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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, April 2, 2013  
9:00 A.M.**

**Members Present:** Doug Fischer, Lyndon Robjent, Tom Johnson, Joe Lux, Lisa Freese, Jan Lucke, Elaine Koutsoukos, Mark Filipi, Adam Harrington, Pat Bursaw, Innocent Eyoh, Bridget Rief, Susan Moe, Beverley Miller, Jim Gromberg, Jean Keely, Steve Albrecht, Paul Oehme, Michael Thompson, Duane Schwartz, Bruce Loney, Jenifer Hager, Paul Kurtz (Members Excused: Patrick Boylan, Kim Lindquist)

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved as written.

**3. Approval of March Minutes**

The March 5, 2014 meeting minutes were approved as written. Motion made by Mark Filipi and seconded by Lyndon Robjent. Motion carries unanimously.

**4. TAB Report**

Elaine Koutsoukos reported on TAB's March 19 meeting:

Chair: Russ Stark chaired the TAB in Bill Hargis absence and had no Chair report.

There were no agencies reports.

TAC: TAC Chair Bursaw reported on the March TAC meeting. Jan Lucke is a new member from Washington County. Alan Lovejoy is retiring and stepping down from TAC. The TAC bylaws changes were adopted. Main change was expanding membership to include a representatives of non-motorized transportation, freight, and Region 7W (representing the areas of Sherburne and Wright Counties in the Twin Cities Urbanized Area.

**Consent List:**

The February TAB minutes were approved.

**Action Items:**

Eight action items were presented to TAB and approved:

1. Conformity SIP
2. 2017 CMAQ Request for Projects

3. CMAQ Travel Demand Management Project Selection
4. Scope Change Request for Crystal Lake Regional Trail in Robbinsdale
5. 2014-2017 TIP Amendment for Crystal Lake Regional Trail in Robbinsdale
6. 2015-2018 TIP Schedule
7. Accept Public Comment Report and 2014-2017 TIP Amendment for I-94
8. Regional Solicitation Evaluation – Criteria Approval

#### **Information Items:**

Regional Solicitation Monthly Report – Consultant Marie Cote presented an update on the Regional Solicitation Working Groups.

Transportation Policy Plan Update – Amy Vennewitz covered information on transportation system finance and Mary Karlsson presented information on the highway investments direction and plan.

#### **5. Committee Reports**

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

The Executive Committee has approved the appointments of the newest members of TAC to subcommittees: Michael Thompson – Funding & Programming; Paul Oehme – Funding & Programming; Bruce Loney – Funding & Programming; Michelle Beaulieu – Planning; Jean Keely – Planning. MTS staff will provide orientation materials to new members.

Staff is coordinating the preliminary review group for the 2017 CMAQ Transit Capital projects.

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

**Action item 2014-27: 2014 Funding Reallocation:** This request from Metro Transit is highly unusual and reflects a lack of policy direction from the TAC regarding what to do in similar situations. Pat Bursaw would like the members of the full TAC or members of Funding & Programming to convene a group to create a policy to address issues like this in the future. The remaining unused funds can be used for advanced construction project repayment, according to MnDOT staff. These funds were originally applied for in 2005 and have moved from year to year since. The RSIP was used to determine where best to allocate these funds. A Shakopee project was considered but instead will be funded with internal Council funds, which speeds up the process for them and does not require a TIP amendment. The request from Metro Transit cannot be delayed given a tight deadline, and must be spent in 2014. Lyndon Robjent mentioned that the process Metro Transit is using today has been used on occasion in the past as well, but that if this were a roads project there would have been a significantly different process. Beverley Miller made the recommended motion, and Jim Gromberg seconded. **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

**Action item 2014-28: TIP Amendment Process Streamlining:** Lyndon Robjent summarized the transmittal and attachment. Minor projects that do not cause a change in air quality conformity, do not have a scope change, nor have other minor issues will be able to have a slightly expedited process. Up to 20% of all projects could fall under this process. MnDOT hosted a Kaisan workshop last fall to facilitate the conversation that led to this document. All agencies are now looking for better coordination on the front end, and creating an electronic document is a priority. Lyndon Robjent moved and Tom Johnson seconded the suggested motion. **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

**Action item 2014-29: TIP Amendment – WisDOT St. Croix River Crossing:** Lyndon Robjent moved and Innocent Eyoh seconded the recommended motion. **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

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

Lisa Freese is the new chair of TAC-Planning. Action items were not brought to the committee in March, but the group did meet twice as part of the TPP Partner Agency Work Group.

**6. Special Agenda Items**

**A. Regional Solicitation Evaluation, Steve Peterson, SRF Consulting (handout)**

Steve Peterson updated the group on progress made in the modal Work Groups to date. A handout was provided with information regarding prioritization criteria that are under discussion, along with percentages that will likely change. Lyndon Robjent asked about the status of the cost-effectiveness discussion at the PMT. He indicated a preference for using the overall project cost as the “cost” of a project, instead of just the federal share of the total cost. There is a concern about eliminating small localities who cannot provide a higher local share. Tom Johnson stated a preference for the full project cost to be used to indicate the full benefit to the region. Using just the federal cost skews the benefit. Beverley Miller asked about the timeline moving forward. Steve Peterson said that the groups meet twice a month through July. Adam Harrington expressed concern that the transit discussion is happening at the same time as the RSIP development, and wondered if an amendment would be warranted to include those findings in the transit section of the RSE. Work group discussions have been very productive.

**B. Transportation Policy Plan Update, Mary Karlsson, MTS**

Mary Karlsson reviewed the highway investment portion of the TPP; Jonathan Ehrlich spoke to the interchange evaluation appendix; Mark Filipi spoke to the congestion management plan. Lyndon Robjent wondered about the potential to incorporate cell phone GPS data into an effective part of the CMP. Beverley Miller asked about the lack of safety measures in the CMP. Mark Filipi noted that incident response time is part of the document. Pat Bursaw clarified that incidents are the primary activity that is controlled in the CMP, not recurring congestion. Joe Lux asked if the interchanges should continue to radiate from the urban core. Jonathan Ehrlich clarified that several interchanges get approved that are in the exurban areas, such as Jordan’s recent interchange. Jan Lucke expressed Washington County’s concern that the Century Avenue intersection is the fourth most dangerous in the state and only .8 miles from the next intersection and may not qualify for conversion to an interchange.

**7. Agency Reports**

No reports.

**8. Other Business and Adjournment**

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 10:50 AM.

**Prepared by:**

Katie White