
*Transportation Advisory Board
of the Metropolitan Council*

**Minutes of a Meeting of the
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, March 3, 2021
9:00 A.M.**

Members Present: Jon Solberg, Joe MacPherson, Lyndon Robjent, Erin Laberee, Chad Ellos, Brian Isaacson, Emily Jorgensen, Andrew Witter, Elaine Koutsoukos, Cole Hiniker, Michael Larson, Innocent Eyoh, Bridget Rief, Andrew Emanuele, Matt Fyten, Peter Dahlberg, Danny McCullough, Ken Ashfeld, Charlie Howley, Paul Oehme, Danny McCullough, Michael Thompson, Robert Ellis, Jim Kosluchar, Jenifer Hager, Paul Mogush, Bill Dermody, Paul Kurtz

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Solberg at 9:03 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

The minutes of the February 3, 2021 meeting were presented to the Committee for consideration. A motion to approve the February minutes was made by Mr. Isaacson and seconded by Mr. MacPherson. 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 February 17, 2021 meeting. Ms. Koutsoukos reported that the TAB will spend the next few meetings focusing on equity. She invited TAC members to listen in on the conversation should they be interested.

5. Committee Reports

1. Executive Committee (Jon Solberg, Chair)

Chair Solberg reported that the Executive Committee met prior to the meeting. The Committee reviewed items on the agenda and discussed the potential need to formalize a group to advise TAB and TAC on bicycle and pedestrian issues. The formation of this group would necessitate a change to the TAC bylaws. Chair Solberg noted that such a change could potentially be brought forth in the upcoming months.

2. TAC Action Items

a) 2021-13: 2021-2024 Streamlined TIP Amendment for MnDOT: MN 95 Drainage Repair

Mr. Barbeau of MTS Planning presented this item, noting that MnDOT was requesting an amendment to the 2021-2024 TIP to increase the project length and cost for a drainage project on Minnesota Highway 95. The overall project length will increase from 1.5 miles to 9.6 miles. Overall, the total project cost will increase by approximately \$200,000. These additional costs will be provided entirely by the state

A motion to recommend approval of the TIP amendment was made by Mr. MacPherson and seconded by Mr. Eyoh. Motion carried.

b) 2021-14: 2021-2024 Streamlined TIP Amendment for MnDOT: FTA Section 5310, Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities

Mr. Barbeau presented this item, which was requested by MnDOT. Mr. Barbeau explained that MnDOT was awarded Section 5310 funding from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for work on the Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities program. The TIP amendment will include two additional projects funded by the FTA award and MnDOT funds.

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

3. Planning Committee (Emily Jorgensen, Chair)

a) 2021-12: Federal Performance Measure Adoption

TAC Planning Chair Jorgensen introduced Dave Burns of MTS Planning, who presented the item to the Committee. Mr. Burns explained that as the region's MPO, the Council is required to adopt performance measure targets and monitor the region's progress towards meeting the set targets. The targets under consideration were associated with bridge/pavement condition, travel time reliability, and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ). The Council has the option to either agree to plan and program projects that contribute to the targets set by MnDOT or commit to a quantifiable target for the metropolitan planning area. The adoption of these targets is required by March 31st of 2021.

Mr. Burns recommended the following actions:

- To concur with the adopted MnDOT pavement/bridge interstate targets and non-interstate NHS bridge target.
- To set a specific metro area target for non-interstate NHS pavement in good and poor condition.
- To set system reliability performance targets specific to the metro area.
- To concur with the adopted CMAQ targets.

As the targets were based on 2019 data, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic was not accounted for. Mr. Burns explained that this may have the effect of the targets being significantly different than the actual conditions but noted that the targets will be updated again in 2023.

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

4. Funding and Programming Committee (Michael Thompson, Chair)

No items.

6. Information Items

1. Regional Solicitation Feedback and Preparation

Mr. Barbeau of MTS Planning presented this item, which focused on surveys and a sensitivity analysis performed to help assess the 2020 Regional Solicitation. He noted that the surveys were provided to applicants, scorers, and members of TAB, TAC, and TAC Funding and Programming. Major themes that came about from the survey included funding categorization for bike/ped bridges, a lack of clarity on how applications are scored; and the time and cost to complete an application. Some respondents felt the need for more prescriptive scoring guidance and a need to examine the functionality of the measures introduced in the 2020 Regional Solicitation.

Mr. Barbeau continued by discussing the results of the sensitivity analysis. Overall, the analysis showed that the measures that have a higher potential point value have a larger impact on the scoring. Few measures have a significant impact on their own and some measures had minimal impact in several of the application categories. Issues that should be considered prior to the 2022 Regional Solicitation include the Unique Projects category, geographic balance, whether bike/ped bridges should be a separate category, and an evaluation of the effectiveness of the new measures.

2. Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan 2022 Update

Hally Turner, Policy Planning Director of MnDOT, presented this item. Ms. Turner provided an overview of the update of the Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan (SMTP), the areas that will be of particular focus, and how MnDOT will engage the public in the update process. The SMTP is informed by the Minnesota GO 50-year vision and focuses on how the state will achieve the long-term vision. It includes overarching objectives, strategies, and performance measures for all modes. The 2022 update will concentrate in particular on six topic areas: aging infrastructure, climate change, the economy, equity, transportation options, and safety.

Public engagement will be an area of emphasis in the development of the plan. MnDOT will partner with community organizations to host virtual meetings and conversations and use the Minnesota GO website for greater engagement and to reach out to diverse audiences.

3. RBTN Bikeway Facility Guidelines and Measures Study

Steve Elmer of MTS Planning presented this item, which provided an overview of the Regional Bicycle Transportation Network (RBTN) Bikeway Facility Guidelines and Measures study. The study stems in part from the desire of local agencies to have more opportunities to submit RBTN changes for consideration. The study will develop a new process to allow for more significant RBTN changes and develop flexible measures to evaluate the proposed need in a variety of contexts.

Mr. Elmer noted that the study will consist of two phases: the development of quantitative measures and the development of bikeway facility types for the RBTN. The latter will provide guidance on RBTN treatments that may be most appropriate for urban, suburban, and rural areas of the region. The study will be informed by the RBTN guiding principles and will include measures addressing corridor spacing, directness, connectivity, equity and proximity to new major developments. Phase two of the study is anticipated to be complete later in 2021.

7. Agency Reports

Ms. Rief of MAC noted that passenger volume is up from previous months and outlined some the improvements to terminal one.

Chair Solberg provided an update on behalf of MnDOT. He noted that highway user tax revenue funds were down slightly compared to the forecast. He also noted that the snowplow naming contest was complete and the results were announced.

8. Other Business and Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:57 a.m.

Prepared by:

Dave Burns