

Minutes

TAB Technical Advisory Committee



Meeting Date: February 1, 2023

Time: 9:00 AM

Location: Virtual

Members Present:

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jenifer Hager, Chair, Minneapolis | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Karl Keel, Bloomington | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> April Crockett, MnDOT |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joe MacPherson, Anoka Co | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Charlie Howley, Chanhassen | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Peterson, Council MTS |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lyndon Robjent, Carver Co | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robert Ellis, Eden Prairie | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Larson, Council CD |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Erin Laberee, Dakota Co | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim Kosluchar, Fridley | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elaine Koutsoukos, TAB |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Mareck, Ramsey Co | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paul Oehme, Lakeville | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Innocent Eyoh, MPCA |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chad Ellos, Hennepin Co | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ken Ashfeld, Maple Grove | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bridget Rief, MAC |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Craig Jenson, Scott Co | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ross Beckwith, West Saint Paul | <input type="checkbox"/> Matt Fyten, STA |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maddie Dahlheimer, Washington Co | <input type="checkbox"/> Michael Thompson, Plymouth | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adam Harrington, Metro Transit |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Andrew Witter, 7W | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kathleen Mayell, Minneapolis | <input type="checkbox"/> Praveena Pidaparathi, Freight |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nick Peterson, Saint Paul | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Colleen Eddy, DEED |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bill Dermody, Saint Paul | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant, MN DNR |
| | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kyle Sobota, Bicycle |
| | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mackenzie Turner Bargaen, Pedestrian |
| | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Josh Pearson, FHWA (ex-officio) |
| | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> = present |

Call to Order

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Hager called the regular meeting of the TAB Technical Advisory Committee at 9:03 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 Koutsoukos and seconded by MacPherson to approve the minutes of the January 4, 2023, regular meeting of the TAB Technical Advisory Committee. **Motion carried.**

Public Comment on Committee Business

None.

TAB Report

Koutsoukos reported on the January 18, 2023, Transportation Advisory Board meeting.

Business – Committee Reports

Executive Committee (Jenifer Hager, Chair)

Chair Hager reported that the TAC Executive Committee met prior to the meeting and discussed agenda items along with the scope change policy. She requested that the TAC Funding & Programming Committee examine the policy, particularly regarding the recent history of allotting all federal funds to applicants removing project elements, and recommend any updates that it sees fit. There was also discussion on performance measures.

1. [2023-13: Streamlined 2023-2026 TIP Amendment: Three New Projects](#)

Barbeau provided a brief overview of the streamlined TIP amendment process. Streamlined TIP amendment requests are deemed to be routine enough to not be brought to the Funding & Programming Committee and to be on consent at TAB. For an amendment to be streamlined, it cannot be regionally significant and it cannot involve a scope change to a Regional Solicitation project. Most TIP amendment requests are streamlined.

Barbeau said that the requested action involves adding three new projects to the TIP:

1. The Metropolitan Council's Travel Behavior Inventory (TBI) funds were originally in the 2022-2026 TIP for 2022 as Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program funds but were transferred to FTA prior to the end of state fiscal year 2022.
2. The City of Burnsville requests the addition of funding for preliminary engineering on its TH 13 / Nicollet Avenue intersection grade separation project recently awarded funding through the Regional Solicitation. The funding for this effort is federal funding not connected to the Regional Solicitation.
3. MnDOT requests addition of a new project line to accommodate early development of crossover construction and drainage for its MN 65 pavement rehabilitation project. Funding is through the National Highway Performance Program, which is not programmed through the Regional Solicitation. Funding would be accommodated by an equal reduction in the primary project.

Motion by MacPherson and seconded by Ashfeld to recommend that the Transportation Advisory Board recommend adoption of an amendment to the 2023-2026 TIP to add three projects.

Motion carried.

2. [2023-14: Streamlined 2023-2026 TIP Amendment: Three Project Changes](#)

Barbeau said that the requested action involves amending three new projects in the TIP:

1. Hennepin County requests a change to the scope of its CSAH 52 bikeway project that would un-do a TIP amended approved by the Council at its 11/30/2022 meeting. This action would add bus rapid transit (BRT) platforms to the project description and adjust total cost accordingly. A recent decision by FHWA has reversed the original ruling disallowing adjacent BRT work to be included in local federal projects. This is a Regional Solicitation project that being restored to match its original scope.
2. MnDOT requests a scope and cost reduction for its MN 62 mill-and-overlay project in Mendota Heights. The proposed project would consist of shoulder repair and guardrail installation. Funding for this project is from the National Highway Performance Program (NHPP), which is not funded through the Regional Solicitation.
3. MnDOT requests reflection of a cost increase to its US 212 rehabilitation project in Cologne to be amended into the 2023-2026 TIP. The \$4,802,000 cost increase will be covered by MnDOT and federal NHPP funding. No Regional Solicitation funds are included or proposed for this project.

Motion by Harrington and seconded by Eyoh to recommend that the Transportation Advisory Board recommend adoption of an amendment to the 2023-2026 TIP to change the cost and scope of three projects. **Motion carried.**



Planning Committee/TPP Technical Working Group (Scott Mareck, Chair)

1. [2023-07: Adoption of PM2, PM3 and CMAQ Federal Performance Measures](#)

David Burns, MTS, provided a [presentation](#) on the topic.

Eyoh mentioned that that the PM₁₀ maintenance period ended on September 24, 2022, making the Twin Cities an attainment area. Burns replied that the FHWA deadline to not have to set the targets was prior to that date so the related targets had to be set.

Mareck stated that these performance measures meet a federal requirement, adding that at a recent meeting, some members expressed concern with applying the targets to the local system and that this conversation will likely continue. He added that there may be a disconnect between Regional Solicitation investments and these performance measures.

Motion by Mareck and seconded by Oehme to recommend that the Transportation Advisory Board recommend adoption of the PM2, PM3, and CMAQ performance measure targets. **Motion carried.**

Funding & Programming (Vacant, Chair)

1. [2023-08: Program Year Extension Request: Hennepin County Midtown Greenway ADA Access](#)

Keel said that in the 2018 Regional Solicitation, Hennepin County was awarded \$1,120,000 to construct ADA-accessible access to the Midtown Greenway. The County is requesting that the project be extended to fiscal year 2024 to provide additional time for project development and outreach. Outreach was impacted by the Covid 19 pandemic and social unrest in 2020, which diminished the ways that the county could reach out to the community to build support for the project. The project scored eight points on its assessment from MnDOT Metro State Aid, exceeding the minimum score of seven for recommended approval.

Motion by Keel and seconded by Eyoh to recommend approval of Hennepin County's requested extension of its Midtown Greenway ADA access project from fiscal year 2023 to fiscal year 2024. **Motion carried.**

2. [2023-09: Program Year Extension Request: Hennepin County Vernon Avenue Bridge Replacement](#)

Keel said that in the 2018 Regional Solicitation, Hennepin County was awarded a \$7M contribution towards its replacement of the CSAH 158 (Vernon Avenue) Bridge over the Canadian Pacific Railway. The project was, and remains, programmed for fiscal year 2023. Following the 2022 Regional Solicitation award of the City of Edina's Trunk Highway 100/Vernon Avenue/50th Street interchange project, the county is requesting that its project be extended to fiscal year 2024 to align its development with development of the city's project. The project scored eight points on its assessment from MnDOT Metro State Aid, exceeding the minimum score of seven for recommended approval.

Motion by Keel and seconded by Turner Bargaen to recommend approval of Hennepin County's requested extension of its CSAH 158 (Vernon Avenue) bridge over the Canadian Pacific Railway from fiscal year 2023 to fiscal year 2024. **Motion carried.**

3. [2023-10: Program Year Extension Request: Saint Paul Kellogg Bridge Replacement](#)

Keel said that Saint Paul was awarded \$7M in the 2020 Regional Solicitation to replace the Kellogg/3rd Street Bridge from Broadway Street to Maria Avenue. The city requests that the project be extended from 2023 to 2024 after supply-chain and cost concerns. The project scored 10 points on its assessment from MnDOT Metro State Aid, exceeding the minimum score of seven for recommended approval.

Motion by Keel and seconded by Mareck to recommend approval of Saint Paul's request to extend its Kellogg Bridge replacement (SP# 164-158-028) from fiscal year 2023 to fiscal year 2024. **Motion carried.**

4. [2023-11: Scope Change Request for MnDOT TH 13 Cable Barrier Median](#)

Keel said that MnDOT was awarded \$425,250 in Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funds for 2024 in the proactive category as part of the 2020 HSIP Solicitation. The award was to fund a cable median barrier on TH 13 between Lynn Avenue and Nicollet Avenue in Burnsville. The project is currently in the TIP at \$489,600 in HSIP funds. During project development it became known that the project will be impacted by two other projects: a MnDOT I-35W paving project and a Burnsville-sponsored interchange construction at Nicollet Avenue and TH 13. Therefore, MnDOT proposes to move the eastern terminus from Nicollet Avenue to CSAH 5, reducing the project length from approximately 2.9 miles to approximately 1.6 miles. The 1.3-mile portion removed would have amounted to \$201,393 of the original estimate. Because MnDOT and the city intend to install the entire median and because the cost of the project has increased, MnDOT is requesting approval of the scope change request with retention of the original \$425,250 federal award. The staff scoring analysis indicated a low likelihood of a score change.

Motion by Keel and seconded by Oehme to recommend approval of MnDOT's scope change request to reduce the project length of its Trunk Highway 13 cable median barrier project in Burnsville with retention of the full federal award. **Motion carried.**

5. [2023-12: Scope Change Request for Saint Paul Fish Hatchery Trail Stabilization and Reconstruction](#)

Saint Paul was awarded \$2,216,800 in Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program funds for 2023 in the 2018 Regional Solicitation. The award was to fund the stabilization and reconstruction of the Fish Hatchery Trail from Battle Creek Regional Park to Warner Road near Fish Hatchery Road. Some of the trail is located beneath the embankment of US Highway 10/61, which was to be stabilized as part of the project scope. A slope failure on that embankment has damaged much of the trail. Since the time of the award, MnDOT has determined that erosion and embankment stability is a considerable concern for the highway and is budgeting for a slope correction in 2027 or 2028. MnDOT recommended that the city request a scope change to remove the slope stabilization, which makes up about \$260,000 of the project total, from the city's project.

Motion by Keel and seconded by Ellis to recommend approval of Saint Paul's scope change request to remove slope stabilization from its Fish Hatchery trail stabilization and reconstruction project. MacPherson asked whether MnDOT's project is programmed. Barbeau replied that it does not appear to be programmed, though completion of a project is intended. Koutsoukos added that the full trail will be built even with the scope change. Turner Bargaen said that the slope stabilization has been addressed through interim means and MnDOT will continue to monitor the area and ensure the appropriate scope is part of the future project and will incorporate the bicycle trail as needed. **Motion carried.**

Information

1. [ADA Transition Plan Requirements & Best Practices](#) (Dr. Yochai Eisenberg, Great Lakes ADA Center)

Heidi Schallberg, MTS, stated that MPOs are going to be asked to conduct surveys of municipal status of ADA Transition plans. She then introduced Dr. Yochai Eisenberg, who provided the presentation.

Mareck said that while ADA is incorporated into project, Ramsey County is going to consider how it can become more of an ADA leader and be more intentional on how it can incorporate ADA into planning and processes.



Keel asked whether snow removal is a factor into the research, given the temporary nature of snow as an obstruction. Eisenberg replied that it can be a factor into design, which could lead to pooling of snow and ice, though temporary barriers such as snow and construction have not been a direct part of the research. He added that there is a disabled rights organization in Chicago trying to get the city to improve snow removal through its [#PlowTheSidewalks](#) campaign.

Ellos asked when the final production of the research will be available on line, to which Eisenberg replied it will be available within the next couple of weeks.

2. [Transportation Policy Program Update](#) (Cole Hiniker, MTS)

Cole Hiniker, MTS, presented the item.

3. [Regional Solicitation Update](#) (Joe Barbeau and Steve Peterson, MTS)

Joe Barbeau and Steve Peterson, MTS, presented the item.

Mareck said that percentage of points scored by awarded projects is not consistent from category to category. He added that performance measures do not always translate to funding well, providing the example of the importance of safety not being reflected in the funding of only eight percent of roadway funding going towards Spot Mobility and Safety despite the region not meeting its safety targets.

Chair Hager echoed Mareck's comments and expressed a desire to look for ways to advance safety in the next Regional Solicitation and take a closer look at it for the 2026 re-evaluation. She added that members can reply to the questions on the final slide by contacting Steve Peterson within the next two to three weeks.

Other Business

Eyoh said that the Clean Car Minnesota rule has survived a legal challenge and will be implemented. He also stated that the US EPA has released a proposal to tighten PM 2.5 standards. The current standard is 12 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and the new standard might be between 9 and 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. EPA is still receiving comments on the proposed change and Eyoh will share a link with Barbeau to forward to members.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned.

Committee Contact:

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