

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD

Metropolitan Council Building, 390 Robert Street No., Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101

TAB PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes: May 16, 2012
Metropolitan Council Chambers.

Members Present: Robert Lilligren, Co-Chair, Jim Hovland, Co-Chair, Tony Bennett, Jan Callison, Gerry Butcher, Margaret Donahoe, Ethan Fawley, Dennis Hegberg, Aaron Isaacs, Paul Krause, Scott McBride, AJ Siddiqui, Dick Swanson, David Thornton, Dave Van Hattum, Julia Whalen, Andy Westerberg.

Guests and Staff: Pat Bursaw, Chair, Technical Advisory Committee
James Andrew, Metropolitan Council
Kevin Roggenbuck, TAB Coordinator

I. Call to order.

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

II. Adoption of the Agenda.

Mr. Swanson moved, seconded by Mr. Lilligren, to adopt the agenda. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

III. Approval of the Programming Committee minutes from April 18, 2012.

Mr. Lilligren moved, seconded by Ms. Whalen, to approve the minutes from the April 18, 2012 TAB Programming Committee meeting. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

IV. Information Items and Action Transmittals.

(a). 2011-20: 2011 regional solicitation final scores: TAC.

Ms. Bursaw presented this item to the committee. Ms. Bursaw described the scoring reevaluation process and results. The TAC unanimously approved the final scores and ranked lists of projects and they are forwarded for the TAB's approval.

Ms. Bursaw said the TAC also discussed the pros and cons of awarding federal funds for program years 2015 and 2016 and reviewed them with the committee. The committee discussed the status of the reauthorization bills and the current extension of SAFETEA-LU. Ms. Bursaw said they understand that other states are going ahead and programming funds but Minnesota is one of few states with a contingency plan should reauthorization occur and provide less funding than programmed. Ms. Bursaw described the MnDOT contingency plan to defer up to 30% of the federal funds from 2013 to later TIP program years.

The committee discussed whether to proceed with allocating funds with a similar contingency plan. Mr. Lilligren said MnDOT and the TAB often allocate federal funds in out years with some uncertainty and the contingency plan must have some benefit to the process. The committee discussed the uncertainty of future funding levels and project eligibility, and the difficulty Congress has in passing a multi-year transportation Act.

Mr. Swanson moved, seconded by Mr. Lilligren, to recommend acceptance of the final scores and ranked lists of projects in the 2011 regional solicitation. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

More discussion followed on the allocation of funds. The committee discussed how a contingency plan should take into account how far along each project is in development.

Mr. Hovland moved, seconded by Mr. Lilligren, to recommend the TAB direct the TAC to prepare funding options for the TAB June meetings that allocate 100% of the funds under SAFETEA-LU for all categories with contingency planning if federal funding is reduced. Discussion of the motion followed. Mr. Fawley offered an amendment to the motion that the TAC develops more than one contingency plan for the June TAB meeting, seconded by Mr. Van Hattum. The maker and seconder of the original motion accepted the amendment. The committee approved the amendment unanimously by voice vote.

The main motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

(b). 2012-21: 2012-2015 TIP Amendment: MnDOT.

Ms. Bursaw presented this item to the committee. Ms. Bursaw described the work to be done in the amendment and why the amendment was necessary.

Mr. Westerberg moved, seconded by Mr. Swanson, to recommend adoption of the 2012-2015 TIP amendment as described in action transmittal 2012-21. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

(c). 2012-22: 2012-2015 TIP Amendment: MnDOT.

Ms. Bursaw presented this item to the committee. Ms. Bursaw described the Section 5310 Program and how projects are solicited across the state. Ms. Bursaw said the solicitation of projects does not coincide with the development of the draft TIP, so an amendment is necessary.

Mr. Lilligren moved, seconded by Mr. McBride, to recommend adoption of the 2012-2015 TIP amendment as described in action transmittal 2012-22. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

(d). 2012-23: 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program for the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area: TAC.

Ms. Bursaw introduced this item to the committee and Mr. Andrew presented this item to the committee. Mr. Andrew described the Transportation Improvement Program and the three key criteria for its adoption and for amendments. The draft 2013-2016 TIP also includes a letter from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency stating that the draft TIP conforms to the relevant sections of the Federal Conformity Rule. Mr. Andrew said the TAC recommended that the final TIP include acknowledgement of the significant amount of local funding provided by cities and counties to match the federal funds and deliver projects in the TIP. The TAC recommends adoption of the draft 2013-2016 TIP for the purpose of holding a public hearing on June 20 and a 45-day public comment period.

Mr. Westerberg moved, seconded by Ms. Whalen, to recommend adoption of the draft 2013-2016 TIP for the purpose of holding a public hearing on June 20, 2012. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

IV. Other Business.

Members did not raise any other business.

VI. Adjourn.

Mr. Hovland adjourned the meeting at 1:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted:
Kevin Roggenbuck, TAB Coordinator.