomes, especially equity and livability.

Funding

N/A

Known Support / Opposition

No known opposition.