
*Transportation Advisory Board
Of the Metropolitan Council*

**Minutes of a Meeting of the
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, May 3, 2017
9:00 A.M.**

Members Present: Doug Fischer, Lyndon Robjont, Brian Sorenson, Carla Stueve, Tim Mayasich, Lisa Freese, Steve Bot, Elaine Koutsoukos, Steve Peterson, Michael Larson, Adam Harrington, Lynne Bly, Innocent Eyoh, Bridget Rief, Kris Riesenber, Dave Jacobson, Peter Dahlberg, Danny McCullough, Karl Keel, Jean Keely, Steve Albrecht, Paul Oehme, Michael Thompson, Kim Lindquist, Bruce Loney, Jim Kosluchar, Jen Hager, Paul Kurtz (Excused: Jan Lucke, Jean Keely, Jack Byers, Bill Dermody)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Steve Albrecht at 9:01 a.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was moved by Tim Mayasich and seconded by Elaine Koutsoukos. No discussion. Motion passed.

3. Approval of July Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes was moved by Paul Oehme and seconded by Karl Keel. No discussion. Motion passed.

4. TAB Report

Elaine Koutsoukos reported on the April 19, 2017 TAB meeting.

REPORTS

TAB Chair's Report: Chair Hovland reported on the TAB Executive Committee meeting. The Committee reviewed the Action Items on the TAB agenda. Hovland presented a plaque to Pat Bursaw, MnDOT, recognizing her 27 years of service to TAB serving on TAC committees and TAC.

Agency Reports (MnDOT, MPCA, MAC and Metropolitan Council)

MnDOT: Scott McBride reported that 1½ years ago the Federal Government passed the FAST Act and MnDOT was given \$105M additional to spend on projects. The MN Legislature passed legislation authorizing the funding and it was signed by the governor. Projects will be let on April 21.

MPCA: David Thornton reported that the \$47 million settlement from Volkswagon is waiting for authorization from the MN Legislature.

MAC: Carl Crimmins reported the Long-Term Comprehensive Plan for Crystal airport will be submitted to the Council next month.

Metropolitan Council: Katie Rodriguez reported that the Council has prepared a proposal to raise transit fares. The public comment period is open through June 26. There will be four public hearings.

Bylaws Task Force Report: Mary Hamann-Roland reported that the Bylaws Task Force held an initial meeting to discuss possible changes in language regarding representation of citizen members, Roberts Rules of Order, and composition of the TAB Executive Committee.

ACTION ITEMS

1. 2017-09: Approved Public Comment Report and 2017-2020 TIP Amendment for Scott County TH 169/TH 41/CSAH 78/CSAH 41 Intersection Improvement Project.
2. 2017-03: Approved additional Regional Solicitation over-programming. Fund the following additional projects for the 2016 Regional Solicitation to be placed in the draft 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program:
 - Brooklyn Park roadway expansion project,
 - Minnetonka roadway reconstruction project,
 - Washington County roadway system management project,
 - Minnesota DNR multiuse trail project, and
 - St. Paul multiuse trail project

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. 2016 Regional Solicitation Sensitivity Analysis
2. 2040 TPP Update - Schedule

Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee (Steve Albrecht, Chair)

Steve Albrecht reported that the Executive Committee discussed the previous TAB meeting. It was unique in that the TAB was put in a position to listen to resident concerns about a project (the DNR trail in Bloomington). Some TAB members voted against as a result of the resident comments. These local projects already have significant local feedback processes and it would be uncharacteristic for TAB to take on this additional role.

The July 5 meeting may be cancelled, depending on available agenda items. Bruce Loney has retired but will continue to serve on the TAC. Lynne Bly will be representing MnDOT after Pat Bursaw's retirement for the foreseeable future.

B. Planning Committee (Lisa Freese, Chair)

2017-13 St. Paul Functional Classification Change. Lisa Freese presented the item. There was also an information item from MnDOT on a request from FHWA to redo the roadway functional classifications; this would likely have the biggest impact on B Minors. Lisa Freese moved and Tim Mayasich seconded the recommended motion. No discussion. Motion passes.

C. Funding and Programming Committee (Tim Mayasich, Chair)

Tim Mayasich reported that there were no action items at Funding & Programming. Most of the information items are on today's TAC agenda.

6. Special Agenda Items

Minnesota State Highway Improvement Program. (Brad Utecht, MnDOT)

Brad Utecht presented on the results of MnSHIP's funding direction.

Adam Harrington asked if the targets for pavement and bridge condition reflect the percentage of lane miles, VMT, or something else. Brad Utecht responded that they use road miles, which is slightly different from lane miles.

Bridget Rief asked if the poor road and bridge numbers for 2037 reflected a "do nothing" scenario. Brad Utecht responded that the 2037 projections reflect the current funds available through 2037.

Bridget Rief asked if the targets stay the same with each MnSHIP update or if they change. Brad Utecht responded that MnDOT prefers not to change targets because then the purpose of having a target becomes obsolete. However MnDOT consults with stakeholders to determine if the targets are no longer reasonable and makes changes accordingly.

Lyndon Robjent asked if the targets were set by the federal agencies or by MnDOT. Brad Utecht responded that they are set by MnDOT.

Doug Fischer commented that the projected road and pavement conditions are depressing especially considering the mobility issues in the Metro area. Low quality MnDOT roads increase the pressure on the county systems and local roads. Regional Solicitation projects have shifted from local roads to trunk highways in recent years.

Lyndon Robjent commented that last night Carver County passed a half-cent sales tax and 68% of those projects will be on the trunk highway system.

Lyndon Robjent asked what the category "Regional Improvement" meant. Brad Utecht responded that it is up to the discretion of the district. Lynne Bly said that Metro District uses these funds for municipal agreement/the cooperative program.

Lynne Bly said that while each county in the state is projected to grow over the horizon of this plan, 85% of the state's growth will be in the Metro area. MnDOT does not have the resource capacity to provide mobility enhancements.

Lisa Freese echoed Doug Fischer and Lyndon Robjent's comments. Scott County's sales tax is nearly all going towards trunk highway projects. These local contributions to MnDOT roadways are not acknowledged in MnSHIP.

Karl Keel asked what "Project Delivery" costs include. Brad Utecht responded that it includes things like right-of-way acquisition and consultant costs. Karl Keel said that that grey section of the pie chart could then change to green, to further illustrate the high emphasis placed on maintenance in MnSHIP.

Lyndon Robjent asked if Project Delivery costs have gone up since the last MnSHIP. Brad Utecht responded that last MnSHIP it was 11% and it is now 16%. This number went up to reflect actual project costs, as opposed to estimating a lower number.

Doug Fischer expressed concern that TH 65 has significant safety concerns but MnDOT is choosing to spend money on TH 14 between New Ulm and Rochester. Brad Utecht responded that MnSHIP does not give project-level funding allocations. Corridors of Commerce was used to fund TH14, which is a separate program. COC is split between Greater Minnesota and the Metro District. Also the TH 14 project was sufficiently advanced in planning and was “shovel ready” at the time of COC. COC uses a different evaluation process from other MnDOT processes, which was specified by the legislature.

Lyndon Robjent said that the pavement and bridge targets tell an important story; there should be a similar table for safety targets. Brad Utecht responded that MnSHIP has those targets but were not included in this presentation for brevity.

Doug Fischer said that the Anoka County plan tells the story of what is not happening, in addition to what is happening, and would recommend others do the same.

Tony Fischer said that the MnSHIP story will be folded into the next Transportation Policy Plan. This includes the lack of any funds for mobility after 2023; and most of those funds are already spoken for. We expect a shift in funds to the outstate in order to keep percentages high on pavement quality. A draft finance chapter for the TPP will be brought to this group in August.

Mapping of Funded Regional Solicitation Projects. (Katie White, MTS)

Katie White presented an online map tool illustrating every project funded through the solicitation since 2003.

Doug Fischer requested that the map go back to the early 1990s when the Regional Solicitation first started.

Carla Stueve requested that the funding year be included in the call out box for each project.

Doug Fischer requested that querying be available by roadway type (trunk highway, local, county, etc).

TAC expressed support for filtering and running reports based on the mapping data.

Regional Solicitation Evaluation. (Joe Barbeau, MTS)

Joe Barbeau presented on the next steps for the upcoming Regional Solicitation.

Kim Lindquist commented that the scoring process is so rigid that scorers don't feel like they have the flexibility to deal with outliers very well. Scoring is not effective when the scores end up clumped together; this makes it hard for policymakers to make decisions. Steve Peterson responded that this was a common theme in the survey responses. There will be specific conversations on this topic later.

Lyndon Robjent said that the risk assessment worksheet could be modified to be more effective.

Doug Fischer and Lyndon Robjent agreed with Kim Lindquist; each score should have an impact.

7. Agency Reports

Bridget Rief said that there are two major projects underway at the airport right now: a skyway project and the hostel construction. The hotel is currently working on the 9th of 12 floors. Gary Warren is retiring from MAC; let Bridget know if you are interested in going to the party.

8. Other Business and Adjournment

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 10:22am.

Prepared by:

Katie White