

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD (TAB)

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Committee Members Present:

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Hovland, James (Chair)	Anderson, Doug	Barber, Deb
Barnes, Michael	Boyles, Frank	Crimmins, Carl	Foster, Amity
Fox, Nick	Geisler, Christopher	Goettel, Debbie	Hemmingsen-Jaeger, Amanda, Giuliani Stephens, Mary
Hansen, Gary	Holberg, Mary Liz	Jalali, Mitra	Jeppson, Julie
Karwoski, Stan	Kealey, Dan	Lindeke, William	Look, Matt
McDonnell, Craig	McGuire, Mary Jo (MatasCastillo, Trista)	Narayanan, Ashwat	Petryk, Becky
Reich, Kevin	Sanger, Sue	Schember, George	Steffenson, Mark
Ulrich, Jon	Williams, Janet (Coughlen, Bob)	Windschittl, Mark	Workman, Tom
ABSENT:	Bailey, Myron	Dugan, Peter	Hollinshead, Mathews
LIAISON/STAFF PRESENT:	Koutsoukos, Elaine TAB Coordinator	Solberg, Jon TAC Chair	Vennewitz, Amy Acting MTS Director

I. CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Chair Hovland called the regular meeting of the Transportation Advisory Board to order at 12:32 p.m. on Wednesday, October 20, 2021.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:

There were no amendments to the agenda.

III. REPORTS

1. TAB Chair's Report

Hovland reported that meetings will remain remote through the end of the year.

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

MnDOT, Mike Barnes:

Barnes reported that projects are being wrapped up for the season.

MPCA, Craig McDonnell:

McDonnell reported that an open round for diesel vehicles is open now. Googling "our Minnesota climate" links folks to tools to host conversations on climate change.

MAC, Carl Crimmins:

Crimmins reported that Allegiant Airlines is now flying out of MSP. Sun Country now has more flights out of MSP than pre-pandemic. Passenger traffic is picking up again, COVID testing sites will stay in place at the airport until the end of November and the vaccination sites will be present through the end of the year. Sanger asked about TSA agents, Crimmins said around 80% are vaccinated and November 8, 2021, is the vaccine mandate.

Metropolitan Council, Deb Barber:

Barber reported on the Network Next routes. Metro Transit will be hosting Nov 3 and 4 summits for feedback on zero emissions.

TAC Chair, Jon Solberg:

Solberg reported on the action items on the consent agenda that are consolidated.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

Consent

Motion was made by Anderson, seconded by Kealey and carried, to approve the following consent items:

1. Approval of Minutes from September 15, 2021

- 2. 2021-39** Streamlined 2021-2024 and 2022-2025 TIP Amendment Request: Addition of Three Clean Transportation Grants Projects

Motion: That the Transportation Advisory Board recommend adoption of an amendment to the 2021-2024 and 2022-2025 TIPs to add three Clean Transportation Grant projects (SP# 8825-963, 8825-964, and TRS-TCMT-22G).

- 3. 2021-40** Streamlined 2022-2025 TIP Amendment Request: Addition of Orange Line SSGA funds and retaining wall CRRSAA funds

Motion: That the Transportation Advisory Board recommend adoption of an amendment to the 2022-2025 TIP to add two projects (SP# TRF-TCMT-22B and 6219-09).

- 4. 2021-41** Streamlined 2022-2025 TIP Amendment Request for Ramsey County: Lexington Parkway Extension

Motion: That the Transportation Advisory Board recommend adoption of an amendment to the 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program to change a terminus and add a trail and roundabout to the project description of Ramsey County's Lexington Parkway extension (062-651-067).

- 5. 2021-42** Streamlined 2022-2025 TIP Amendment Request for MnDOT: MN 3 Trail Construction in Farmington

Motion: That the Transportation Advisory Board recommend adoption of an amendment to the 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program to change the scope of MnDOT's MN 3 project (SP# 1921-110) to reflect the construction of a trail.

- 6. 2021-43** Streamlined 2022-2025 TIP Amendment Request for MnDOT: Two Project Cost Changes

Motion: That the Transportation Advisory Board recommend adoption of an amendment to the 2022-2025 TIP to change the cost of two MnDOT-sponsored projects (SP # 0215-76 and 2770-05).

Aye: 29 Anderson, Barber, Barnes, Boyles, Coughlen, Crimmins, Foster, Fox, Geisler, Goettel, Hansen, Hemmingsen-Jaeger, Holberg, Jalali, Jeppson, Karwoski, Kealey,

Lindeke, Look, MatasCastillo, McDonnell, Narayanan, Petryk, Reich, Sanger, Schember, Steffenson, Windschitl, Workman

Nay: 0
Absent: 3 Bailey, Dugan, Hollinshead
Not Recorded: 1 Ulrich

Non-Consent

1. **2021-07** Federal Funds Redistribution Amount for Metro Transit's I-94 / Manning Avenue Park-and-Ride Lot

TAC Chair Jon Solberg presented this item.

Hovland asked for clarification on the 3 options for the TAB to discuss. Karwoski voiced trust in the funding and programming committee in their recommendations. Windschitl asked about time limits. Solberg said the current process would not allow it to go so long without the return of funds. Goettel said she supported the TAC recommendation because the buses were bought and serviced folks. Look asked for verification that the 2 million spent on buses went to buses that were appropriated into another line and asked what budget should have been used for the line the buses were used on and where should that funding have come from. Solberg said the buses went from Guardian Angels park and ride, so still served the Woodbury area. Barber noted that the buses were used for commuter services along the same corridor and helped inform the need for the Gold Line. Look noted that often when a project changes even a matter of feet, scope changes have to be brought before the TAB and are often rescored. Kealey agreed that going forward all projects should be vetted the same and asked for an audit of other projects in the pipeline to make sure there are no other instances like this. Windschitl asked how this was able to happen. TAB Coordinator Koutsoukos said the scope change policy is in place to catch scope changes before the project starts, the project kept moving forward and when it was seen that the project would not take place, the TAB was contacted. Koutsoukos said typically if a project has started and it doesn't go through, they then reimburse the full project back to the federal government. This is a unique situation where the request is to keep some of the funds instead of turning it all back. Koutsoukos said there are now quarterly meetings with Metro Transit to avoid this happening again. Barber noted that this not an anticipated common occurrence and is a unique situation. Windschitl said he thinks Metro Transit should either have to return all of the money or be penalized in future projects. Geisler said the TAB authorized the intent to serve the corridor that was served by this money and is a reasonable exercise of decision-making powers. MatasCastillo voiced support for the motion and thinks there are the same line, the same overall scope and is different from money going to a trail and then being used for a different trail. Look said the TAB works on a scoring process which is tied to a narrative, there is not a validation of return-on-investment. Look stated it is reasonable for a status report on all projects. Barber said if a quarterly report is expected it should be for all participating transit agencies. Geisler noted the cost on local communities.

It was moved by Karwoski, seconded by Goettel that:

The Transportation Advisory Board allow Metro Transit to retain \$2,235,600 in federal funds from a 2013 CMAQ award for the purchase of four buses used for express service in the I-94 East and return of the remaining \$5,044,400 in federal funds for redistribution.

Motion carried.

Aye: 29 Anderson, Barber, Barnes, Boyles, Coughlen, Crimmins, Foster, Fox, Geisler, Goettel, Giuliani-Stephens, Hansen, Holberg, Jalali, Jeppson, Karwoski, Kealey,

Lindeke, Look, MatasCastillo, McDonnell, Narayanan, Petryk, Sanger, Schember, Steffenson, Ulrich, Windschitl, Workman

Nay: 0

Absent: 3 Bailey, Dugan, Hollinshead

Not Recorded: 1 Reich

Motion carried.

V. INFORMATION

1. Allocation of \$20 Million of CRRSAA Federal Funds

Metropolitan Transportation Services Highway Planning and TAB/TAC Process Manager Steve Peterson presented this item.

Windschitl asked about distribution. Peterson said the money comes through MnDOT State Aid who administers the money. Narayanan said to look at money specific to transit. Barber noted that money for the first two rounds of stimulus funding have been distributed. Jalali stated the importance of understanding where the projects are being funded from. Barnes said the county engineers and city associations are supportive of option one for the reasons other members have stated. Sanger asked about projects to be supplemented. Holberg asked for a polling of this, Sanger and Jalali said a poll should not be done before members get information to form their opinions.

2. Major Projects

Metropolitan Transportation Services Highway Planning and TAB/TAC Process Manager Steve Peterson presented this item.

TH 65 Planning and Environmental Linkages Study (*Jon Haukaas, Blaine*)

Rethinking I-94 (*Sheila Kauppi, MnDOT*)

TH 169/TH 41 project (*Lisa Freese, Scott County*)

A question was asked on the timeline for the alternative development process for the I-94 project. MnDOT will provide the information.

3. MnDOT Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan Update

This item was deferred to a future meeting.

4. Twin Cities Highway Mobility Analysis

This item was deferred to a future meeting.

VI. ITEMS OF TAB MEMBERS

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 3:06 p.m.

Jenna Ernst
Recording Secretary