

Minutes

TAB Technical Advisory Committee



Meeting Date: July 5, 2022

Time: 9:00 AM

Location: Virtual

Members Present:

- Jon Solberg, Chair, MnDOT
- Joe MacPherson, Anoka Co
- Lyndon Robjent, Carver Co
- Erin Laberee, Dakota Co
- Brian Isaacson, Vice Chair, Ramsey Co
- Chad Ellos, Hennepin Co
- Lisa Freese, Scott Co
- Emily Jorgensen, Washington Co
- Andrew Witter, 7W

- Karl Keel, Bloomington
- Charlie Howley, Chanhassen
- Robert Ellis, Eden Prairie
- Jim Kosluchar, Fridley
- Paul Oehme, Lakeville
- Ken Ashfeld, Maple Grove
- Marcus Culver, Roseville
- Michael Thompson, Plymouth
- Jenifer Hager, Minneapolis
- Jim Voll, Minneapolis
- Paul Kurtz, Saint Paul
- Bill Dermody, Saint Paul

- Steve Peterson, Council MTS
- Patrick Boylan, Council CD
- Elaine Koutsoukos, TAB
- Innocent Eyoh, MPCA
- Bridget Rief, MAC
- Matt Fyten, STA
- Cyndi Harper, Metro Transit
- Praveena Pidaparathi, MnDOT
- Colleen Eddy, DEED
- Vacant, MN DNR
- Danny McCullough, Bicycle
- Vacant, Pedestrian
- Andrew Emanuele (ex-officio)

= present

Call to Order

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Solberg called the regular meeting of the TAB Technical Advisory Committee to order at about 9:00 a.m.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Ashfeld and seconded by Isaacson to approve the minutes of the June 1, 2022, regular meeting of the TAB Technical Advisory Committee. **Motion carried.**

Public Comment on Committee Business

None.

TAB Report

Koutsoukos reported on the June 15, 2022, TAB meeting.

Business – Committee Reports

Executive Committee (Jon Solberg, Chair)

The Executive Committee did not meet prior to the TAC meeting.

Planning Committee/TPP Technical Working Group (Emily Jorgensen, Chair)

The TAC Planning Committee did not meet. The TPP Technical Working Group has not met since the last update at TAC. Chair Jorgensen will be leaving her position and will be replaced as chair of TAC Planning and the TPP Technical Working Group and Lyssa Leitner will represent Washington County on TAC.

Funding & Programming (Michael Thompson, Chair)

Chair Thompson reported that the Funding & Programming Committee did not meet and June.

Information

1. [Minnesota State Highway Investment Plan](#) (Josh Pearson, MnDOT)

Josh Pearson and Brad Utecht, MnDOT, provided an update on MnDOT's 20-Year State Highway Investment Plan (MnSHIP).

Isaacson asked how MnSHIP relates to the MnDOT Metro District planning efforts and the Transportation Policy Program (TPP). Utecht said that MnDOT's statewide investment direction is translated to the Metro District investment direction through the ten-year Capital Highway Investment Program (CHIP). He added that there is a district-level corridor-based planning effort that will inform the process.

Peterson asked when the new guidance takes effect. Pearson said that it will take effect in fiscal year 2027 to defer to currently programmed TIP projects. Peterson expressed appreciation for the discussion on electric vehicles. Pearson said that a state law disallowing state road construction funding to be spent on electric vehicle charging in right-of-way eliminated the option of including charging stations at rest areas.

2. [Regional Feedback on 2023 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act \(IIJA\) Funds](#)

Peterson provided background on the increase in federal funding through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). Isaacson asked how prioritization of 2023 funds should occur. Peterson replied that MnDOT Metro State Aid uses the Federal Funding Reallocation Policy to guide the distribution of funds. Regarding future years such as 2024, several applicants from the 2020 Regional Solicitation said they can accept early money. Isaacson asked whether project type or category would be a factor. Peterson said that the modal ranges would extend to all the funds, including the upcoming Regional Solicitation. Koutsoukos added that it is more likely that selecting projects to take early money will be a function of what projects are able to start early. She suggested that risk assessment scores could be considered.

Solberg said that Greater Minnesota partners prefer to receive the 2023 funding now and asked if members had interest in MnDOT using the 2023 funding and providing the region with more funding in later years. MacPherson said that given that there are projects that can accept 2023 reimbursement, it makes sense for the region to do the same. He added that it would be complicated for MnDOT to administer if Metro District had a different approach than the others.

Hager suggested that earlier payback could help agencies with projects that are over budget.

Kosluchar said that with rising costs the 2023 and 2024 projects need funding to assure completion and asked whether funds could be provided to such projects. Koutsoukos said that in the Federal Funding Reallocation Policy, this is the last option for using current year projects and is not even included as an option for future year projects. Robjent added that it is important to follow the policy.

Peterson said that the carbon reduction funds will be discussed this fall. An undecided amount of funding will be distributed to the MPO.

Robjent said that funding inflation, as was done in past Regional Solicitations, could be done again. Koutsoukos said that this is a decision made at the time of project award.



Other Business

Solberg said that MnDOT has a new commissioner, Nancy Daubenberger, and a new deputy commissioner, Jean Wallace.

Eyoh said that an air pollution reduction grant is still open to tribes, small businesses, non-profits, and government agencies with a maximum award of \$25,000 and a 25% match. The application deadline is July 27. He added that the heavy-duty electric vehicle applications to replace diesel engines on large vehicles with a total of \$6.5 million are due on August 31.

Peterson said that the national MPO conference will be held in Minneapolis in October.

Hager said that the City of Minneapolis has positions to hire for.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned.

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