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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 6, 2019  
9:30 A.M.**

**Members Present:** Lisa Freese, Lyndon Robjent, Gina Mitteco, Carla Stueve, Brian Isaacson, Jan Lucke, Steve Bot, Elaine Koutsoukos, Steve Peterson, Patrick Boylan, Jon Solberg, Innocent Eyoh, Andrew Emanuele, Matt Fyten, Peter Dahlberg, Danny McCullough, Ken Ashfeld, Anne Kane, Paul Oehme, Michael Thompson, Kim Lindquist, Robert Ellis, Jim Kosluchar, Joe Bernard, Paul Kurtz

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Freese at 9:35 a.m.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

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

**3. Approval of Minutes**

A motion to approve the September 4, 2019 TAC minutes was made by Mr. Mogush and seconded by Mr. Thompson. Motion carried.

**4. TAB Report**

TAB Coordinator Elaine Koutsoukos reported on the October 16, 2019 TAB meeting.

**5. Committee Reports**

**A. Executive Committee** (Lisa Freese, Chair)

Chair Freese reported on the TAC Executive Committee earlier in the morning. Topics discussed include the Transportation Improvement Program Amendment Streamlining Process. The process hasn't been reviewed for several years and there needed changes. Chair Freese noted that changes to this process will be discussed at future TAC Funding and Programming meetings and brought to the TAC in the future.

**B. Planning Committee** (Jan Lucke, Chair)

Ms. Lucke noted that there were three information items discussed at October meeting. These topics were the functional classification process, changes to the Regional Solicitation, and an update on the Comprehensive Plan process.

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

Mr. Oehme reported that the October Funding and Programming meeting was cancelled and there were no items to report on.

**6. Special Agenda Items**

#### **A. MnDOT Functional Classification Review**

This item was presented by Bobbi Retzlaff and Mark Nelson of MnDOT. The presenters noted that in 2013 the FHWA revised its guidance for the roadway functional classification process. This prompted a state-wide review of the current system, which has occurred in all MnDOT districts except for the Metro District. FHWA has recommended to MnDOT to lead a regional review of the functional classification system in the metro area, which will be initiated in 2019. Mr. Nelson noted that FHWA will host a workshop on November 21<sup>st</sup> of 2019 to provide an overview of the guidance and changes. The review process will be led by a project management team and a technical steering committee.

#### **B. Draft Statewide Highway Safety Plan**

Brad Utecht of MnDOT presented this item. Mr. Utecht noted that, statewide, crashes involving older drivers and within work zones are increasing and were classified in the strategic focus area in the 2020-2024 draft Statewide Highway Safety Plan. He also noted that there has been a surge in pedestrian fatalities throughout the state and it was clear that current actions were not sufficient. This will be an issue of emphasis moving forward.

#### **C. Assessing Urban Air Quality**

This item was presented by Monika Vadali from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). Ms. Vadali provided an overview of the effects of poor air quality within the region, noting that there are disparities in health impacts within the metro area. Generally speaking, lower-income populations and persons of color have a higher rate of negative health impacts due to poor air quality. This is often due to their location in relation to major highways and Interstates, which produce harmful air pollutants.

Ms. Vadali continued by outlining MPCA's current monitoring program, which includes the installation of 44 new air quality sensors within Minneapolis and St. Paul. These sensors allow MPCA to monitor air quality on a consistent basis and assist in understanding the areas where air pollutants are unusually high as well as whether these areas correspond with high asthma hospitalization rates. She continued by showing some data for many of the sites with sensors.

#### **D. Transportation Coordinated Action Plan**

Heidi Schallberg of MTS presented this item, noting that the purpose of this plan is to improve transportation services for older adults and those with disabilities. It assists in increasing coordination among service providers and supports planning done at county and state levels. Ms. Schallberg noted that this is a federally required plan.

The plan is structured to include demographics of the region, the existing conditions, a needs assessment, and strategies that can be employed to target these populations. Ms. Schallberg noted that this would be presented to TAC as an action item at the December 2019 meeting.

#### **E. Regional Solicitation Public Comment Update and Feedback**

This item was presented by Steve Peterson of MTS. Mr. Peterson noted that the public comment period would end at the end of the day, and that thus far staff had received four letters from stakeholders. He provided a brief overview of some of the subjects that were commented upon and said that the Council would provide the full list of comments to the TAC at a future date.

#### **F. 2020 Regional Solicitation: Bridge Score Weighting**

Joe Barbeau of MTS presented this item. Mr. Barbeau noted that there has been some discussion on whether the worst bridges were being funded under the current Regional Solicitation criteria. The

weighting of the “condition” criterion in particular was scrutinized, and TAB had requested that TAC provide some feedback as to whether the most critical projects were being funded.

It was noted that the sufficiency rating was not the best way to evaluate the condition of a bridge, and it was consequently suggested that a group of bridge engineers convene to explore alternative measures.

## **7. Agency Reports**

Jon Solberg of MnDOT noted that three grants were currently available for Safe Routes to School, and applications would be accepted until January 10. Mr. Solberg continued by noting that there were two new Towards Zero Death coordinators at Metro District.

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

A motion to adjourn was moved by Mr. Isaacson and seconded by Ms. Mitteco. The meeting was adjourned at 11:36 am.

### **Prepared by:**

David Burns