

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

Wednesday, April 16, 2014
Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul, MN

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Hargis, William, Chair	Stark, Russ	Butcher, Gerry
	Maluchnik, Randy	Hansen, Gary	McBride, Scott
	Petryk, Becky	Krause, Paul	Look, Matt
	Gallagher, Steven	Sanger, Sue	Callison, Jan
	Swanson, Dick	Hovland, James	Donahoe, Margaret
	d'Almeida, Anani	McGuire, Mary Jo	Peilen, Lisa
	Slawik, Nora	Reich, Kevin	Thornton, David
ABSENT:	Van Hattum, David	Have, Ron	Lilligren, Robert
	McKnight, Kenya	Gunyou, John	Janovy, Jennifer
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 12:35 p.m. on Wednesday, April 16, 2014.

II. Adoption of the Agenda

Hargis noted that the information item order will change to the order as follows: 1) Regional Solicitation Update; 2) 2017 CMAQ Funding Reallocation; 3) TPP Amendment – Report on Public Comments for I-94 and TH 610 and the Administrative Modification for Streetcar; and 4) TPP Update – Transit. Motion by Hansen, seconded by Gallagher to adopt the amended 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 the TAB Executive Committee notes from 4/11 were sent to TAB members, and noted the schedule for future regular TAB Executive Committee meetings, meetings with the Metro Council Regional Administrator and Chair, and alternative locations being considered for future TAB meetings.

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

MPCA – Thornton shared copies of an MPR news article regarding a nationwide study released by the University of Minnesota that found that in the United States, vehicle pollution is greater in minority neighborhoods. The article provides links to the study. This study is different in that it links disparities in populations with health response. He added that the MPCA monitors also reflect these facts, although the region still meets Air Quality standards. This study shows another reason to keep air quality as a criteria to measure roadways in the solicitation.

Metro Council – Duininck reported that Council and staff is moving ahead on the TPP and presented to CTIB this morning. Input from TAB members on the TPP is appreciated.

3. Technical Advisory Committee

Pat Bursaw reported that the TAC meeting on 4/02 consisted of three action items that are on the TAB agenda today and two information items: 1) Regional Solicitation Update, and 2) Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) Update focusing on the highway section of the plan.

V. Consent Items

Callison requested that language in the minutes from 3/18/14 be amended in the second action item, 4th line: change the words “as motioned” to “as moved”. Motion by Hamann-Roland, seconded by Stark and passed, to approve the minutes of 3/18/14 TAB meeting as amended.

VI. Action Items

1. 2014-27: 2014-2017 TIP Amendment for SFY 2014 Local Federal Program

Bursaw presented this item and reported that the language in the motion has been revised as requested by TAC. The language has changed from:

“Adopt an amendment to the 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to modify the scope of project TRS-TCMT-10B to the purchase of 5 buses for regional service (4 for Maple Grove Transit, 1 for Plymouth Metrolink) in 2014 using \$2,722,080 of federal CMAQ funds with \$680,520 of local funds for a total of \$3,402,600.”

To the motion as listed below:

Motion by Butcher, seconded by Hovland that the Transportation Advisory Board adopt an amendment to the 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include a new project to reprogram the 2014 CMAQ funds (\$2,722,080) from the withdrawn project TRS-TCME-10B in order to purchase 5 buses for regional service. The new project number will be TRS-TCME-14H. Motion passed.

2. 2014-28: TIP Amendment Process Streamlining

Bursaw presented this item and a handout of proposed streamlined process for TIP amendments. She stated that this handout covers TAB’s portion of the TIP amendment process and that there are more steps prior to, and after, TAB action. Members Callison and Sanger asked for clarification to the second set of red changes in the handout and suggested looking at the language to clarify it. Discussion followed about the definition of the term “regionally significant” as it relates to the process and reviews.

Stark stated that while this process is complex, it is a good step to simplify the process for many projects. Fawley stated that the TAB will still see, and act, on TIP amendments. Sanger suggested that the streamlining process be tested as a pilot project for 1-2 years and then the TAB could re-evaluate whether it is successful for saving time.

Motion by Krause, seconded by Hamman-Roland:

That the Transportation Advisory Board adopt a process to streamline TIP Amendments through the Council committee process as described in the attachment.

Motion passed.

3. 2014-29: 2014-2017 TIP Amendment for St. Croix Bridge

Bursaw presented this item and clarified that the reason for the request from Wisconsin is a result of the extension of the Metro Urbanized Area to Houlton, WI. She also stated that the funds are programmed in the project, are Wisconsin funds, but the project must be added to the TIP because of the UZA.

Motion by Swanson, seconded by McBride:

That the Transportation Advisory Board adopt an amendment to the 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add the St. Croix River bridge replacement project using \$41.34 million of state funds for years 2014-2017.

Motion passed, with Sanger voting against.

Sanger explained that she voted against this because she voted against the original entire project because it was too big, too expensive and environmentally disruptive.

VII. Information and Discussion

1. Regional Solicitation Update

Marie Cote, SRF, gave an update on the Regional Solicitation.

Working groups by mode have met twice. Separate meetings have been held with technical experts. Next week - three Modal group meetings are scheduled to share two applications of each type (draft), to react. Starting to put together measures, text and format.

Steering Committee meeting was held last week. There are 10 applications being prepared; the Steering Committee could only get through one application last Thursday. Trying to set up a meeting during the last week of April to discuss concerns, issues and questions for the other modal applications. The standing date/time of Steering Committee is being revised, Steering Committee is asking working group chairs to attend meetings, TAB members are welcome and encouraged to attend Steering Committee meetings.

Cote shared a one-pager about the affordable housing element of the equity criterion. Working groups are being told that this item is on hold so that it can be consistent among the working groups and applications.

Schedule: Need to be done with applications 1st week July; approvals necessary for a solicitation are needed by end of September. Working groups and technical experts must continue to improve and streamline applications for applicant.

Swanson raised the issue that the committee to discuss affordable housing/equity criterion is primarily made up of core cities, and he asked if there could be input from outer suburbs/counties on the committee. MTS Senior Planner Heidi Schallberg will discuss this with Libby Starling.

2. 2017 CMAQ Transit Capital Project Proposals

Applicants for six CMAQ Transit Capital Project Proposals presented their projects and answered questions from committee members.

Projects: 1) I-35W/Lake Street Transit Station; 2) B Line (West 7th) BRT; 3) Downtown Hopkins Station P&R Structure; 4) MN River Valley TH 169 Connector; 5) Mall of America Transit Station Renovation and Expansion; and 6) TH 77/Cedar Grove Transit Station.

3. TPP Amendment – Report on Public Comments for I-94 and TH 610 and the Administrative Modification for Streetcar

MTS Senior Planner Cole Hiniker and Planning Analyst Mary Karlsson presented this item as an update to the action being taken by Metro Council. For TPP amendments, TAB receives public comment after Council action.

The Metro Council Transportation Committee approved this item on 4/16 and Metro Council will act on it on 4/30.

Hiniker reported that a consultant has been hired to facilitate discussions about streetcar policy language in the TPP.

Sanger reminded MTS staff and TAB that, in the past, the TAB has asked for background information about streetcars. Hiniker stated that the administrative modification queues up that discussion rather than address it. There is a significant section added to the TPP updating the status of corridors that are considering streetcars.

Ulrich stated he does not believe that TAB's intent was that streetcars were not considered to be a significant policy discussion, and that he believes that CTIB views streetcars as a significant policy decision as well.

Karlsson reminded members that this TPP modification on streetcars is not a policy decision, but is opening the discussion for streetcar policy. In answer to Ulrich's question about the timing about policy decisions, Hiniker stated that the discussions will take place throughout 2014 and possibly into 2015

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and will result in an amendment to the new TPP to be approved by TAB; any draft policy will come to TAB.

Look agreed that he feels streetcars are significant policy discussion and looks forward to the opportunity to discuss the policy language in the future.

Maluchnik asked what the status of streetcars is in the current TPP (regionally significant?). Hiniker stated the administrative modification opens up discussion on the status of streetcars (regional projects?, local projects?) and is an ongoing process.

Stark encouraged the members to have an open mind in discussing streetcars as another mode of transportation. There will be a lot of information and data shared to help TAB form their decisions.

McBride gave an update on the status of I-94 and TH 610 projects.

4. **TPP Update – Transit**

MTS Senior Planner Cole Hiniker presented this item, focusing on the Transit portion of the TPP.

Transportation and Land Use were also a part of the presentation handouts, although not covered at this meeting due to time constraints.

VIII. Other Business and Items of TAB Members

None.

IX. Adjournment Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.