
*Transportation Advisory Board
Of the Metropolitan Council*

**Minutes of a Meeting of the
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, July 3, 2019
9:30 A.M.**

Members Present: Doug Fischer, Lyndon Robjont, Gina Mitteco, Jason Pieper, Brian Isaacson, Emily Jorgensen, Elaine Koutsoukos, Steve Bot, Steve Peterson, Michael Larson, Molly McCartney, Innocent Eyoh, Bridget Rief, Andrew Emanuele, Peter Dahlberg, Danny McCullough, Karl Keel, Ken Ashfeld, Anne Kane, Paul Oehme, Michael Thompson, Kim Lindquist, Robert Ellis, Jenifer Hager, Paul Kurtz

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Acting Chair Brian Isaacson at 9:35 a.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Steve Bot and seconded by Elaine Koutsoukos. No discussion. Motion passed.

3. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the June 5, 2019 TAC minutes was moved by Robert Ellis and seconded by Paul Oehme. Motion passed.

4. TAB Report

Elaine Koutsoukos reported on the June 19 TAB meeting.

5. Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee (Brian Isaacson, Acting Chair)

Acting Chair Isaacson noted that the Executive Committee met during the morning and talked about items on the meeting's agenda as well as upcoming items for the committees.

B. Planning Committee (Jan Lucke, Chair)

No items were present on the agenda from the TAC Planning Committee.

C. Funding and Programming Committee (Michael Thompson, Acting Chair)

2019-29: Anoka County Federal Funding Exchange Request. Mr. Thompson noted that Anoka County was awarded Regional Solicitation funds for three projects and wishes to de-federalize two of those: the CSAH 22 bridge widening and the CSAH 116/TH 47 intersection. The County proposes to move the federal funds awarded from these two projects to a railroad grade-separation project on CSAH 11. This would bring the total federal funds for the CSAH 11 project to \$10,304,296 while eliminating federal funding for the two other projects.

Mr. Thompson noted some concern expressed by the TAC Funding and Programming Committee regarding the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) process and whether it is enforceable in the de-federalized projects. Doug Fischer gave a brief overview of the three projects and the proposed change in federal funding, stating that this will accelerate and streamline the project development process. Mr. Fischer noted that this is allowable under federal law, is common in parts of Greater Minnesota, and has been done by the Met Council in the past.

Mr. Fischer explained how the County will address concerns regarding the DBE process, outlining a number of avenues to ensure DBEs are included in the project development process. Lyndon Robjont made a motion to approve the federal funding exchange subject to the County continuing to work with the Met Council and MnDOT on a program that would satisfy the DBE requirements regarding the project. Seconded by Ken Ashfield. Motion passed unanimously.

2019-30: Scope Change Request for the City of Burnsville’s Lake Marion Greenway.

Mr. Thompson presented on the City of Burnsville’s request to change the scope of the Lake Marion Greenway project to shift the off-road trail to an on-road facility on the westernmost 1,200 feet of the project limits. This would reduce the federal funding award to Burnsville by approximately \$40,000. Karl Keel made a motion to approve the change. Seconded by Gina Mitteco. Motion passed unanimously.

2019-31: Scope Change Request for Hennepin County’s CSAH 81 Bridge Replacement.

Mr. Thompson presented on this item, a scope change request that would re-locate some of the trail connections along the project alignment and add a third bridge replacement. These changes would result in an increase to the project cost of approximately \$2.2 million, which will be covered by local funds. This change would necessitate a change to the 2020-2023 TIP. Michael Larson made a motion to approve the change. Seconded by Danny McCullough. Motion passed unanimously.

2019-32: TIP Amendment for Hennepin County’s CSAH 81 Bridge Replacement.

Michael Larson made a motion to amend the 2020-2023 TIP to include the CSAH 81 project scope and total cost. Seconded by Gina Mitteco. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Special Agenda Items

Regional Solicitation. Steve Peterson and Joe Barbeau presented on two items regarding the Regional Solicitation criteria: an update on the roadways technical group and potential changes on bicycle and pedestrian applications. Mr. Peterson noted that the roadways technical group discussed potentially changing the Roadway Expansion maximum award from the current \$7 million to \$10 million. Other important potential changes from the workgroup include adding a new measure for Spot Mobility, which would address pedestrian safety and modifying the risk assessment to include more detail on the public involvement process.

Mr. Barbeau presented on proposed changes to the Multiuse Trails and Bicycle Facilities, Pedestrian Facilities, and Safe Routes to Schools categories. Items related to Multiuse Trails and Bicycle Facilities include potential changes to the Snow and Ice Control criteria and the maximum federal award for Multiuse Trails and Bicycle Facilities. No key changes are proposed for the Pedestrian Facilities category. Potential changes to the Safe Routes to School category include the Relationship between Safe Routes to School Program Elements and the interpretation of the Student Population within one mile of a school measure. Mr. Barbeau noted that, in the past, most funded Multiuse Trails and Bicycle Facilities

projects receive less than the current federal maximum award of \$5.5 million. By lowering the maximum award amount, potentially a greater number of projects could be funded around the region. However, by lowering the maximum award, the infrequent larger projects could be affected.

Mr. Barbeau next discussed the Student Population measure of the Safe Routes to School Regional Solicitation category. He noted that the ways in which applicants were counting the number of students within one mile of a school were inconsistent. He noted that staff suggested changing this measure to be more specific, with a wording change to “population of enrolled students within one mile of the school served by the project.” The applicant would be required to use actual enrollment data from the impacted schools when calculating this measure.

Steve Elmer of MTS provided an update on the Regional Bicycle Barrier Study. He noted that the changes are being considered for the 2020 Regional Solicitation scoring and more information would be provided to the Committee when available.

7. Agency Reports

No agency reports/updates were provided.

8. Other Business and Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 am.

Prepared by:

David Burns