

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

Wednesday, August 16, 2017  
Metropolitan Council Chambers, 390 Robert St. North, St. Paul

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Hovland, James, Chair	Laufenburger, Denny	Sanger, Sue
Bigham, Karla	Tabke, Brad	McGuire, Mary Jo	Gaylord, Kathleen
Villella, Sam	Ulrich, Jon	<del>McKnight, Kenya</del> Hollinshead, Mathews (alt)	Anderson, Doug
Callison, Jan	Look, Matt	Crimmins, Carl	Staples, Jamez
Dugan, Peter	Christensen, Carrie	Giuliani Stephens, Mary	Rodriguez, Katie
Hamann-Roland, Mary	McBride, Scott	Sandahl, Suzanne	Thornton, David
Petryk, Becky	Wosje, Jeff	Hansen, Gary	Fawley, Ethan
Maluchnik, Randy			
ABSENT:	Goins, William	Parsons, Rolf	Tolbert, Chris
	Van Hattum, David	Swanson, Dick	Reich, Kevin
LIAISON/STAFF PRESENT:	Elaine Koutsoukos, TAB Coordinator		

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum was not present when Chair Hovland called the regular meeting of the Transportation Advisory Board to order at 12:07 p.m. on Wednesday, August 16, 2017. Hovland began the meeting by introducing new Metropolitan Chair Alene Tchourumoff, who addressed the TAB. Tchourumoff stated that she is in her third week as Chair, the next 90 days she will be meeting with various units of government developing partnerships. She has met with Washington County, Blaine, and others and will meet with Dakota County next week. Hovland continued the meeting with the agency reports while waiting for a quorum. A quorum was reached prior to any action being taken on business items.

**II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Once a quorum was met a motion was made by Hamann-Roland, seconded by Anderson to adopt the agenda. Motion carried.

**III. PUBLIC FORUM**

Invitation to the public to address the Board about any issue not on the agenda. A citizen, Mr. Cole Peyton, was present to speak on the 2018-2021 TIP (DNR Minnesota River Valley Trail project), which is part of the agenda today. Hovland acknowledged Peyton's presence at the meeting, but explained that there was some public input at the TAB meeting in April, and that the TAB has followed its public process by publishing a public comment period for written comments on the draft TIP. That public comment period has since closed. The TAB meeting today is not a public hearing for the draft TIP. Hovland asked for TAB member opinions on his decision to not take public input at the meeting today. Laufenburger, Hamann-Roland, Gaylord, Callison and Dugan agreed with Hovland's decision not to take public input at today's meeting. There was no one in the audience who wished to speak on items not on the agenda.

**IV. REPORTS**

**1. TAB Chair's Report**

Hovland reported that the TAB Executive Committee met prior to the TAB today. They discussed action items on the TAB agenda today, the TIP public comments and TIP approval, and TAB Bylaws.

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

MnDOT: Scott McBride – reported:

Two celebrations were held for the St. Croix River Crossing bridge - one for the new bridge opening and one for the closing of the historic lift bridge in Stillwater.

The Lake Street/35W project has been awarded. The biggest impacts this year in the fall will be the closure of Franklin Ave. over 35W and Portland over 35W/94. The bigger impacts will start next year and will go for the next 4 years. McBride encouraged members to sign up for email updates from MnDOT if they travel 35W from 42<sup>nd</sup> to downtown or I94 right at downtown. In answer to an inquiry from Callison, McBride said that the 169 project is on schedule, and maybe even ahead of schedule – no firm date available.

MPCA: No report – not present at the time the agency reports were given.

MAC: Carl Crimmins – reported:

His report from last meeting stating that road construction at the airport would be complete on 8/06 was in error. It should have stated that the exit from the parking ramps and the new pay booths will be complete on 8/06. The hotel construction is on schedule. The new website is working well. Customers can check parking availability, flight times, security line wait times, etc.

Metropolitan Council: Katie Rodriguez – reported:

The Metro Council voted to raise fares. 6,000 comments were received regarding the fare increase, most against, but this is a necessary step to ensure a healthy transit system in the region. The increases will take effect 10/01 (\$.25 across the board, \$.50 for Metro Mobility, and an increase to Transit Link to bring those fares consistent with Metro Mobility's pricing).

Progress is continuing on SWLRT. Freight agreements will be considered at tonight's Council meeting. Bids were opened yesterday on the Civil Construction package. Four bids were received ranging from approximately \$1B to \$800M. The next step is for staff to determine the low responsive bidder. Look asked if awarding the Civil Construction package is contingent upon receiving federal funds. Rodriguez stated that the Metro Council will sort through the bids at the same time that they apply for the federal funding. Look noted that this is was told that it was a prudent risk. Sanger also asked whether there is language in the bid specs stating that federal funding must be approved before the bids are awarded. Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson came forward and stated that the sequencing of these projects is that Metro Council would accept bids, then request Letters of No Prejudice (LONP) from the federal government. This is the same process that was followed on other projects (Northstar, Blue Line, Green Line) as prescribed by the FTA. There are steps built into the contracting process to manage some of the risk.

## **3. TAB Bylaws Committee**

Hamann-Roland reported that the committee will meet before the September TAB meeting with the goal of bringing a first reading to the TAB at the September meeting.

## **4. Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Report**

TAC Chair Steve Albrecht reported he has nothing to add other than what is on the agenda at TAB today.

## **V. CONSENT ITEMS**

Motion by Gaylord, seconded by Crimmins and carried to approve the minutes from the July 19, 2017 TAB meeting.

## **VI. ACTION ITEMS**

1. 2017-22: Streamlined TIP Amendment: Heywood Garage Modernization, Metro Transit  
Albrecht presented this item. There were no questions.  
Motion by Hamann-Roland, seconded by Rodriguez:

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That the Transportation Advisory Board adopt the amendment into the 2017-2020 TIP to add a project modernizing the Heywood bus garage (SP# TRS-TCMT-17AZ).

Motion passed.

2. 2017-23: Streamlined TIP Amendment: US 169 Traffic Management System, MnDOT  
Albrecht presented this item and made one correction – that MnDOT is the requestor and not Metro Transit. There were no questions.

Motion by Laufenburger, seconded by McBride:

That the Transportation Advisory Board adopt the amendment into the 2017-2020 TIP to adjust the scope, description, and mileage of MnDOT's US 169 traffic management system project (SP# 2772-112).

Motion passed.

3. 2017-20: Public Comment Report on draft 2018-2021 TIP  
Albrecht explained the next two items (2017-20 & 2017-21). The first item is to accept the public comment report and the second is to adopt the TIP and the public comment report. Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Joe Barbeau presented this item.

Callison asked for clarification of the summary. The summary for the DNR Trail project says 10 residents (or 12?) commenting; Barbeau stated that 10 comments came in before the deadline and two came after the deadline. Likewise for the statement about 9 of 10 or (11 of 12?) comments.... Barbeau will correct the TIP Public Comment Report. The correct numbers are in italics. Two comments were received after the closing of the public comment period and were included in the public comment report as 11 & 12.

Motion by Hamann-Roland, seconded by Callison:

That the Transportation Advisory Board accept the 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Public Comment Report.

Discussion followed concerning whether comments received after the closing should be included.

Giuliani-Stephens noted that in order to follow the process that the TAB has in place, and after discussion to not allow public comment at the TAB today, then the two comments received after the closing should not be included in the report. She offered an amendment to the motion:

Motion by Giuliani-Stephens, seconded by Laufenburger, to amend the motion to exclude the late comments (11 & 12) from the public comment report.

Motion to amend the motion passed.

A vote was taken on the main motion as amended:

That the Transportation Advisory Board accept the 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program Public Comment Report (the report is amended to exclude the late comments 11 & 12).

Motion passed.

4. 2017-21: Final 2018-21 TIP  
Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Joe Barbeau presented this item.  
Hovland asked if there is a public hearing for the TIP before Metropolitan Council action. There is not. The Metro Council does not have the ability to line item projects from the TIP individually. They can either approve or not approve the entire TIP. If they do not approve the TIP, it would come back to the TAB.

Motion by Tabke, seconded by McBride:

That the Transportation Advisory Board adopt the 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) inclusive of changes approved in the public comment report.

Motion by Hamann-Roland, seconded by McGuire: That the Minnesota Valley Trail Project be removed from the proposed 2018-2021 TIP for further study.

There was extensive discussion both after the original motion made by Tabke and after the amendment to the motion made by Hamann-Roland. Discussion included the timing of recognition of the error in the cost estimates of the Minnesota Valley Trail, whether the error was good faith or deliberate, sources of funding to make up the difference, scoring difference in the cost-effectiveness and other projects in the overprogramming category, whether TAB action either way (accept MN Valley Trail or remove MN Valley Trail) will set a precedence, need for a process to deal with these issues in the future.

Petryk called the question. The TAB voted on calling the question. The vote passed to call the question.

Members then voted on the amendment (motion by Hamann-Roland, seconded by McGuire) to the original motion as restated by Hamann-Roland:

That the Minnesota Valley Trail Project be removed from the proposed 2018-2021 TIP for further study. A vote was taken on the amendment to the motion. Motion passed 14 yes, 11 no.

A vote was then taken on the original motion (made by Tabke, seconded by McBride) amended:

That the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) adopt the 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), inclusive of the changes in the public comment report, as amended (amendment to remove the Minnesota Valley Trail Project).

Motion passed with two members voting no.

5. 2017-18: 2018 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Albrecht introduced this item and Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Katie White who presented this item. There were no questions.

Motion by Look, seconded by Laufenburger:

That the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) adopt the 2018 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area.

Motion passed.

6. 2017-19: Crystal Airport Long Term Comprehensive Plan

Albrecht presented this item. Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Russ Owen was present to answer any questions from members. There were no questions.

Motion by Crimmins, seconded by Anderson:

That the TAB determine that the Final Draft Crystal Airport 2015 LTCP has a multi-city impact as well as conforms to the Council systems and is consistent with Council policies.

Motion passed.

## **VII. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

1. ADA Transition Plan

Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Heidi Schallberg presented on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Requirements for Federal Funding – Local Agencies (included handout).

2. Transportation Demand Management Summary Report

Metro Transit Manager Commuter Programs, Marketing & Communications Theresa Cain presented this item. Sanger asked what metrics are used to evaluate the TDM programs to figure out if they actually help traffic flow better. Cain responded that each has different approach to TDM. In most cases we are looking for evidence that they are taking vehicles off the roadway, with a priority on peak period vehicles. For some entities it might be getting more people on transit (working with their employers letting them know about different pass programs, carpool programs, or vanpool programs). Hollingshead stated he would like a separate report in the future about the school pass program.

3. Regional Solicitation Criteria, Pedestrian, and Safe Routes to School Applications

Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Joe Barbeau presented this item. The item included Qualifying Criteria and Forms with potential changes tracked for TAB consideration. Fawley asked about the process to provide input for future changes to the Regional Solicitation. Koutsoukos recommended that TAB make recommendations or give general direction that could be brought to staff and committees. Giuliani-Stephens suggested staff look at a process to look at total costs of a project, i.e., more screening of cost analysis once the applications are submitted. Rodriguez suggested adding paragraph from project sponsors stating what type of public engagement has been done and also wants TAB to discuss whether to have a public hearing for the TIP.

Sanger stated that she is reluctant to ask staff to dive too deeply into the funding that applicants submit, but rather have some sort of cap on project cost escalation between the time of application and the time the project is chosen, if the project is over the cap then it is either disqualified or subject to more review. McBride stated that this is difficult to do in the early stages; Rodriguez suggested having the TAC & Staff look at projects when it gets to the point the would have affected ranking. ~~Callison requested that staff be aggressive in looking at outliers.~~—Regarding the public engagement process, Hovland stated that the TAB Executive Committee also discussed whether the TAB should go back to having a public hearing for the TIP, or whether accepting written comments is an adequate form of public engagement. He welcomed input from the committee.

#### 4. TPP Update - Transit

Due to time constraints, this item is being deferred to either the September or October TAB meeting.

### **VIII. OTHER BUSINESS AND ITEMS OF TAB MEMBERS**

1. There was no other business.

### **IX. ADJOURNMENT** - Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.