
*Transportation Advisory Board
Of the Metropolitan Council*

**Minutes of a Meeting of the
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, August 1 2018
9:00 A.M.**

Members Present: Doug Fischer, Lyndon Robjent, Brian Sorenson, John Doan, Ted Shoenecker, Lisa Freese, Jan Lucke, Steve Bot, Elaine Koutsoukos, Steve Peterson, Michael Larson, Brian Isaacson, Innocent Eyoh, Bridget Rief, Dave Jacobson, Peter Dahlberg, Danny McCullough, Karl Keel, Ken Ashfeld, Paul Oehme, Michael Thompson, Jim Kosluchar, Jen Hager, Bill Dermody, Paul Kurtz (Excused: Adam Harrington, Anne Kane)

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was moved by Brian Isaacson and seconded by Dave Jacobson. No discussion. Motion passed.

3. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes was moved by Paul Oehme and seconded by Ken Ashfeld. Motion passed.

4. TAB Report

Elaine Koutsoukos reported on the June 20 TAB meeting.

Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee (Lisa Freese, Chair)

Lisa Freese reported on the Executive Committee meeting, which discussed the day's agenda.

B. Planning Committee (Jan Lucke, Chair)

Jan Lucke introduced the June committee meeting reports.

2018-40 2019 Unified Planning Work Program. Jan Lucke introduced this item and Katie White who presented. Doug Fischer asked if the federal funding amount ever changes. Katie White responded that the dollar value is tied to the region's population and has been relatively flat over the past several years, however last year there was a congressional rescission and reduced the funding by approximately \$100,000. There is a chance that could happen again this year. Lisa Freese asked how projects were picked for the Corridor Study list. Katie White responded that it's only projects that Council staff will be attending, since this is a document to illustrate where staff time is being spent. It is not intended to be a comprehensive list of all corridor studies across the region. Brian Isaacson moved and Lyndon Robjent seconded the recommended motion. Motion passed.

2018-43 Federal Performance Measures. Jan Lucke introduced and presented this item. Dave Jacobson asked how the TAM methodology was chosen. Dave Burns responded that all transit providers agreed on the methodology. Doug Fischer asked why the measures seem to be attainable but our system needs more investment than the measures would indicate. Dave Burns responded that MnDOT is being more conservative to ensure we meet the targets. There are federal penalties to the DOTs (but not MPOs) for failure to achieve targets. Doug Fischer said that the MPO can be more aggressive on targets for congestion than the DOT. Dave Burns responded that since all MnDOT system congestion is in the Twin Cities, the two are very closely tied.

Karl Keel said that the TAM measures look more like reporting than goal setting. Lyndon Robjent asked if the highway measures have historical numbers behind them. Dave Burns responded that MnDOT took historical numbers into account when developing these measures. Ted Shoenecker asked how a more aggressive target would be achieved. Dave Burns responded that creating an aggressive target would not trigger automatic changes, but would theoretically be reflected in the next MnSHIP update and picking Regional Solicitation projects.

Jan Lucke recommended that the detailed TAC-Planning presentation be shared with this group, and reiterated that a lot of work has gone into creating these measures. There is a hard federal deadline approaching and TAC needs to act today. Lyndon Robjent asked if these measures are new this year. Dave Burns responded yes. Lyndon Robjent said that perhaps after a few years these numbers will make more sense and tell a better story than they currently do. John Doan asked about safety measures. Dave Burns responded that they were adopted earlier this year. Brian Isaacson recommended that FHWA come to TAB.

Karl Keel moved that the motion be forwarded to TAB without recommendation, and that the TAB action should have more background information attached. Lyndon Robjent seconded. Motion passed.

C. Funding and Programming Committee (Paul Oehme, Chair)

2018-41 Scope Change: Dakota County. Paul Oehme presented the item. Doug Fischer moved and Jim Kosluchar seconded the recommended motion. Motion passed.

2018-42 TIP Amendment: Dakota County. Paul Oehme presented the item. Karl Keel moved and Innocent Eyoh seconded. Motion passed.

Scope Change Policy. Paul Oehme and Joe Barbeau presented the draft recommendations so far. Doug Fischer said that adding project elements should automatically qualify because there is no removal of project elements; the project is leveraging federal dollars for increased benefit. Brian Sorenson agreed, saying that having two separate projects on the same stretch of road one year apart produces a negative impact on the community. Elaine Koutsoukos responded that some applicants keep project components out of the scope to score better on cost/benefit, then add project elements later. Lyndon Robjent said that the informal process still needs to include justification.

Steve Peterson said that Funding & Programming removed cost-effectiveness from the process. Jan Lucke commented that leveraging other funds is not a scoring criteria. Dave Jacobson asked what the impact would be for transit projects. Lyndon Robjent responded that the focus is on the service being provided. Lisa Freese recommended that all comments be sent to Joe Barbeau. Action will be taken at Funding & Programming in September.

6. Special Agenda Items

Geographic Balance Maps. (Steve Peterson and Dave Burns, MTS) Steve Peterson and Dave Burns presented maps that have been shown to TAB illustrating the location of projects selected since 2003. Karl Keel asked about the Streetlight data used to demonstrate regional impacts of projects; what range of distribution existed? Dave Burns responded that there was a project in either Carver County or western Hennepin County that showed a distinctly local benefit. Steve Bot asked if the LEHD data could be broken down from the county level to the UZA level (specific to Wright and Sherburnes counties). Steve Peterson said that a new hire in MTS should help get us to that level eventually.

Brian Isaacson said that 14% of all metro employment comes from outside the 7 county metro while approximately 10% of metro residents leave the metro for employment. Karl Keel said that we can only make decisions based on the information that we have; this is interesting and helpful and the data purchase could be made possible with Regional Solicitation dollars (similar to the TBI). Jan Lucke suggested that these maps could be made as part of the application, or qualifying or scoring criteria. Doug Fischer recommended that scoring would then be split between urban and rural areas.

Lyndon would like to see the funding break out between local roads and MnDOT roads. Jim Kosluchar asked how transit users are accounted for in the dataset. Dave Burns responded via their cell phones.

7. Agency Reports

Brian Isaacson reported that MnDOT has released an RFP for the Streetlight or equivalent dataset and it should be finalized within a few weeks.

Bridget Rief announced that the new airport hotel is partially open and it is intended for local users as well as travelers. The CIP is coming for review soon through the Council process.

Elaine Koutsoukos announced that there were 136 applications to the Regional Solicitation for a total of \$420 million.

8. Other Business and Adjournment

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 10:51AM.

Prepared by:

Katie White