
*Transportation Advisory Board
of the Metropolitan Council*

**Minutes of a Meeting of the
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, January 5, 2022
9:00 A.M.**

Members Present: Jon Solberg, Joe MacPherson, Lyndon Robjent, Erin Laberee, Chad Ellos, Brian Isaacson, Lisa Freese, Lyssa Leitner, Elaine Koutsoukos, Steve Peterson, Michael Larson, Adam Harrington, Bridget Rief, Mehjabeen Rahman, Andrew Emanuele, Matt Fyten, Praveena Pidaparathi, Danny McCullough, Karl Keel, Ken Ashfeld, Charlie Howley, Michael Thompson, Marc Culver, Jim Kosluchar, Jenifer Hager, Jim Voll, 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. Chair Solberg introduced Charles Carlson, the new Executive Director of MTS.

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 December 1, 2021, meeting was presented to the Committee for consideration. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Freese and seconded by Mr. Isaacson. Motion carried.

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

4. TAB Report

TAB Coordinator Ms. Koutsoukos provided a summary of the December 15, 2021 TAB meeting.

5. Committee Reports

1. Executive Committee (Jon Solberg, TAC Chair)

Chair Solberg reported that the Executive Committee met prior to the TAC meeting. The committee discussed the details of items on the agenda as well as future TAC items, including forthcoming scenario planning workshops.

2. TAC Action Items

a. 2022-07: Streamlined 2022-2025 TIP Amendment for MnDOT: US 61 Bridge Wearing Course Replacement in Hastings

Joe Barbeau of MTS presented this item, which would add a project on the US 61 bridge in Hastings to replace the wearing course. The project is not funded by the Regional Solicitation.

Mr. Isaacson made a motion to recommend approval of the item. Seconded by Mr. Keel. Motion carried.

3. Planning Committee (Emily Jorgensen, Chair)

a. 2022-02: Proposed 2022 Regional Safety Targets Recommendations

This item was presented by MTS staff Heidi Schallberg and Jed Hanson. Ms. Schallberg and Mr. Hanson outlined both the process for which the required federal targets were determined for the upcoming year as well as the proposed targets. The targets were determined in coordination with a safety performance working group and follow the methodology established in 2020 for the 2021 targets.

The Committee discussed the recent increase in fatal and serious injury crashes in the region and noted that safety needs to be a focal point in the planning process. Ms. Schallberg outlined a regional safety study that the Council will begin in 2022.

A motion to recommend acceptance of the regional safety targets was made by Mr. Dermody and seconded by Mr. Larson. Motion carried.

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

a. 2022-03: Scope Change Request for Hennepin County CSAH 158 (Vernon Avenue) Bridge Replacement

Mr. Thompson introduced Joe Barbeau of MTS, who presented this item. Mr. Barbeau explained that Hennepin County received \$7 million in funds to replace the Vernon Avenue Bridge in Edina. The county is requesting a minor change in scope, which will not impact funding.

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

b. 2022-04: Program Year Extension Request: Blaine 99th Avenue/Baltimore Street Roundabout

Mr. Barbeau presented this item. The City of Blaine is requesting a program year extension from 2022 to 2023 to better coordinate with TH 65 improvements. This is allowed under current policy.

A motion to recommend approval of the item was made by Mr. Culver and seconded by Mr. MacPherson. Motion carried.

c. 2022-05: Scope Change/TIP Amendment Request for Hennepin County CSAH 42 and CSAH 3 Signal Revisions and Pedestrian Improvements

Mr. Barbeau presented this item, explaining that Hennepin County was awarded \$828,000 in HSIP funds for 2022 to fund pedestrian improvements at five intersections. The county has requested removing one of the five intersections to fund it as part of a different project with no federal reduction.

A motion to recommend approval of the item was made by Mr. Keel and seconded by Mr. Ashfeld. Motion carried.

6. Information Items

a. Corridors of Commerce Selection Process

Patrick Weidemann from MnDOT presented the information item. He outlined the changes MnDOT is recommending for changes to the Corridors of Commerce selection process. Recommended changes

include a new step in the project evaluation process intended to increase local stakeholder participation and a grouping of all the projects received by their Area Transportation Partnership (ATP) boundaries. Each ATP would then select up to three projects to advance to the scoring phase, and all other projects dropped from consideration.

For the metro area, projects would be reviewed by the TAB, who will recommend up to 10 projects to advance. Only these ten projects would be scored, with the remainder removed from consideration. Overall, 50% of Corridors of Commerce funds would be distributed to projects in the metro area and 50% would be for Greater Minnesota projects. MnDOT also proposed the creation of a new Small Projects program in Greater Minnesota for projects under \$10 million in cost.

The Committee asked for some clarification on the proposed changes and when these changes may be adopted.

b. Transportation Advisory Committee Bylaws

Joe Barbeau of MTS updated the Committee on proposed changes to the TAC bylaws. The more significant changes include a proposal to change the TAC from 32 members to 34, decreasing the term of the chair from three years to two, and establishing a specialized Bicycle/Pedestrian Planning Technical Working Group.

c. Update on Regional Bicycle Transportation Network and Regional Bicycle Barrier Comments

Steve Elmer of MTS presented this item, noting a correction to an RBTN alignment in Scott County, and summarized the public comments received about the process and infrastructure needs.

d. Scenario Planning Workshops

Dan Markel of Community Development gave a brief overview of the upcoming Scenario Planning Workshops that will be hosted by the Council. These workshops aim to discuss issues of regional importance and will inform work by the Council over the next few years. An update will be provided in the upcoming months.

7. Agency Updates

None.

8. Other Business and Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:03.

Prepared by:

Dave Burns