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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, November 5, 2014  
9:00 A.M.**

**Members Present:** Doug Fischer, Lyndon Robjent, Tom Johnson, Tim Mayasich, Lisa Freese, Jan Lucke, Steve Bot, Elaine Koutsoukos, Mark Filipi, Adam Harrington, Pat Bursaw, Innocent Eyoh, Beverley Miller, Danny McCullough, Karl Keel, Jean Keely, Steve Albrecht, Paul Oehme, Michael Thompson, Duane Schwartz, Kim Lindquist, Bruce Loney, Paul Kurtz, Michelle Beaulieu, Steve Hay (Members Excused: Bridget Rief, Jim Gromberg, Jenifer Hager, Jack Byers)

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:06 a.m.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Tim Mayasich moved and Mark Filipi seconded. No discussion. Motion passed.

**3. Approval of March Minutes**

The October 1, 2014 meeting minutes were approved as written. Mark Filipi made the motion, Tim Mayasich seconded. No discussion. Motion passed.

**4. TAB Report**

Elaine Koutsoukos reported on TAB's October 15 meeting:

**Reports:**

**Chair:** Hargis reported the TAB Executive Committee met prior to the TAB meeting and discussed the agenda items for the next 2 months. The November TAB meeting will include discussion about the Regional Solicitation scoring process. TAB Coordinator Elaine Koutsoukos stated that the Regional Solicitation is now online. Training sessions and instructions to register are listed on the website. Hargis reminded the committee that there is an appeal process for the Regional Solicitation prior to TAB action. The Executive Committee also discussed advising the appointing agencies of TAB attendance and the appointing agency can decide whether to open up applications for TAB positions. Hargis also stated that he is not planning to apply for reappointment when his appointment is over.

**TAB Bylaws Task Force:** Lilligren shared a handout listing the recommended changes to the bylaws for input today. The changes will also be introduced at the November TAB meeting, for action at the December TAB meeting.

Drotning suggested that the elected/modal representation on the Executive Committee is perhaps a little light, since there are a total of 11 representatives on the full TAB, and he suggested having more than one representative on the TAB Executive Committee.

Hargis reminded the group that the TAB Executive Committee is not a decision-making group, and the main focus of the Executive Committee is to manage upcoming TAB agendas.

MnDOT: Scott McBride stated that the Corridors of Commerce projects statewide had been chosen. From \$12.5M, almost all is going to perform studies in order to be able to construct projects when funds become available. The studies include: Hwy 169 bridge-Minnetonka/Edina; I35W bridge between Dakota and Hennepin counties; MnPASS environmental study – I-35W North from Hwy. 36 to Hwy. 10; Central Avenue bridge deck replacement – downtown Minneapolis; I-94 between St. Paul and Minneapolis downtowns; and construction funds for Snelling Ave. south of Hwy 36 to I-94 (ABRT, pavement, etc.).

MPCA: David Thornton reported that in December the EPA will announce ozone ambient quality standards. There is a chance that the Twin Cities could be in non-attainment, depending on the standards. Thornton will report again in January.

TAC: TAC Chair Bursaw reported on the October TAC meeting. Three items from TAC and two streamlined TIP amendments from TAC Executive Committee were forwarded to TAB and were on the agenda. Bursaw presented an update on the federal funding allocations work group meeting.

Program Year Policy Update – TAB Coordinator updated TAB on the Program Year Policy Administrative modifications.

**Consent List:**

August TAB minutes were approved.

**Action Items:**

Six action items were approved:

- Scope Change Request for Bloomington to eliminate culs-de-sac and increase access along Normandale Boulevard (CSAH 34) in Bloomington.
- Scope Change Request from Three Rivers Park District, to adjust the alignment and change project termini for Nine Mile Creek Trail East
- 2014-2017 TIP Amendment for Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail
- Streamlined TIP Amendment to modify the scope and budget for US 52 Cable Median Barrier Project
- Streamlined TIP Amendment to change project funding for Anoka County US 10/CSAH 83 Interchange
- City of Carver CMAQ Funding Change - TAB approve defederalization of the City of Carver 2014 project to provide express bus service between Carver and downtown Minneapolis and the University of Minnesota on the condition that the City deliver the bus operations project as approved in the TAB solicitation.

**Information Items:**

- MAC Update
- TPP Update
- Freeway Management and tour of Regional Traffic Management Center

**5. Committee Reports**

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

The Federal Funding Reallocation Work Group has been meeting; the third meeting will be held immediately after TAC today, focusing on transit. The highways conversation was productive and mostly resolved, however the FTA rules are different which means more time will be spent on transit. Additionally, FTA does not allow projects to 'advance construction.' Furthermore, the universe of applicants for transit projects is much smaller. We are looking for a transparent process. Lyndon Robjent asked about the proposal to distribute remaining funds to projects in the program up to the 80% federal share. Pat Bursaw responded that we need to confirm with State Aid. Lyndon Robjent pointed out the unintended consequences of these policies, such as the time when TAC denied the scope change but TAB approved it and even allocated further funds for the project. Doug Fischer would like to identify projects that will not be delivered very early in the process. Road and bridge projects have been slow lately but will be heating up and excess funds are unlikely in the future as bid prices are increasing. Pat Bursaw would like to wrap up this process by December.

Elaine Koutsoukos provided a brief demonstration of the Regional Solicitation online application process, including the map functionality. Ten trainings have been held on the tool, which 50 people attended. 90 applicants have registered with the tool so far.

The cities, counties, and agencies met to caucus to determine their representative to the Nominating Committee for TAC Chair. Karl Keel will represent the cities, Tim Mayasich the counties, and Innocent Eyoh the agencies. Katie White will coordinate a time for them to meet to identify a new TAC Chair. Traditionally we follow a rotation and the cities would be the next chair. Anyone with an interest in the position should make that known.

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

The committee did not meet this month. Regional Solicitation scoring committees will need to be established soon, and traditionally members of Funding & Programming or TAC have served as scorers. Karl Keel distributed a handout of the scoring committees illustrating the funding areas and scoring criteria where evaluators will be needed. Karl Keel, Elaine Koutsoukos, and Joe Barbeau will be coordinating this work, and members are encouraged to participate.

#### **C. Planning Committee (Lisa Freese, Chair)**

The Planning Committee included a presentation from Hennepin County on their new bicycle and trails plan. Lisa Freese would like to encourage other jurisdictions with interesting studies to present to the committee for discussion and sharing.

#### **2014-67: Hennepin County Functional Classification Change**

Lisa Freese presented the item. Karl Keel asked why the functional classification was changing if the traffic volumes are similar on the two roadways; functional classification should go by use, not by jurisdiction. Tom Johnson responded that it has been planned for several years for the road to take on more of a parkway feel since it leads into a park. Champlain would like to change the character of the roadway. Additionally, the connection to TH 169 is changing as well. Tim Mayasich moved and Tom Johnson seconded the recommended motion. Motion passed.

#### **2014-68: South St. Paul Airport Long Term Comprehensive Plan**

Lisa Freese presented the item. There was no discussion. Lisa Freese moved and Tim Mayasich seconded the recommended motion. Motion passed.

## **2014-71: Ramsey County Functional Classification Change**

Lisa Freese presented the item. There was no discussion. Lisa Freese moved and Tim Mayasich seconded the recommended motion. Motion passed.

### **6. Special Agenda Items**

#### **Transportation Policy Plan Comment Summary**

Katie White summarized the public comments received during the August 14-October 1 public comment period. Since October 1 was the date of the last TAC meeting, this information went to TAB first last month. Jan Lucke asked that, since the comment letters are being broken down by comment and consolidating, if the authors will be able to locate their comments. Katie White responded that yes, they will be able to do so through a unique identification number. Kim Lindquist asked if the updated schedule is posted on the website. Katie White acknowledged that it probably was not, but will be. Doug Fischer asked if there will be a chance to see the recommended changes to the TPP. Amy Vennewitz stated that proposed text changes will be included next to the responses in the Public Comment Report. Doug Fischer asked if the revised TPP is going before the TAC for approval. Katie White responded that it will go to TAB's December meeting for recommendation of approval.

### **7. Agency Reports**

Pat Bursaw summarized the latest round of Corridors of Commerce funding, the bulk of which will be used for studies and engineering to advance projects in the event more transportation funding is identified for projects. Steve Bot would like to see the region move proactively to begin the process to take whatever actions are necessary to allow these projects to move forward. Pat Bursaw noted that most of the projects in the Metro area are already included in the long range plan and could be advanced with new money. For the I-94 project from St. Michael to Albertville, the project could move forward only with additional funds in order to demonstrate fiscal constraint. All projects also must be consistent with regional policy. Steve suggested that more work should start sooner through the planning process. Pat Bursaw agreed that TAC and TAB should have a conversation on this issue. Doug Fischer noted that freeway system improvements for Corridors of Commerce come from funding outside the TAC and TAB process. Lyndon Robjent commented that local jurisdictions frequently conduct design work or studies before funding is identified to build the project.

Mark Filipi announced that Steve Peterson from SRF has been hired to replace Mary Karlsson.

### **8. Other Business and Adjournment**

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 10:34AM.

#### **Prepared by:**

Katie White