

**Minutes of the  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD (TAB)**

Wednesday, August 20, 2014  
Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul, MN

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Hargis, William, Chair	Stark, Russ	Butcher, Gerry
Crimmins, Carl	Hansen, Gary	Drotning, Karl	Fawley, Ethan
Petryk, Becky	Look, Matt	Swanson, Dick	Miron, Fran
Van Hattum, David	Sanger, Sue	Goins, William	Ulrich, Jon
Callison, Jan	Hovland, James	Lilligren, Robert	Duininck, Adam
Reich, Kevin	Maluchnik, Randy	Donahoe, Margaret	Slawik, Nora
Krause, Paul	McBride, Scott	McGuire, Mary Jo	Hamann-Roland, Mary
Thornton, David			
ABSENT:	d’Almeida, Anani	Gallagher, Steven	Gunyou, John
		Janovy, Jennifer	McKnight, Kenya
LIAISON/STAFF PRESENT:	Elaine Koutsoukos, TAB Coordinator		

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum was present when Chair Hargis called the regular meeting of the Transportation Advisory Board to order at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 20, 2014. Hargis welcomed new Freight Representative to the TAB, William Goins.

**II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Motion by Lilligren, seconded by Stark to adopt the agenda. Motion carried.

**III. PUBLIC FORUM**

Invitation to the public to address the Board about any issue not on the agenda. There were no members of the public present to address the TAB at today’s meeting.

**IV. REPORTS**

**1. TAB Chair’s Report**

Hargis reported that the TAB Executive Committee met today and mainly discussed future TAB agendas. The October meeting will be off-site at the MnDOT location in Roseville. The Regional Solicitation Evaluation Steering Committee has concluded their meetings, dependent on the TAB action today.

**2. TAB Bylaws Task Force**

Hovland reported that he received information in August, but the Bylaws Task Force has not met, due to the work on the Regional Solicitation and the TPP. The task force will meet in early September and should have a report to TAB at its September meeting.

**3. Agency Reports (MnDOT, MPCA, MAC and Metropolitan Council)**

Metropolitan Council: MTS Senior Planner Katie White reported for Adam Duininck. White distributed a handout calendar of upcoming TPP public meeting dates, times and locations. Ulrich noted that there will be a meeting of the outer-ring counties’ elected board members as one group on 9/29 at the Dakota County Western Service Center to discuss the TPP and formulate comments. Sanger asked when the TAB will have a chance to comment. MTS Director Arlene McCarthy noted that TAB input was received prior to the Draft TPP being released for public comments. Ulrich questioned how TAB can formulate comments when in his words “Chair Haigh has stated that the equity issue is ‘changing daily’”. Hargis stated that the TAB can make additional comments during this public comment period.

Arlene McCarthy noted that Rail~Volution 2014 will be held here in the Twin Cities. She shared copies of the Rail~Volution brochure, which lists workshops, etc. and contains the email address where a person can register for the conference.

MnDOT: Scott McBride stated that the 610 project was let last week for an \$80M bid. The project is design/build. Some groundbreaking will occur toward the end of September/early October, with the majority of the work beginning in the spring of 2015. It is a 2-year construction project.

MAC: Carl Crimmins reported that the American Public Works Association is awarding the diamond interchange project at I-494/34<sup>th</sup> as National Project of the Year.

#### **4. Technical Advisory Committee**

TAB Coordinator Elaine Koutsoukos reported that the TAC met on 8/06. Three new members were welcomed at the TAC meeting: Michael Larson, Dave Christianson and Danny McCullough. A work group is being established to address the use of withdrawn funds, and will complete its work by the end of the year and forward recommendations to TAB. A new TAC Chair will be elected when Bursaw's 3-year term ends in December 2014. The Funding and Programming Committee addressed two action items, as well as the Unified Planning Work Program for 2015 – all on TAB agenda today. The Planning Committee acted on functional classification changes. An item is on the TAB agenda regarding the changes to the Functional Classification System Map. The TAC also heard 3 special agenda items: Corridors of Commerce Update, Transportation Policy Plan Update, and Regional Solicitation Design Update.

#### **5. Regional Solicitation Update**

Steve Peterson, SRF and MTS Senior Planner Heidi Schallberg presented this item.

Some of the TAB member comments are as follows:

Multimodal projects that don't fall clearly into categories (unique projects) are addressed in the introduction language and will be mostly policy decisions by TAB.

Hargis stated that there was a long debate at the RSE Steering Committee on the percentages assigned to equity. The Solicitation must be approved by the end of September in order to qualify for federal funds. There is a need to make recommendations and move forward, the Regional Solicitation can be changed in the next round, if decided.

Members spoke both in favor, and not in favor of the recommendations pertaining to equity.

Sanger – how will these things be handled: roadways going through several areas, changing demographics and physical closeness of a project to RCAPs?

Look – this feels like affordable housing is the goal, and the way to reach the goal is through transit funding. Concentrated urban areas will receive all of the transportation funds. Look read a paragraph prepared by Anoka Staff about the impacts on the county tax base: "Outcomes of TPP Content: Economic vitality of the region will be compromised. The safety on regional and local highway systems within the suburban counties will be compromised and congestion will grow. LGUs will be forced to allocate local funds to highest transportation needs that are not under their jurisdiction. This has an impact on the county tax base and quality of life in the community."

Duininck – it is the Council's goal is to align all systems: Transportation, Wastewater, Parks, Water Resources, etc. A decision is needed in September. Not reaching a decision will have consequences of not receiving federal funding.

Petryk – previously requested information about aging populations, and does not see that addressed in the equity information, asked for explanations/examples of scoring in different areas and how it will be accomplished, for the September meeting.

Ulrich – questioned where the underserved areas are. The urban areas have greater transportation facilities and choices than suburban areas.

Krause – this is not a good program. Good roads are needed; minorities and poverty are growing faster in the suburbs than the urban areas. This program has not been tested and we don't know if the outcomes work.

Drotning – showed a map of metro areas with low access to jobs & transportation. The areas with the lowest access were the suburban areas.

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Swanson – when housing values dropped, this allowed disadvantaged populations to be able to afford to move to the suburbs. Now they are moving back to the urban areas because of the transit advantages that are available.

Miron – the equity weight for roadways should not be as high as the other categories. The Regional Solicitation is a major source of funding, suggested reducing the equity weight to 5% from 10% for roadways.

Hovland – should action item 2014-59 be tabled based on these comments? Answer: No, the Regional Solicitation funding by mode is okay, the levels within modes can be decided later.

Hargis requested that TAB members provide their comments to him or Elaine Koutsoukos prior to the September TAB meeting so that they can be shared with the members.

## **V. CONSENT ITEMS**

Motion by Callison, seconded by McBride and passed to approve the consent items below.

1. Approval of the Minutes from July 16, 2014.

2. 2014-53: Scope Change Request – Ramsey County Dale Street

Motion: That the TAB approve the request to modify the scope for the HSIP-funded project (SP#062-059) in 2014 to remove the Dale St. Conversion from 4 lanes to 3 lanes. This would reduce the HSIP amount from \$358,254 to \$304,516 for the remaining Larpenteur Ave. conversion.

3. 2014-51: Functional Classification Systems Map

Motion: That the TAB adopt the Roadway Functional Classification Map for the seven-county Twin Cities Region.

4. 2014-55: 2017-2019 Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Solicitation

Motion: That the TAB approve the 2017-2019 HSIP Solicitation program criteria for the Metro District and the release of the solicitation.

5. 2014-58: Public Comments and Approval of I-494 TIP Amendment

Motion: That the TAB accept the public comments for this amendment and adopt an amendment to the 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), pending approval of a related Transportation Policy Plan amendment to modify the project scope and budget for I-494 in Plymouth between I-394 and I-94 (SP#2785-330) in 2015. The total project cost is \$86,030,000, and the project scope includes a general purpose lane between Hwy 55 and I-94/I-694, an auxiliary lane between Hwy 55 and Co Rd 6, auxiliary lane from I-394 to Carlson Pkwy, bridge replacements, pavement resurfacing and reconstruction, lighting, signal revisions.

## **VI. Action Items**

1. 2014-59: Regional Solicitation Modal Funding Ranges

TAB Coordinator Elaine Koutsoukos presented this item.

Motion by Hovland, seconded by Fawley that the TAB adopt the Funding Ranges by Modal Category for the 2014 Regional Solicitation shown on Table 1.

Motion passed.

2. 2014-52: Unified Planning Work Program

MTS Senior Planner Katie White - TAC Planning- presented this item. In answer to McGuire, Koutsoukos explained the New Freedom funds.

Motion by Hamann-Roland, seconded by Stark that the TAB adopt the 2015 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area.

Motion passed.

3. 2014-56: Public Comment Report on DRAFT 2015-2018 TIP

Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Heidi Schallberg presented this item.

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Motion by Butcher, seconded by Callison that the TAB accept the 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Public Comment Report.

Motion passed.

4. 2014-57: Final 2015-2018 TIP

Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Heidi Schallberg presented this item in conjunction with item 2014-56.

Motion by McBride, seconded by Stark that the TAB adopt the 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Motion passed.

**VII. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

1. Corridors of Commerce

Mark Gieseke, MnDOT provided MnDOT's responses to the 8/08/14 memo of TAC comments and concerns regarding the Corridors of Commerce Program.

2. Key Changes to 2040 TPP for Public Comment

MTS Senior Planner Katie White previously shared a handout with the schedule of TPP public meetings. The TAB (and individuals) can formulate their comments in September/October. The TAB is expected to act on the TPP at its November meeting.

**VII. OTHER BUSINESS AND ITEMS OF TAB MEMBERS**

Hargis stated that the TAB will discuss equity in the RSE and act on the RSE package in September.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT** - Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.