
*Transportation Advisory Board
of the Metropolitan Council*

**Minutes of a Meeting of the
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, September 4, 2019
9:30 A.M.**

Members Present: Lisa Freese, Gina Mitteco, John Doan, Brian Isaacson, Jan Lucke, Elaine Koutsoukos, Steve Peterson, Michael Larson, Adam Harrington, Molly McCartney, Innocent Eyoh, Andrew Emanuele, Bridget Rief, Jen Lehmann, Peter Dahlberg, Danny McCullough, Karl Keel, Ken Ashfeld, Paul Oehme, Michael Thompson, Kim Lindquist, Jennifer Hager, Bill Dermody, Paul Kurtz

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Lisa Freese at 9:33 a.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Mr. Oehme and seconded by Mr. Isaacson. Motion carried.

3. Approval of Minutes

Chair Freese noted that Ms. Lehmann's name was inadvertently omitted from the meeting minutes, and that this will be corrected in the official meeting minutes. A motion to approve the August 7, 2019 TAC minutes was made by Ms. Koutsoukos and seconded by Mr. Ashfeld. Motion carried.

4. TAB Report

TAB Coordinator Elaine Koutsoukos reported on the August 21, 2019 TAB meeting.

5. Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee (Lisa Freese, Chair)

No updated provided.

B. Planning Committee (Jan Lucke, Chair)

The August meeting of the TAC Planning committee was cancelled. As such, no update was provided.

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

2019-37: Scope Change request for Scott County's CSAH 2 and CSAH 91 Roundabout

Mr. Oehme presented this item, noting that the City of Elko New Market was awarded approximately \$1.8 million in HSIP funds for program year 2020 as part of the 2016 HSIP solicitation. The award was to fund a roundabout at the intersection of CSAH 2 and CSAH 91. Over the course of the project, the City decided to include additional off-road pedestrian trails in order to close network gaps and preserve existing trail connections. With the changes, the total cost estimate went up to approximately \$2.8 million. Additional costs would be entirely covered by local funds.

A motion to approve the request was made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Harrington. Motion carried.

2019-38: 2020-2023 TIP Amendment Request for Scott County's CSAH 2 and CSAH 91 Roundabout
Mr. Oehme presented this item, which is a request for an amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to note the changes to the CSAH 2/CSAH 91 Roundabout. The changes are required to be reflected in the TIP.

A motion to approve the TIP amendment was made by Mr. Keel, seconded by Mr. Eyoh. Motion carried.

2019-47: 2020 Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Application for Release for Public Comment

Mr. Peterson presented this item. He provided background information on the item, noting that the public comment period would start September 23 and end on November 6.

A motion to approve the HSIP for public comment was made by Ms. Koutsoukos and seconded by Mr. Isaacson. Motion carried.

2019-39: 2020 Regional Solicitation: Funding Categories

Mr. Peterson noted that three new funding categories were proposed for the 2020 Regional Solicitation: a Spot Mobility and Safety category; a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) category; and a Unique Projects set-aside. The Spot Mobility and Safety category would focus on lower-cost intersection projects meant to enhance safety and mobility. The BRT category would provide a program for large BRT projects. The unique project category would guarantee funding for unique project proposals. The total guaranteed funding for this category would be approximately \$4.5 million and begin with the 2022 Regional Solicitation.

A motion to approve the item was made by Mr. Eyoh and seconded by Mr. Kurtz. Motion carried.

2019-40: 2020 Regional Solicitation: Modal Funding Ranges

Mr. Peterson presented this item, noting that the modal funding ranges are proposed to reflect historic ranges with 2.5% proposed to be taken off the top for the Unique Projects category. This action item would approve the funding ranges for the 2020 Regional Solicitation after accounting for the 2.5% set-aside for unique projects.

Mr. Isaacson noted that the current funding levels are based upon historic percentages and not due to any federal requirements. He requested that this be made clearer when presenting the item to the TAB.

A motion to approve the modal funding ranges was made by Mr. Isaacson and seconded by Mr. Keel. Motion carried.

2019-41: 2020 Regional Solicitation: Funding Category Minimum and Maximum Funding Amounts and Inflation Factor

Mr. Peterson presented this item, noting that the TAB requested Council staff to provide multiple maximum and minimum funding amounts to Regional Solicitation project categories. Potential changes include a decrease in the maximum award for Traffic Management Technologies; an increase in Strategic Capacity maximum award; increases to the minimum awards for Transit Modernization and Travel Demand Management; and a decrease in the maximum award for Multiuse Trails and Bicycle Facilities.

Discussion ensued regarding the maximum federal award for the Multiuse Trails and Bicycle Facilities category. TAB is considering options to fund high-priced projects while minimizing the loss in number of projects. This includes allowing one project in this category at a \$5.5 million maximum with a \$4 million maximum for all other projects in this category. The Committee chose to recommend a maximum of \$4 million or to leave at the current maximum funding level of \$5.5 million.

A motion to change the recommended minimum and maximum funding amounts for the Multiuse Trails and Bicycle Facilities was made by Mr. Robjent and seconded by Mr. Isaacson. Motion passed. A motion to approve the funding category minimum and maximum funding amounts for TAB action was made by Ms. Koutsoukos and seconded by Mr. Isaacson. Motion carried.

2019-42: 2020 Regional Solicitation: Weighting of Criteria and Measures

Mr. Peterson presented this item, which includes the scoring weights of some criteria and measures for the 2020 Regional Solicitation. Mr. Peterson noted that these changes were minor and would not significantly alter the scoring from previous solicitations.

A motion to recommend to TAB to adopt the proposed weighting of the criteria and measures was made by Mr. Isaacson and seconded by Mr. Robjent. Motion carried.

2019-43: 2020 Regional Solicitation Application Measures

This item was to recommend to TAB the approval of the overall measures and scoring guidance for application categories in the 2020 solicitation. Mr. Peterson noted a few changes, highlighting the proposed change to the Equity and Housing Performance measures.

A motion to approve the measures was made by Mr. Robjent and seconded by Mr. Kurtz. Motion carried.

2019-44: 2020 Regional Solicitation Policies, Qualifying Criteria, and Project Eligibility

Mr. Peterson presented this item, noting a few of the changes to the policies, qualifying criteria, and project eligibility for the 2020 Regional Solicitation. Major changes include the requirement of an agency to have an ADA Transition Plan and the inclusion of a requirement of snow and ice removal for projects applying to the Multi-use Trails and Bicycle Facilities category.

A motion to recommend approval of the changes was made by Mr. Isaacson and seconded by Mr. Doan. Motion carried.

2019-45: 2020 Regional Solicitation: Guaranteed Funding

This item calls for the continuation of a policy that states that at least one project from each of the five eligible roadway functional classifications be funded as part of the 2020 Regional Solicitation. In addition, the item calls for the guarantee to fund at least one "new market" transit project.

A motion to approve the funding guarantees was made by Mr. Eyoh and seconded by Mr. Robjent. Motion carried.

2019-46: 2020 Regional Solicitation Release for Public Comment

Mr. Peterson presented this item, which requests the release of the Draft 2020 Regional Solicitation package for review and public comment. The public comment period would last from September 23 to November 6, with a revised Regional Solicitation package presented to the TAB on November 20.

A motion to approve the item was made by Ms. Koutsoukos and seconded by Ms. Mitteco. Motion carried.

6. Special Agenda Items

No items.

7. Agency Reports

Ms. Rief of the Metropolitan Airports Commission provided an update on the construction activities at the MSP International Airport, noting that security wait times are longer than normal, and travelers should arrive at the airport at least two hours ahead of a domestic flight and three hours for an international flight.

Ms. McCartney of MnDOT provided a reminder that the Capital Improvements Committee would meet on the following Friday and all are invited to attend.

Mr. Eyoh of MPCA provided an update on the Volkswagen settlement.

Mr. Harrington of Metro Transit noted that there was recently a service change and that the agency had just completed its State Fair service. He also noted that Metro Transit is short of bus operators and encouraged individuals to recommend people to apply for the vacancies.

Ms. Lehmann of STA noted that MVTA is completing a new service that will provide transit from Shakopee to the Golden Triangle area in Eden Prairie and beyond

8. Other Business and Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:46 am.

Prepared by:

David Burns