

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD

Metropolitan Council Building, 390 North Robert Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101

TAB POLICY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes: December 21, 2011
Metropolitan Council Chambers

Members Present: Russ Stark, Co-Chair, Randy Maluchnik, Co-Chair, Margaret Donahoe, Karl Drotning, Adam Duininck, David Gepner, Tom Heffelfinger, Dennis Hegberg, Scott McBride, Kenya McKnight, James Meyers, Lisa Peilen, Becky Petryk, Andrew Reinhardt, AJ Siddiqui, Sue Sanger, David Thornton, Bethany Tjornhom, Will Rossbach, Dave Van Hattum

Guests and Staff: Russ Owens, Metropolitan Council
Gary Warren, Metropolitan Airports Commission
Ann Braden, Metropolitan Council
Connie Kozlak, Metropolitan Council
Kevin Roggenbuck, TAB Coordinator

I. Call to Order.

Co Chair Stark called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM.

II. Adoption of the Agenda.

Mr. Meyers moved, seconded by Ms. Peilen, to adopt the agenda. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

III. Approval of the Minutes from October 19, 2011.

Mr. Maluchnik moved, seconded by Mr. Meyers, to adopt the minutes from the October 19, 2011 TAB Policy Committee meeting. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

IV. Information Items and Action Transmittals.

a. 2011-70: Metropolitan Airports Commission 2012-2018 Capital Improvement Program.

Mr. Owens presented this item to the committee. Mr. Owens described the legislatively defined roles and responsibilities of the MAC in operating and maintaining aviation facilities in the region, and the role and responsibilities of the Metropolitan Council in aviation planning and review of the MAC Capital Improvement Program.

Mr. Owens reviewed the findings forwarded to the TAB by the TAC. Mr. Warren described the thresholds at which projects must be approved by the Met Council. Mr. McBride noted that the CIP includes a project for reconstruction of the I-494/34th Street interchange that will replace the existing interchange with a design called a “diverging diamond”.

Mr. Gepner asked about bike access to MSP. Mr. Warren said the MAC is looking at using a bridge that would bring riders to the transit station without paying a fare about the Hiawatha LRT.

Ms. McKnight asked about public participation in the CIP development and automation of the checked bag screening. Mr. Warren said it is difficult to find space for the automated bag screening equipment, but the MAC is considering consolidation of the number of security checkpoints from 6 to one or two, freeing up space for screening equipment. Mr. Warren also described the public hearing that was held with the environmental review of projects in the CIP.

Ms. Sanger moved, seconded by Ms. McKnight, to recommend approval of the findings on the 2012-2018 MAC CIP and forward them to the Metropolitan Council for its consideration. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

b. Prospectus Update – 3C Transportation Planning Guidebook

Ms. Braden presented this item to the committee. Ms. Braden said the Guidebook will replace the Prospectus, a planning document last updated in 1996, that documents the roles and responsibilities of all agencies involved in the federally mandated 3C planning process. Ms. Braden said citizens can use the Guidebook to understand the basics of the 3C planning process, and people who want to know more about policies and procedures can click links to call up other documents. Ms. Braden described how the Guidebook is organized and explained the next steps in developing a final document. Committee members offered several comments:

- The term “3C” might not be well known or understood by the public
- Add a table of contents
- Add a description or summary of dial a ride services
- Add planning for bike and pedestrian facilities
- Highlight opportunities for public participation and show examples of public involvement in the TPP
- Show where decisions are made about allocating the money, show how much and where it comes from.
- Include a graphic showing the amounts of money coming into the region and how it flows down a process and into projects
- Could include an executive summary to be more readable

Mr. Stark invited members to send other comments and edits to Mr. Roggenbuck, who will send to Ms. Braden and cc the TAB.

c. “A” Minor Arterial Study

Ms. Karlsson and Mr. Ohrn presented this item to the committee. Ms. Karlsson described the “A” minor system and the purpose for which it was created in 1990. Ms. Karlsson described the Project Management Team and the Technical Steering Committee and the work schedule. Ms. Karlsson said a break is built into the schedule in March in case SAFETEA-LU is reauthorized then. After March, the study will resume and make recommendations for the system. Mr. Heffelfinger asked for a presentation on how the TAB funds “A” minor arterial projects. Ms. Karlsson said yes, after the March break, when they can provide a side by side comparison of changes recommended by the study with changes required in reauthorization.

Ms. Sanger asked if local public works people are involved in the study and what the study would be used for after it is done. Ms. Karlsson said local public works professionals are included and described the membership on the Technical Steering Committee and the Project Management Team. Mr. Ohrn said they will see whether the study answers questions such as, Does the solicitation need to be changed to be more responsive to local needs? Are the "A" Minor Arterials carrying more traffic? Are they safer?

Mr. Hegberg said counties are using bonding more and more to fund roadway projects. The study should look at the capacities of counties to continue bonding.

Ms. McKnight asked how the information in the study will be used and who will it be shared with. Mr. Ohrn said the information in the study will be a high level summary of the "A" minors or subgroups of "A" minors. Ms. Karlsson said they will get into conversations with the public after the inventory is done – when they start thinking about recommendations.

Mr. Ohrn added that the study is also looking at whether the counties and cities prioritize their own funding on "A"s compared to other roads. Ms Sanger asked how you know if the system is working and whether they are a priority to local governments. Mr. Ohrn said they will examine whether the counties put more money into their "A" minors than their other roads, but there is no target amount or percentage.

V. Other Business.

Members did not raise any other business.

VI. Adjournment.

Mr. Stark adjourned the TAB Policy Committee meeting at 1:25 PM.

Minutes prepared by
Kevin Roggenbuck,
TAB Coordinator