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*Transportation Advisory Board  
Of the Metropolitan Council*

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**Minutes of a Meeting of the  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Wednesday, December 4, 2013  
9:00 A.M.**

**Members Present:** Tom Johnson, Tim Mayasich, Lisa Freese, Carl Ohrn, Mark Filipi, Adam Harrington, Pat Bursaw, Bridget Rief, Karl Keel, Paul Oehme, Steve Albrecht, Jenifer Hager, Jack Byers, Allen Lovejoy, Paul Kurtz

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:08 a.m.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

It was moved by A. Lovejoy, seconded by M. Filipi, to adopt the agenda. Motion carried.

**3. Approval of November Minutes**

A correction was made to the November minutes to change MAP to MAC on page 3, under Agency Reports. It was moved by T. Mayasich, seconded by M. Filipi, to approve the minutes as corrected. Motion carried.

**4. Recognitions**

P. Bursaw recognized outgoing TAC members in 2013: Chuck Ahl, Carolyn Braun, Jane Kansier, and Jon Olson.

**5. TAB Report**

M. Filipi reported on TAB's November 20 meeting.

**Agency Reports:** MnDOT: Corridors of Commerce: TH 610, I-694 DSL in Shoreview; I-94 from TH 101 to just west of county line.

**Consent List:** All consent items passed: Scope Change and TIP Amendment for North Urban Regional Trail, TIP Amendment for HSIP, TIP Amendment for I-35W North Managed Lane (EA and Pre. Design)

**Action Items:** All Action items passed: TAB Solicitation, TAB Bylaws, and Regional Solicitation Evaluation (Approximate funding ranges prior to solicitation release and Modal sub-categories for Bike/Ped and Transit /TDM)

**Info Items:**

There were info items on the Regional Solicitation Evaluation Monthly Report, Installation of EV Charging Stations presented by MPCA, regional TMO and TDM activities presented by Metro Transit, and an update on the Transportation Policy Plan presented by MTS.

**6. Special Agenda Items**

**Regional Solicitation Evaluation Study:** Schallberg provided a brief update on the evaluation study status. An additional local representative was added to the Project Management Team from Dakota

County (Mark Krebsbach with Brian Sorenson as backup). The Council concurred with TAB's approval of using modal evaluation categories and the basic eligibility for each category. At their November meeting, TAB approved modal subcategories for the bicycle and pedestrian facilities and transit/travel demand management categories. The roadway subcategories are still under discussion. TAB will also adopt approximate funding ranges for each modal category before a new solicitation (next summer for a solicitation released in the fall). Additional technical input was provided on the roadway subcategories through a TAC meeting and an ad hoc smaller technical group. Based on that input, the team is also reviewing bridge data from the previous five solicitations. At the last Steering Committee meeting, members discussed wanting to be able to compare across categories, not just within. They expressed concern about funding lower-scoring projects just because there were applications in that subcategory and said there should be no intent to guarantee funding in each subcategory. The Steering Committee was interested in an active role for policy makers, combined with objective scoring and review from the technical committees. The next step in the process is to discuss higher-level criteria for each category.

**Upcoming Legislative Session:** Margaret Donahoe, The Transportation Alliance, presented information on a draft Funding Package with options for funding roads, bridges, transit, and rail. The legislative session begins at the end of February. There will be a capital bonding bill of \$850 million and they would like as much as possible to go to transportation.

**TIP/STIP Amendment Process Discussion:** Brian Isaacson, MnDOT, presented the observations of the current process. Four key observations were the amendment process, timing, accuracy, and value-added (the five-step Metropolitan Council approval process). Recommendations include creating one standardized amendment form, consider bundling multiple project amendments into one Met Council action, develop a validation process for the information contained in the amendment form, explore the possibility of streamlining the five-step TAB/Met Council and Air Quality Committee process, discuss a process for starting an amendment without complete information, discuss the possibility of a fast-track amendment process with criteria, develop a TIP and STIP amendment schedule and tracking system, and document the public involvement process for TIP and STIP amendments.

Committee members are receptive to streamlining the process. Recommend trying to get projects into the regular update of the STP so fewer amendments are needed. A committee member recommended moving the TIP amendment to MNDOT while getting Council concurrence. A committee member recommended changing the definition and changing the language as more general to reduce the need for TIP amendments. An example is when a roundabout changes to a signal, it is the same project as an intersection improvement.

## **7. Committee Reports**

### **A. Executive Committee (Pat Bursaw, Chair)**

P. Bursaw reported that in January, the TAC meeting has been rescheduled to January 8. At the January meeting, the TAC bylaws will be reviewed regarding membership on TAC and will consider other changes.

### **B. Funding and Programming Committee (Karl Keel, Chair)**

**Action Item 2013-55:** K. Keel moved and T. Johnson seconded a motion to recommend approval of the request to modify the scope for CSAH 17 by adding mill and overlay and pavement rehab. The funding increase will be covered with local funds. The MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

**Action Item 2013-56:** K. Keel moved and T. Mayasich seconded a motion to adopt an amendment to the 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to modify the project scope for CSAH 17 by adding mill and overlay and pavement rehab to the original project scope and specifying some of the original elements not included in the original description (signal communication interconnect, red light running system, turn lanes). The MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

**Action Item 2013-57:** K. Keel moved and J. Byers seconded a motion to adopt an amendment to the 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add 21 projects with \$1,582,000 total funding and \$1,265,600 in federal Section 5310 funding in 2014. The MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

**Action Item 2013-58:** K. Keel moved and M. Filipi seconded a motion to adopt an amendment to the 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add two St. Croix Boom Site Roadside Recreational Area projects (SP#082-595-001 for planning and preliminary engineering and SP#082-595-002 for rehabilitation and construction) in the year 2014 using \$500,000 in federal Public Lands Highway Discretionary funding. The MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

### C. Planning Committee (Allen Lovejoy, Chair)

**Action Item 2013-48:** K. Keel moved and J. Hager seconded a motion to adopt administrative modifications to the 2030 Transportation Policy Plan to incorporate updates on the status of various modern streetcar studies, corridors, and policy considerations, including the City of Minneapolis alternatives analysis for the Nicollet-Central Corridor. P. Bursaw asked whether federal action was required on administrative modifications. Cole Hiniker, MTS, responded that the modifications will go out for public comment after the January Council meeting to generate policy discussion. The Council wants to hear from policy makers and the public. The Council will review comments and make possible changes, with approval in April. The TPP modifications will be submitted to the federal agencies as information. The MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

**Action Item 2013-49:** K. Keel moved and M. Filipi seconded a motion to adopt the adjusted 2010 Census Smoothed Urbanized Area Boundary (SUAB) and forward it to Metropolitan Council for adoption. The urbanized boundary determines the MPO Planning Area, not the funding area. Wright and Sherburne Counties will continue to receive federal funding from their current area. The MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

**Action Item 2013-50:** K. Keel moved and T. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the draft MOU and forward it to the Metropolitan Council for approval. Connie Kozlak reported that the impact on Wright and Sherburne Counties will be inclusion of projects in the TIP. They will be invited to TAC. There may need to be discussion on whether they are voting or non-voting members of TAC. The MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

**Action Item 2013-51:** K. Keel moved and M. Filipi seconded a motion to approve the requested functional class changes:

- #1279: Biscayne Avenue between 255th and 260th Streets and 260th Street between Biscayne Avenue and Blaine Avenue. Change the classification from a 'minor collector' to a 'major collector'
- #1280: Biscayne Avenue between 250th Street and 255th Street, 250th Street between Biscayne Avenue and Alverno Avenue, and Alverno Avenue between 250th Street and 245th Street. Change the classification from a 'major collector' to a 'minor collector'.

- #1281: 235th Street between Cedar Avenue and Denmark Avenue, Denmark Avenue between 235th Street and 240th Street, 240th Street between Denmark Avenue and Alvorno Avenue, and Alvorno Avenue between 240th Street and 245th Street. Change the classification from a 'minor collector' to a 'major collector'.
- #1282: Blaine Avenue from CSAH 47 to TH 50. Change the classification from a 'minor collector' to a 'B-Minor arterial'.

The MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

A. Lovejoy announced that the Planning Committee will meet on December 12 between 12:00 and 12:30 pm to review one action item.

**D. Aviation Task Force (Tim Mayasich, Chair)**

**Action Item 2013-54:** T. Mayasich moved and M. Filipi seconded a motion to recommend acceptance of the Metropolitan Council analysis concerning the MAC 2014-2020 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and forward these comments to the Metropolitan Council for its consideration. The MOTION CARRIED, with B. Rief abstaining.

**8. Agency Reports**

P. Bursaw reported that the Corridors of Commerce list of projects was announced. Projects in the metro area are I-94 (Hwy. 101 to Hwy. 241), Hwy. 610 (CR 81 to I-94), and I-694 (Lexington Ave. to Rice St.). The Transportation Policy Plan will need to be amended to bring the projects and funding into the TPP.

A. Lovejoy reported that the TPP Partner Agency Work Group will be meeting from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm on December 12, 2013.

M. Filipi moved and T. Mayasich seconded a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 10:55 AM.

**Prepared by:**

Elaine Koutsoukos