

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD (TAB)

Wednesday, March 20, 2019

Metropolitan Council Chambers, 390 Robert Street North, Saint Paul

Committee Members Present:

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Hamann-Roland, Mary (Vice Chair)	Look, Matt	Barber, Deb
Gaylord, Kathleen	McGuire, Mary Jo	Goettel, Debbie	Ulrich, Jon
Karwoski, Stan	Anderson, Doug	Sandahl, Suzanne	Staples, Jamez
Villella, Sam	Parsons, Rolf	Dugan, Peter	Goins, William
Bailey, Myron	Gorecki, Bruce	Tolbert, Chris	Reich, Kevin
Petryk, Becky	Windschitl, Mark	Crimmins, Carl	Swanson, Dick
Hansen, Gary	Foster, Amity	Jabr, Amr	Hollinshead, Mathews
Wosje, Jeff (McDonald, Jerry)	McDonnell, Craig (Biewen, Todd)		
ABSENT:	Maluchnik, Randy	Fox, Nick	Hovland, James (Chair)
	Christenson, Carrie		
LIAISON/STAFF PRESENT:	Koutsoukos, Elaine TAB Coordinator	Freese, Lisa TAC Chair	Thompson, Nick MTS Director

I. CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Vice Chair Hamann-Roland called the regular meeting of the Transportation Advisory Board to order at 12:31 p.m. on Wednesday, March 20, 2019.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Motion by Gaylord, seconded by Hansen, to approve the agenda of the March 20, 2019, regular meeting of the Transportation Advisory Board. **Motion carried.**

III. PUBLIC FORUM

Invitation to the public to address the Board about any issue not on the agenda. There was no one in the audience who wished to speak on items not on the agenda.

IV. REPORTS

1. TAB Vice Chair's Report

Vice Chair Hamann-Roland introduced the TAB alternates.

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

MnDOT, Amr Jabr:

Jabr reported Lynne Bly retired and Jon Solberg will take her spot. Jabr added that the Metro District Engineer replacement will be named shortly as well. Jabr also informed the TAB that Governor Walz has released his budget proposal impacting roadways and transit.

MPCA, Todd Biewen:

Biewen reported that he is still the alternate, but the Assistant Commissioner will start attending meetings soon. Biewen also reported on the continuation of VW Settlement money disbursement.

MAC, Carl Crimmins:

Crimmins said there were two awards won for budgeting and multiple other awards won for best bar/restaurant, etc.

Metropolitan Council, Deb Barber:

Barber reported that the new Council has been seated, she encouraged TAB members to reach out and encourage people to apply for the openings on the advisory committees. Barber shared about the regional tours the new Chair and Council Members are starting.

TAC:

Freese reported on a few changes to the TAC bylaws.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of Minutes from January 16, 2019 and Email vote from February 20, 2019

Motion by Gaylord, seconded by Look, to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2019, regular meeting of the Transportation Advisory Board. **Motion carried.**

VI. ACTION ITEMS

1. 2019-12 ITS Infrastructure

TAC Chair Lisa Freese presented this item.

There were no questions or comments from TAB members.

It was moved by Swanson, seconded by Gaylord, that:

The Transportation Advisory Board adopt the statewide ITS architecture through the attached resolution. **Motion carried.**

2. 2019-09 Scope Change: St. Paul Safe Routes to School

TAC Chair Lisa Freese presented this item.

Look asked why ADA is being added to the project; he thought ADA compliance is required on all of the projects. TAB Coordinator Koutsoukos said they are adding more intersections. Gaylord asked if a bike lane is being removed. Freese said the pavement is deteriorating so they don't feel it is safe to make the change without replacing the pavement which is not in the plan. Look suggested that in the future it might be reasonable to have authors of scope changes present at TAB so that they can speak to the item. Koutsoukos said applicants are encouraged to attend TAB when they have a scope change. Foster asked for follow-up on the bike lanes.

It was moved by Gaylord, seconded by McGuire, that:

The Transportation Advisory Board approve the City of St. Paul's scope change request for its Washington Technology School Safe Routes to School project (SP # 164-591-003) to eliminate the Arlington Avenue on-street separated bike lane and add ADA ramps with no federal funds reduction. **Motion carried.**

3. 2019-11 Scope Change Consultation and Evaluation Policy

TAC Chair Lisa Freese presented this item.

Look asked if the TAB discourages scope changes. Freese said the TAB attempts to discourage scope changes but it is a reality of projects developing. Hamann-Roland asked if we are affording more scope changes in the last five years. TAB Coordinate Koutsoukos said there have seemed to be more in the last several years. Look commented on the variations on scope changes brought forward. Windschitl said he agrees that if a project is on the agenda for a scope change the applicant should be present. Goettel echoed the importance for having an applicant present, but also noted that it is not unheard of to start a project and find changes that need to be made. McGuire said this is a request we have already made but we would be making it a formal requirement to have an applicant present

It was moved by Look, seconded by Windschitl, that:

The Transportation Advisory Board approve the attached scope change policy with the added phrase, "Project sponsor must attend TAC Funding & Programming, TAC, and TAB meetings where the item is on the agenda". **Motion carried.**

4. 2019-13 Federal Funds Reallocation Policy

TAC Chair Lisa Freese presented this item.

TAB Coordinator Koutsoukos said State Aid goes to projects and instead of amending 12 contracts it only amends one or two. Freese added that they start with the project needing the smallest amount of funding. Gorecki asked about selecting unfunded projects. Look asked how this plays into overprogramming. Koutsoukos said that if money comes back it first goes to the overprogrammed year projects and this is done to ensure that money stays in the region. Freese noted that this policy does enable the funding of projects in future years with the option of reprogramming.

It was moved by Gaylord, seconded by Crimmins, that:

The Transportation Advisory Board approve of revisions to the Federal Funds Management Process. **Motion carried.**

5. 2019-15 TIP Amendment: US 212 RCI

TAC Chair Lisa Freese presented this item.

There were no questions or comments from TAB members.

It was moved by Look, seconded by Goettel, that:

The Transportation Advisory Board approve an amendment to the 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to change the scope and cost of MnDOT's US 212 reduced conflict intersection project (SP # 1013-90 and 1013-90S). **Motion carried.**

6. 2019-16 TIP Amendment: I-94 TH101-TH610

TAC Chair Lisa Freese presented this item.

TAB Coordinator Koutsoukos explained the difference between a scope change and a TIP amendment. Look asked if this was funded by Corridors of Commerce. Jabr said this is not a Corridors of Commerce project, it is regional money not federal.

It was moved by Anderson, seconded by Gorecki, that:

The Transportation Advisory Board approve of an amendment to the 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to change the cost and description of MnDOT's I-94 concrete overlay

project (SP # 2780-97) and to add an associated project for temporary widening and cross overs (SP # 2780-99). **Motion carried.**

7. 2019-17 Program Year Change Request – Metro Transit

TAC Chair Lisa Freese presented this item.

Reich said this has the support of staff.

It was moved by Goettel, seconded by Reich, that:

The Transportation Advisory Board approve Metro Transit's request to change the program years of four of its projects. **Motion carried.**

8. 2019-18 Streamlined TIP Amend: MnDOT, I-94/I-394

TAC Chair Lisa Freese presented this item.

There were no questions or comments from TAB members.

It was moved by McGuire, seconded by Swanson, that:

The Transportation Advisory Board adopt an amendment into the 2019-2022 TIP to add a project (SP # 2770-04) installing wrong-way vehicle detection and alerting systems at I-94's eastbound exit ramp to 4th Street N and 2nd Avenue N and I-394's eastbound exit to 6th Avenue N and 2nd Avenue N. **Motion carried.**

9. 2019-19 Streamlined TIP Amend: MnDOT, I-35W Construction

TAC Chair Lisa Freese presented this item.

Foster asked what a soil nail wall is and Jabr shared that it is a retaining wall that is essentially a method to do construction with less intrusion.

It was moved by McGuire, seconded by Swanson, that:

The Transportation Advisory Board adopt an amendment into the 2019-2022 TIP to add a project (SP # 2782-354) constructing a soil nail wall and establishing a construction site on I-35W in Minneapolis. **Motion carried.**

10. 2019-20 Streamlined TIP Amend: MnDOT, Stone Arch Bridge

TAC Chair Lisa Freese presented this item.

Hollinshead asked who owns the stone arch bridge. Jabr said the state owns it but it is not on the state trunk highway system, so that dictates what dollars can be used to repair it. Hollinshead asked for more information on the project work. McGuire added that the reason the state owns it is because it was going to be destroyed so the state legislature stepped in and bought it.

It was moved by McGuire, seconded by Swanson, that:

The Transportation Advisory Board adopt an amendment into the 2019-2022 TIP to add a project (SP # 2726-80) repairing the Stone Arch Bridge in Minneapolis. **Motion carried.**

11. 2019-21 Streamlined TIP Amend: MnDOT, I-394 Bridge Rehab

TAC Chair Lisa Freese presented this item.

There were no questions or comments from TAB members.

It was moved by McGuire, seconded by Swanson, that:

The Transportation Advisory Board adopt an amendment into the 2019-2022 TIP to change the cost and add a fifth bridge to repair for MnDOT's I-394 bridge repair project (SP # 2789-151). **Motion carried.**

VII. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Information on Action Items Approved through Electronic Vote on February 20, 2019

- a. **2019-14** Streamlined TIP Amendment: I-35W
- b. **2019-08:** TPP Amendment for Gold Line and I-94 Lane Addition

TAB Coordinator Koutsoukos, Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Joe Barbeau, and Metropolitan Transportation Services Highway Planning & TAB/TAC Process Manager Steve Peterson presented this item.

Barbeau answered the following questions that were emailed in, related to the electronic vote:

Why did cost not go down, because 1/3 less road distance is repaired?

As design has progressed and MnDOT has a better understanding of the full scope of work, and quantities anticipated on the project, the cost is relatively unchanged compared to what is currently shown in the STIP.

Is there any estimated timeline on when the APS will be installed; and is there any idea of what it means to pedestrians who use the Washington ramp? Or, would the APS be installed at a later time, but still by the time everything reopens?

MnDOT is developing a new project to install APS at this location. This project will be scoped this year and prepared for Fiscal Year 2024. What this means for the pedestrians using the Washington Ave ramps is that there will be minimal disruption until the APS installation in FY 2024. The scope of work included in the project has pavement repair work between the curbs of the south ramps at Washington Avenue, which will take about a weekend to complete.

Peterson shared that a question was asked about fiscal constraint and fiscal constraint is maintained by shifting money out of the Rethinking I-94 project because it is not ready to go in the year the money is available but this keeps the same dollar amount.

2. TPP Amendment: Riverview Corridor Public Comment Report

Metropolitan Council Outreach Coordinator Sara Maaske presented this item.

Tolbert said the report echoes what he has heard along the way.

3. Freeway System Interchange Study

MTS Planning Analyst Tony Fischer and MnDOT Program Coordinator Michael Corbett presented this item.

Goins asked for more information specifically related to how this is the best and safest design for commerce and freight. Staples asked if the future transit system is being taken into account.

Fischer said the current revenue scenario is being used. Karwoski asked when the interchanges will start being prioritized. Jabr said this study is going to help future target investments. Karwoski

asked about doing projects in two phases. Corbett said there will be multiple solutions and they want to ensure that it does not preclude any future investment. Jabr mentioned scalable fixes. Hamann-Roland asked about timeline, Fischer said the end of the year and they can return to the TAB. Goins and Hamann-Roland discussed the impact of the metropolitan area congestion on commerce.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS AND ITEMS OF TAB MEMBERS

Dugan mentioned that he had commented on clean energy's availability to HourCar at the January meeting and would like to state that, "Today, Xcel's energy fuel mix in St. Paul and Minneapolis is nearly 50% carbon free between renewable and nuclear making the use of electric vehicles result only about 1/3 in the carbon emissions of a gasoline vehicle. With the HourCar project the plan is to purchase 100% renewable energy from Xcel via the Renewable Connect program which allows customers to buy 100% renewable energy from wind and solar typically at a modest premium, with the revenue from purchases supporting the development of more renewable energy."

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 2:16 p.m.

Jenna Ernst
Recording Secretary