
*Transportation Advisory Board
of the Metropolitan Council*

**Minutes of a Meeting of the
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, December 2, 2020
9:00 A.M.**

Members Present: Lisa Freese, Lyndon Robjent, Gina Mitteco, Chad Ellos, Brian Isaacson, Emily Jorgensen, Steve Bot, Elaine Koutsoukos, Steve Peterson, Michael Larson, Adam Harrington, Jon Solberg, Innocent Eyoh, Bridget Rief, Matt Fyten, Peter Dahlberg, Danny McCullough, Karl Keel, Ken Ashfeld, Anne Kane, Paul Oehme, Michael Thompson, Kim Lindquist, Jim Kosluchar, Jenifer Hager, Paul Mogush, Bill Dermody, Paul Kurtz, Kevin Roggenbuck

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Freese at approximately 9:00 a.m. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was held via video conference.

2. Approval of Agenda

The Committee approved the agenda with no changes. Therefore, no vote was needed.

3. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the November 4, 2020, TAC minutes was made by Mr. Isaacson and seconded by Mr. Solberg. Motion carried.

(Meeting minutes for the March 4, 2020, minutes will be presented for approval at a future committee meeting.)

4. TAB Report

TAB Coordinator Ms. Koutsoukos provided a summary of the November 18, 2020, meeting.

5. Committee Reports

1. Executive Committee (Lisa Freese, Chair)

a) TAC Nominating Committee Report

Chair Freese said that the topic of the upcoming TAC chair was discussed. Mr. Isaacson thanked Chair Freese for her service as chair and reported that the nominating committee supports the appointment of Jon Solberg as the incoming chair. Chair Freese said that since the nominating committee members were unanimous, no vote was needed. She added that historically there is a rotation among agencies, cities, and counties and that it is the agencies' "turn" in the rotation. She added that Mr. Solberg will be appointing a vice chair along with chairs of the Planning and Funding & Programming Committees and invited members to express interest in those positions.

2. TAC Action Items

a) 2020-40: 2021-2024 Streamlined tip Amendment for MnDOT: MN 316 Reconstruction

Mr. Barbeau said that this TIP amendment request is to reduce the project length, increase the cost, and change the scope from a mill-and-overlay to a full reconstruction for MnDOT's Highway 316 project in Dakota County.

Mr. Robjent asked about whether the GO bonds included in the project will be used on the trunk highway or only on the local roads. Mr. Solberg replied that the GO bonds are being used on the local eligible roads.

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

3. Planning Committee (Kevin Roggenbuck, Chair)

a) 2020-37: Metropolitan Airports Commission 2021-2027 Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

This item was presented by Mr. Roggenbuck. He said that the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) held a public hearing on November 2 and that COVID-19 has led to the delay of some projects. The Planning Committee unanimously moved the item to TAC.

A motion to recommend approval of the MAC CIP was made by Mr. Isaacson and seconded by Mr. Solberg. Motion carried.

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

a) 2020-38: 2020 Highway Safety Improvement Program Project Selection

This item was introduced by Mr. Oehme. He explained that MnDOT has approved 25 projects through its Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) solicitation and is asking for TAB approval. Mr. Peterson reported that MnDOT Metro District selects the projects and that one project in Chisago County is not part of TAB's approval. He stated that the proposed program includes reactive and proactive projects with the former being projects responding to crash histories. He said that the Funding & Programming Committee suggested the addition of a reactive project in Woodbury be added to the selected projects to provide for overprogramming.

Mr. Isaacson asked whether TAC can suggest that MnDOT overprogram by the amount needed to include the Woodbury project in the program. Mr. Solberg said that MnDOT Metro District would be willing to accept overprogramming of roughly ten percent.

Mr. Ellos asked how the Woodbury project in the reactive list was chosen for overprogramming as opposed to the Hennepin County project from the proactive list. Mr. Peterson said that this was a recommendation from the scoring committee since the selected projects went further down the proactive list than the reactive list. He added that the small scoring gap from the bottom funded reactive project to the Woodbury project may have been a factor.

A motion to recommend approval of the request, including the programming of the Woodbury project (application R26) was made by Mr. Robjent and seconded by Ms. Mitteco. Motion carried.

b) 2020-39: 2020 Regional Solicitation Funding Scenario Options

This item was introduced by Mr. Oehme, who said that the Funding & Programming Committee focused on the scenario (scenario 1B) selected by TAB prior to the meeting. This scenario was selected based on TAB's desire to fund a project in every county and not skip any projects to get to a lower-scoring project. TAB's interest in funding more bicycle and pedestrian projects also played a role. He added that several comments were generated for consideration. Mr. Peterson shared that Metro Transit will be returning roughly \$4.5 million from an older project and that TAB wants to defer any decisions on that funding until after the Regional Solicitation is programmed. Oehme added that geographic balance needs better definition.

Mr. Solberg said that MnDOT is only able to contribute \$10 million in each of the two program years.

Mr. Robjent suggested that the two partially funded projects should have priority for getting any additional funds until they are fully funded.

A motion to recommend funding of scenario 1B was made by Mr. Solberg and seconded by Mr. Eyoh. Motion carried.

6. Special Agenda Items

No items.

7. Agency Reports

Mr. Solberg of MnDOT said that the Statewide Pedestrian System Plan is due to go out for a 30-day public comment period on December 15. He also said that the freight program recommendations are currently with MnDOT's Executive Leadership Team and will hopefully be released in December.

Mr. Eyoh of MPCA reported on the availability of \$170,000 in funding available to install up to 22 level 2 electric vehicle charging stations. He added that MPCA is still working on a cost/benefit analysis for rulemaking on Clean Cars Minnesota and is anticipating publishing a draft rule and related information this fall. MPCA staff is also completing climate work and encouraging people to sign up for emails and take a survey on climate change. If TAC is interested in a presentation on climate/subclimate, MPCA staff can provide a presentation.

Mr. Bot reported that Andrew Witter will be replacing him as the 7W representative. Steve Voss from MnDOT District 3 requested the expediency of a TIP amendment request for which the deadline was missed. Chair Freese suggested that the TAC Executive Committee could review the project for the streamlined process and forward to TAB, which would follow the old streamlined TIP amendment process. Mr. Voss said that the inability to have TAB approval in January would cause the project to miss its letting date. Members generally agreed to allow the TIP amendment request to follow the old process.

Mr. Peterson reported that a safety group examined the safety performance targets in the region. The group will be discussing the targets at a meeting on December 18. If members want to attend, they are welcome to.

As incoming chair, Mr. Solberg reminded members to make sure that they have the right members representing their agencies and to alert Council staff of changes. He added his interest in hearing from people interested in chairing the TAC Planning and Funding & Programming Committees along with serving as TAC vice chair.

8. Other Business and Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Koutsoukos and seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Prepared by:

Joe Barbeau