
*Transportation Advisory Board
of the Metropolitan Council*

**Minutes of a Meeting of the
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, May 5, 2021
9:00 A.M.**

Members Present: Jon Solberg, Brian Isaacson, Joe MacPherson, Lyndon Robjent, Erin Laberee, Chad Ellos, Lisa Freese, Emily Jorgensen, Andrew Witter, Elaine Koutsoukos, Steve Peterson, Michael Larson, Innocent Eyoh, Bridget Rief, Andrew Emanuele, Matt Fyten, Praveena Pidaparathi, Danny McCullough, Karl Keel, Michael Thompson, Ken Ashfeld, Charlie Howley, Paul Oehme, 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 9:02 a.m. Due to the ongoing 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 April 7, 2021 meeting were presented to the Committee for consideration. A motion to approve the April minutes was made by Ms. Koutsoukos and seconded by Mr. Isaacson. 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 April 21, 2021 meeting. Ms. Koutsoukos reported that the region will receive \$20 million in federal COVID-19 relief funding; TAB will make decisions on how these funds will be distributed in the region over the coming months. Ms. Koutsoukos also provided an update on a temporary work group focused on developing the Unique Projects category of the Regional Solicitation, who will meet every two weeks starting in late April.

5. Committee Reports

1. Executive Committee (Jon Solberg, TAC Chair)

Chair Solberg reported that the Executive Committee met prior to the meeting. Discussion topics included agenda items, the Regional Solicitation funding categories and ranges, and TAC bylaws.

2. TAC Action Items

a) 2021-18: Four Streamlined 2021-2024 TIP Amendments

Mr. Barbeau of MTS Planning presented this item, which consisted of four amendments to the 2021-2024 TIP submitted by MnDOT. All proposed amendments reflect the 2022-2025 draft TIP, which is anticipated to be adopted over the next few months. The requested TIP amendments were:

- add a bridge to, and expand the scope of, MnDOT's MN 55 bridge rehabilitation project (SP # 1909-99);
- add a bridge to, and expand the scope of, MnDOT's MN 55 bridge re-decking project (SP # 2724-124);
- add the removal of a free right-turn to MnDOT's I-694/Silver Lake Road ramp signal replacement project (SP # 6285-160); and
- add a traffic management system project on MN 610 (SP # 2771-177).

Mr. Barbeau provided the Committee with background information on the projects and explained the need for the amendments, which is to assure that the projects in the 2021-24 TIP reflect the draft 2022-25 TIP in case they are obligated prior to federal approval of the latter. A motion to recommend adoption of the amendments to the 2021-2024 TIP was made by Mr. Isaacson and seconded by Mr. Ellis. Motion carried.

3. Planning Committee (Emily Jorgensen, Chair)

No items for discussion.

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

No items for discussion.

6. Information Items

1. Pedestrian Safety Action Plan Update

Heidi Schallberg of MTS Planning provided an overview and update of the Pedestrian Safety Action Plan, which was initiated by the Council in summer of 2020. Ms. Schallberg explained that the goal of the study is to end pedestrian deaths and serious injuries along roadways in the region, using a safety systems framework. The approach is data-driven and looks at both crash history within the region as well as systemic risk factors. Desired outcomes of the study include a risk assessment map for the region, a prioritization metric for Regional Solicitation funding, and countermeasures for key crash patterns seen within the region. A key principle of the study is to ensure equity is incorporated into the analysis.

Ms. Schallberg continued by explaining that transportation infrastructure is the key to ensuring the safety of pedestrians in the region. Key findings thus far include that while Hennepin and Ramsey counties had the most crashes, the severity of crashes is higher in the suburban counties. Many of the most severe crashes occur near transit stops due to the exposure of pedestrians to vehicular traffic. Severe pedestrian crashes occur disproportionately on the region's minor arterial roadway network, which represent only 14% of the network but account for 64% of the severe crashes. Black and Native people are also disproportionately harmed by pedestrian crashes in the region.

2. Regional Truck Corridors Update Process

Steve Elmer of MTS Planning presented this item. Mr. Elmer explained that a Regional Truck Highway Corridor Study was conducted in 2017 and included all principal and minor arterials within the region.

Highways were included as a regional truck corridor if they either had an average of 300 or more trucks per day or an average of 200 trucks per day and at least 10% of the total traffic along the corridor was truck traffic. Corridors were prioritized based upon the truck volume and proximity to freight clusters and terminals.

Since the time of the study, additional data has become available. This includes data from MnDOT on heavy commercial average annual daily traffic (HCAADT) and estimates from the StreetLight InSight platform. As a result of this, agencies will have the option to propose a re-assessment of an existing corridor, a new regional truck corridor, or the inclusion of a planned or newly constructed freight facility. Mr. Elmer continued by outlining the update process, noting that it will be presented in time for incorporation into the 2022 Regional Solicitation.

3. Regional Solicitation: Funding Categories and Ranges

Steve Peterson of MTS Planning presented this item. Mr. Peterson noted that it is likely that there will be two more Regional Solicitation cycles (2022 and 2024) before major changes are made. Thus, many of the changes that staff will be recommended are incremental in nature. Based on surveys on the 2020 Regional Solicitation, the maximum and minimum awards and the application categories could be considered for improvement. Increasing the maximum award would allow funding for larger, more regional projects, but at the expense of funding fewer projects. Mr. Peterson noted that the Funding and Programming Committee preferred greater guidance on the funding categories as opposed to the addition of new categories to the 2022 Regional Solicitation. This item will be brought back to TAC at a future date for consideration and potential action.

4. TAC Subgroups and Bylaws

Cole Hiniker of MTS Planning presented this item. Mr. Hiniker noted that the two factors have initiated a potential change to the TAC bylaws: the work by the Bicycle and Pedestrian Working Group and its role providing technical expertise in the RBTN process and the need, as identified in the Council's TMA certification review, for additional outreach to the Suburban Transit Providers. He suggested that a committee form to explore adding these two groups as official committees of the TAB, similar to the role the TAC Planning and TAC Funding and Programming committees serve. Chair Solberg also noted that there are other adjustments to the bylaws that could be considered. Chair Solberg requested volunteers from TAC to participate on committee that will be charged with updating the bylaws.

7. Agency Reports

Chair Solberg provided an update on the RAISE federal solicitation program. Any interested cities and counties should contact MnDOT in order to receive the required letter of support. Chair Solberg also noted that the Transportation and Economic Development (TED) program will be soliciting for projects over the coming months.

Mr. Hiniker noted that the Unique Projects working group had its first meeting recently and will be meeting again the following Friday. He invited TAC members to attend if interested.

Mr. Eyoh provided an update on Clean Cars Minnesota, who will issue an updated report on Friday, May 7th.

8. Other Business and Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

Prepared by:

Dave Burns