

## TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD

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

# TAB PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes: June 20, 2012  
Metropolitan Council Chambers.

Members Present: Robert Lilligren, Co-Chair, Jim Hovland, Co-Chair, Tony Bennett, Jan Callison, Gerry Butcher, Margaret Donahoe, Karl Drotning, Ethan Fawley, Dennis Hegberg, Aaron Isaacs, Randy Maluchnik, Scott McBride, Sue Sanger, AJ Siddiqui, Dick Swanson, David Thornton, Jon Ulrich, Dave Van Hattum, Andy Westerberg.

Guests and Staff: Pat Bursaw, Chair, Technical Advisory Committee  
Serge Phillips, MnDOT Federal Relations Manager  
James Andrew, Metropolitan Council  
Kevin Roggenbuck, TAB Coordinator

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### **I. Call to order.**

Co-Chair Lilligren called the meeting to order at 12:10 PM.

### **II. Adoption of the Agenda.**

Mr. Lilligren said MnDOT requests that the TAB Programming Committee add the allocation of Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funds and Railroad Crossing Safety projects (RCS) to the agenda. Mr. Hovland moved to amend the agenda to include the HSIP and RCS items as agenda item IV.d. Ms. Callison seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Hovland moved, seconded by Mr. Ulrich, to adopt the agenda as amended. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

### **III. Approval of the Programming Committee minutes from May 16, 2012.**

Mr. Swanson moved, seconded by Mr. Hegberg, to approve the minutes from the May 16, 2012 TAB Programming Committee meeting. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

### **IV. Information Items and Action Transmittals.**

#### **(a). Information: Regional Solicitation Evaluation Study: Staff**

Mr. Roggenbuck presented this item to the committee. Mr. Roggenbuck explained the purpose of the study and that the full TAB will see the Scope of Work soon after it is reviewed by the TAC Executive Committee. Mr. Hovland asked who approves the Scope of Work and who would hire the consultant. Mr. Roggenbuck said the Scope of Work will be reviewed by the TAB Executive Committee and the full TAB. Mr. Roggenbuck did not know who would hire the consultant. Committee members asked that the study be guided by the TAB. Mr. Roggenbuck said the TAB Executive Committee will serve as the study's Steering Committee.

**(b). Information: Reauthorization of SAFETEA-LU: MnDOT.**

Mr. Phillips presented this item to the committee. Mr. Phillips said both the House and Senate are in conference committee, and the leadership says they are making progress toward a joint reauthorization bill by the deadline of June 30 when the current extension expires. Mr. Phillips described some of the policy provisions in the House and Senate bills: emphasis on performance based planning and programming decisions, consolidation of federal programs into just a few core programs, project delivery streamlining, and others. Mr. Phillips answered questions from the committee.

**(c). 2012-26: 2011 Regional Solicitation Funding Options: TAC.**

Ms. Bursaw introduced this item to the committee. Ms. Bursaw said the TAC was given the charge of developing funding options at SAFETEA-LU levels for the TAB's consideration as well as contingency plans should reauthorization provide less funding to the MPO than SAFETEA-LU. Ms. Bursaw noted that changes in the regional solicitation schedule have delayed the TAB's action to allocate funds by about five months, shortening the time available to project sponsors to develop their projects. Ms. Bursaw briefly described the two funding options forwarded by the TAC, the two contingency plans also forwarded by the TAC and noted the TAC favored contingency plan #2 (defer projects).

Mr. Andrew presented information to the committee describing the purpose of the regional solicitation process, the steps in the solicitation process, the four federal programs in the solicitation, and the four types of "A" Minor Arterials in the STP-UG program.

Mr. Roggenbuck and Mr. Andrew reviewed seven action steps with the committee from their memo dated June 14. 1) Mr. Roggenbuck explained that the projects selected in this solicitation must be amended into the final 2013-2016 TIP because the draft 2013-2016 TIP has gone out for public comment and we cannot significantly change the public comment document during the public comment period. Mr. Roggenbuck added that the FHWA recommends holding a public hearing on the amendment. 2) Mr. Roggenbuck said an ad hoc committee formed by the TAC is looking at ways to improve local project delivery and they may recommend changes to the region's adopted sunset date policy. The 2011 regional solicitation document states that selected projects will receive have a sunset date; however, staff must make applicants aware that a change in policy could affect projects in this solicitation. 3) Mr. Roggenbuck explained what obligation authority is and said the TAC recommends using 85% as the obligation level. This is consistent with previous solicitations and the level MnDOT assumes as well. Mr. Roggenbuck said the TAB adds an assumed amount of funding to the federal and match amounts for inflation to the program year. Mr. Roggenbuck said after discussing MnDOT's STIP guidance, the TAC recommends using 10% for program year 2015 and 12% for 2016. 4) Mr. Roggenbuck walked the committee through the development of funding targets for the four federal programs in the regional solicitation. Starting with SAFETEA-LU level apportionments and applying all the adjustments, the TAB has approximately \$163.8 million to allocate across all four programs. 5) Mr. Andrew described the two contingency plans forwarded by the TAC in case reauthorization does not provide as much funding to the solicitation process as calculated under SAFETEA-LU. Mr. Andrew said the TAC recommends contingency plan #2 and the committee was in general agreement. 6) Mr. Andrew reviewed a table showing how the regional solicitation funding levels would be affected by a 30% cut in federal funding as was discussed in an early version of the

House reauthorization bill. Mr. Andrew said this is just an illustration to show what a “worst case scenario” might look like. 7) Mr. Andrew described two funding options forwarded by the TAC without recommendation. Option 1 would award funds proportionate to the amount of funds requested; assuming the volume of applications represents need. Options 2 would award more funds in the “A” Minor Augmenter category since the TAB adopted significant changes to the criteria to emphasize preservation. The 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue bridge project (Minneapolis) is only partially funded in both options and Minneapolis has agreed to accept a partial award and provide additional funding for the total project.

The committee discussed the two options and staff answered questions. Mr. Van Hattum distributed a funding option and described it to the committee. Mr. Isaacs suggested revising option 2. Mr. Thornton asked how the projects “on the bubble” were considered in developing the two options.

Mr. Hovland moved, seconded by Mr. Westerberg, to adjourn the meeting and move the discussion to the full TAB. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 1:50 PM.

**IV. Other Business.**

Meeting adjourned without taking up Other Business.

**VI. Adjourn.**

Meeting adjourned at 1:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted:  
Kevin Roggenbuck, TAB Coordinator.