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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, February 5, 2020  
9:00 A.M.**

**Members Present:** Lisa Freese, Joe MacPherson, Lyndon Robjent, Gina Mitteco, Carla Stueve, Brian Isaacson, Jan Lucke, Elaine Koutsoukos, Cole Hiniker, Patrick Boylan, Adam Harrington, Jon Solberg, Innocent Eyoh, Bridget Rief, Matt Fyten, Peter Dahlberg, Danny McCullough, Ken Ashfeld, Paul Oehme, Michael Thompson, Kim Lindquist, Robert Ellis, Jim Kosluchar, Jenifer Hager, Paul Mogush, Paul Kurtz

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Freese at 9:05 a.m.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

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

**3. Approval of Minutes**

It was noted that there was a mistake in the meeting minutes, which stated that MnDOT had named a new commissioner. The appointment was a new deputy commissioner. The meeting minutes were adjusted to reflect this correction. A motion to approve the January 8, 2020 TAC minutes with the correction was made by Ms. Mitteco and seconded by Mr. Isaacson. Motion carried.

**4. TAB Report**

TAB Coordinator Elaine Koutsoukos reported on the January 15, 2020 TAB meeting.

**5. Committee Reports**

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

Chair Freese reported that the Committee met to discuss items on the TAC agenda.

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

**a) 2020-06: Program Year Extension – St. Louis Park**

Mr. Oehme presented this item, explaining that the City of St. Louis Park is requesting to push back the program year for the CSAH 25/Beltline Pedestrian Improvement project from fiscal year 2020 to 2021. This project was funded in part with funds received from the 2016 Regional Solicitation. The extension is required due to delays in the Southwest Light Rail Transit extension, to which the CSAH 25/Beltline Pedestrian Improvement project will connect.

Mr. Isaacson made a motion to recommend approval of the program year extension request, seconded by Mr. Eyoh. Motion carried.

**b) 2020-07: Program Year Extension – Richfield**

Mr. Oehme presented this item. The City of Richfield is requesting a program year extension for the 77<sup>th</sup> Street extension and MN 77 bridge project from fiscal year 2020 to fiscal year 2021. This project received \$7 million from the 2016 Regional Solicitation and includes a new roadway connection to 77<sup>th</sup> Street, four new bridges along MN 77 and two ramps between MN 77 and I-494. Mr. Oehme explained that the city is requesting an extension in order to fill a funding gap. The city is hopeful that state bonding funds will fill the funding gap.

A motion to recommend approval of the program year extension request was made by Ms. Rief and seconded by Mr. MacPherson. Motion carried.

**c) 2020-08: Program Year Extension – Dakota County**

Mr. Oehme explained that Dakota County is requesting a program year extension for the CSAH 86 reconstruction project from 2020 to 2021. This project received \$4.2 million from the 2016 Regional Solicitation and includes a reconstruction and widening of the shoulders along CSAH 86. The extension is necessary due to delays stemming from working with railroad officials on a railroad crossing.

A motion to recommend approval of the program year extension request was made by Mr. Solberg and seconded by Mr. Kosluchar. Motion carried.

**d) 2020-05: Streamlined TIP Amendment Policy**

Mr. Oehme provided background on this item. He explained that there is a current process in place to streamline requests for a TIP amendment. This process was intended to reduce the amount of time and number of meetings required to approve “routine” TIP amendments. In the current process, the TAC Executive Committee approves requests to streamline TIP amendments, which are subsequently moved to TAB. This serves to eliminate of month of time on the processing of routine TIP amendments.

The current process has been in place since 2014, and an update to the process is proposed in due to changes in Regional Solicitation criteria, the fact that the Twin Cities is now in attainment for carbon monoxide, and due to feedback from members of the TAB. Key changes to the streamlining process include moving requests directly to TAC and eliminating the Funding and Programming Committee decision process.

A motion to recommend approval of the new Streamlined TIP Amendment Policy was made by Mr. Eyoh and seconded by Mr. Isaacson. Motion carried.

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

**a) 2040 TPP Update Work – Chapter 14: Work Program**

Ms. Lucke presented this item, reminding the Committee that an update to the TPP is required in order to properly align the document with changes to the Regional Development Guide and meet federal requirements regarding update frequency. TAC Planning is helping guide this process and will provide feedback as the document is updated.

Ms. Vennewitz of MTS presented the Work Program chapter to the committee. This chapter outlines the short and longer-term work items that will help inform the update of the TPP. She outlined the TPP planning process, investment principles, regional challenges that the TPP will address, and overall goals

of the TPP. Ms. Vennewitz continued by outlining some of the specific studies proposed in the Work Program chapter.

The TAC discussed the Work Program chapter and provided feedback on other work that could be considered in the future.

## **6. Special Agenda Items**

### **1. Pathways to Decarbonizing Transportation (Amanda Smith, MPCA)**

Amanda Smith of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) presented on the pathways to decarbonizing transportation and adopting clean car standards for the State of Minnesota. Ms. Smith noted that transportation is now the leading contributor to carbon dioxide emissions in the state. She continued by outlining the process MPCA is taking to help curb this problem, including stakeholder engagement, modeling, and public engagement events. Actions that were identified include improving the fuel economy of vehicles, reducing VMT, increasing the adoption of electric vehicles, and using cleaner electricity. The funding of infrastructure required to support electric vehicles is critical in reducing greenhouse gases in the future.

## **7. Agency Reports**

Ms. Rief noted that MSP had a record passenger year in 2019. MSP is continuing its remodeling and construction efforts, which will help to accommodate the increased number of passengers.

Mr. Solberg provided an update on behalf of MnDOT. He noted that the program year 2024-2025 Highway Safety Improvement Program notification for application was recently released.

Mr. Eyoh of MPCA announced the Minnesota GreenCorps application deadline was March 18 of 2020. Additional information is available on the MPCA website.

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

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Eyoh and seconded by Mr. Harrington. The meeting was adjourned at 10:56 am.

### **Prepared by:**

David Burns