
*Transportation Advisory Board
of the Metropolitan Council*

**Minutes of a Meeting of the
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, August 7, 2019
9:30 A.M.**

Members Present: Lisa Freese, Doug Fischer, Gina Mitteco, John Doan, Brian Isaacson, Jan Lucke, Steve Bot, Elaine Koutsoukos, Steve Peterson, Adam Harrington, Jon Solberg, Innocent Eyoh, Andrew Emanuele, Jen Lehmann, Peter Dahlberg, Danny McCullough, Ken Ashfeld, Paul Oehme, Robert Ellis, Jim Kosluchar, Jenifer Hager

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Lisa Freese at 9:32 a.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Chair Freese requested a change to the agenda to add a special agenda item on the regional solicitation policy work group. A motion to approve the modified agenda was made by Jon Solberg and seconded by Doug Fischer. No discussion. Motion passed.

3. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the July 3, 2019 TAC minutes was moved by Brian Isaacson and seconded by Steve Peterson. Motion passed.

4. TAB Report

Elaine Koutsoukos reported on the July 17 TAB meeting.

5. Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee (Lisa Freese, Chair)

Chair Freese noted that the Executive Committee met during the morning and talked about items on the meeting's agenda as well as the outcomes of the Regional Solicitation working groups. She also noted that the TAC Planning Committee needs two additional members representing cities.

B. Planning Committee (Jan Lucke, Chair)

2019-34: 2020 Unified Planning Work Program. Ms. Lucke presented this item. She noted that the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) serves as the Council's application to the USDOT for federal transportation planning funding. Participants in the UPWP include the Met Council, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, MnDOT, the Metropolitan Airports Commission, and transit providers. The document details the budget and projects that will be performed in 2020, with a total budget of \$7.2 million. Consolidated Planning Grant (CPG) federal funds will provide for \$4.8 million of this total budget. A motion to approve the 2020 UPWP was moved by Jon Solberg and seconded by Innocent Eyoh. Motion passed.

Ms. Lucke also noted that the August meeting of the TAC Planning Committee was cancelled. She continued by explaining that FHWA will not approve any functional class change requests until MnDOT completes a review of the regional functional class system. This could potentially affect local entities pursuit of grant funds. Andrew Emanuele from FHWA explained that this system review typically occurs immediately following the publication of the latest US Census results. This review did not occur in the Twin Cities region after the 2010 Census, and this review will help balance the regional system.

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

As there were no action items at the Funding and Programming Committee meeting last month, no update was provided. Information items are on the TAC agenda for discussion.

6. Special Agenda Items

Regional Policy Work Group Recommendations. Steve Peterson and Elaine Koutsoukos presented this item. Ms. Koutsoukos noted that Mr. Peterson reviewed all the roadway applications and the recommendations for roadway applications will be forwarded to TAB for their review.

The Committee continued by discussing the conclusions from the bicycle and pedestrian applications category, deciding to recommend keeping the \$4 million maximum federal request and the 80%/20% federal/local split. TAB had requested that TAC provide input on having the bicycle applications have a 70% /30% federal/local split. TAC members stated some cities would have difficulty coming up with additional local match for these projects.

After much discussion on the potential bus rapid transit (BRT) funding set-aside, the Committee concluded that the best course of action is to set up a transit technical work group to further discuss BRT and whether new markets should be guaranteed funding.

The Committee reviewed the following TAB recommendations regarding equity scoring:

1. To shift 20 points from housing performance to the equity score in all application categories.
2. To add an affordable housing connection measure to the housing performance score.
3. To replace the equity multiplier for areas of concentrated poverty with “bonus points.”
4. To provide information workshops and training sessions on the housing and equity scoring measures.

Finally, the Committee reviewed the issue of unique projects in the Regional Solicitation and TAB’s recommendations:

1. To create a unique projects application category.
2. To set-aside 2.5% of the total funding for unique projects.
3. To select unique projects starting in the 2022 Regional Solicitation.
4. To identify the unique projects category’s weighting criteria and process after the 2020 Regional Solicitation is complete.

Given time constraints, Chair Freese moved to Special Agenda Item 3.

2020 Regional Solicitation: Incorporating Regional Bicycle Barriers. Steve Elmer presented this item, which was a follow-up on an item from the July 3 TAC meeting. At the July 3 meeting, the TAC discussed various options for incorporating the Regional Bicycle Barriers Study and Regional Barrier Crossings into

the Regional Solicitation, deciding to further consider two options: the “sum of two parts” (70/30 funding split) option and an “either/or” option, which consists of providing the better of a qualitative assessment of local factors and a quantitative assignment of points. Mr. Elmer detailed the hypothetical score comparison between the two options. Doug Fischer made a motion to select the “either/or” option (option C), seconded by Gina Mitteco. The motion passed.

7. Agency Reports

No agency reports/updates were provided.

8. Other Business and Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 am.

Prepared by:

David Burns