
*Transportation Advisory Board
Of the Metropolitan Council*

**Minutes of a Meeting of the
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, September 5, 2012
9:00 A.M.**

Members Present: Jon Olson, Lyndon Robjent, Brian Sorenson, Tom Johnson, Tim Mayasich, Lisa Freese, Ted Schoenecker (for Wayne Sandberg), Kevin Roggenbuck, Mark Filipi, Adam Harrington, Pat Bursaw, Innocent Eyoh, Robert Vorpahl, Susan Moe, Chuck Ahl, John Powell, Duane Schwartz, Kim Lindquist, Richard McCoy, Steve Hay (for Jenifer Hager), Jack Byers, Connie Kozlak (for Ann Braden)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as prepared.

3. Approval of March Minutes

The August 1, 2012 meeting minutes were approved as written.

4. TAB Report

K. Roggenbuck reported that on the August 15th TAB meeting: Representatives from SWT were invited to address the TAB about the allocation of CMAQ funding in the 2011 solicitation. Their project was listed in the funding options forwarded to the TAB but the Board decided not to fund it. TAB heard a report on TAC action to table the Bottineau TPP amendment which is on the TAC's agenda. TAB asked the TAC to make an assessment of the technical issues and point out policy issues and move it along to the TB. TAB liaison to the MC Transportation Committee will keep the Board informed of negotiations with Golden Valley. TAB heard a presentation on Thrive MSP 2040 and opportunities for TAB/TAB involvement. TAB recommended adoption of the UPWP amendment to include several additional planning studies; recommended awarding HSIP funds to the projects on the ranked list; adopted the 2013-2016 TIP and accepted the public comment report and heard a presentation from MnDOT on MAP-21 policy changes.

Kevin announced that the Regional Solicitation Scope of work has been finalized, but he has been advised by the Council's procurement office that he cannot distribute it until an RFP is finalized and released, which should be within a week. He summarized the purpose and tasks of the study and answered questions. L. Robjent asked about the role of the steering committee as it sound like it does not include technical staff. Kevin responded there will also be a PMT with Kevin and technical members from MnDOT, Met Council, and 1-2 local staff.

5. Special Agenda Items

Ken Buckeye, MnDOT, gave a power point presentation on the Transportation Finance Advisory Committee (TFAC) which was formed by the governor last January. The group has met 5 times, mainly to get background, and the next three meetings will focus on developing recommendations as the report is due to the governor and legislature on December 1, in time for the next session. Questions/comments from TAC members included: are

there any specifics on the need/gap? (Ken's answer- the exact size of need is still fluid and being debated so they are not releasing it yet) Did the governor establish task forces for any other types of funds (Ken's answer- he does not think so- transportation is one of the governor's top two concerns). What is the end plan- will this be implemented? (Ken's answer- this is an election year so everything is uncertain- report will go to legislature but there is no way to "insure" it will be heard)

6. Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee (Pat Bursaw, Chair)

P. Bursaw reported on the Federal Program Status and Program Delivery Task Force, which met five times and has completed its work. Recommendations will go to the Funding and Programming Committee in September and may come to TAC in October unless the Funding and Programming committee continues its discussion beyond one meeting. The task force is recommending the elimination of an official automatic "sunset date" but is also recommending a process for projects with extenuating circumstances to request an extension of their program year. They are also recommending changes in the scope change policy.

B. Funding and Programming Committee

No August meeting

C. Planning Committee (Allen Lovejoy, Chair)

In A. Lovejoy's absence, P. Bursaw and K. Roggenbuck reported on the August committee meeting.

Action Item 2012-30: Amendments to the TPP (Bottineau Transitway and Arterial BRT).

Metropolitan Council and Hennepin County have proposed amendments to 2030 Transportation Policy Plan to include the locally preferred alternative for the Bottineau Transitway, since the adopted Plan currently does not specify a mode or alignment for the Bottineau Transitway, and proposed changes resulting from the completion of the Arterial Transitway Corridors Study and the Bottineau Transitway studies. These changes include adding Lake Street, Hennepin Avenue, and Penn Avenue North as potential Arterial BRT corridors, showing Emerson-Fremont Avenues North as extensions of the Chicago Arterial BRT corridor, and adding language to reflect that a number of the potential Arterial BRT corridors are also being studied for other modes such as streetcar.

Upon review and recommendation of the proposed amendments by the TAB and TAC and receiving concurrence from all affected local units of government, the Council will adopt the proposed amendments for the purpose of holding a public hearing and receiving public comment. If the proposed changes are subsequently adopted by the Council, an application will be submitted to the Federal Transit Administration requesting permission for the Bottineau Transitway to enter the Preliminary Engineering phase of the New Starts Program.

The TAC considered this item in August and tabled action until September so more information could be brought forward.

P. Bursaw reported on this item to TAB at its August meeting as part of her TAC chair report. TAB is especially interested in receiving the TAC comments and recommendations on technical issues like air quality, fiscal constraint and public participation. K. Roggenbuck and A. Harrington reported on the TAC Planning committee discussion and said there were no particular issues from a technical viewpoint, although there was some

discussion on fiscal constraint. Many of the issues are policy related, and some of the technical questions cannot be resolved until the environmental work is completed.

Mary Karlsson introduced Joe Gladke of HCRRRA staff, who gave the same PowerPoint he gave to TAC Planning detailing the five years of project development so far, the alternatives considered and how the project has changed in response to issues raised by the stakeholders and public. He noted the discussion is ongoing with Golden Valley; the Minneapolis Park Board is meeting to discuss this again tonight. The county has had several meetings with the Park Board to clarify that the transit alignment will not take park land, but will remain to a great extent within the existing 100 foot BNSF railroad ROW, occupying 50 feet while the rail continues to operate on the other 50. S. Moe asked if the railroad has approved this plan. Joe replied that there have been several meetings with the railroad and the designs have been changed to accommodate the railroad's concerns. They have not yet given any final approval, but there are no red flags that they will not. Cost has not yet been determined and is likely to be the biggest issue with the railroad.

J. Olson, who moved to table action in August, said that he is satisfied with the additional information and intends now to vote for this item. T. Johnson moved, seconded by R. McCoy, to approve the motion.

MOTION CARRIED.

Action Item 2012-31: Recommend Adoption of the 2013 UPWP

Elaine Koutsoukos reported on this item and gave the same power point presentation she gave to TAC Planning detailing the 2013 UPWP activities. She mentioned that several activities, including the regional solicitation study discussed earlier and the highway transitway study would actually start this fall but continue into 2013. Kevin Roggenbuck asked if the CMAQ performance study required by MAP 21 should be included. Elaine replied that there is an activity to "address any new requirements of MAP 21" which should cover it. Since the law is so new it is not yet certain exactly what is required or what the required timelines are. K. Roggenbuck moved, seconded by J. Powell, to approve the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

7. Agency Reports

MnDOT- P. Bursaw reported that MnDOT was holding a MAP-21 workshop on September 17. Many members had not heard about it so she and Kevin will make sure the information is sent to TAC members.

8. Other Business and Adjournment

There was no other business

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 AM

Prepared by:

Connie Kozlak and Kevin Roggenbuck for Ann Braden