

Minutes

TAB Technical Advisory Committee



Meeting Date: March 6, 2024

Time: 9:00 AM

Location: Virtual

Members Present:

- Jenifer Hager, Chair, Minneapolis
- Joe MacPherson, Anoka Co
- Lyndon Robjent, Carver Co
- Erin Laberee, Dakota Co
- Brian Isaacson, Ramsey Co
- Chad Ellos, Hennepin Co
- Craig Jenson, Scott Co
- Lyssa Leitner, Washington Co
- Andrew Witter, 7W

- Karl Keel, Bloomington
- Charlie Howley, Chanhassen
- Robert Ellis, Eden Prairie
- Jim Kosluchar, Fridley
- Paul Oehme, Lakeville
- Dan Ruiz, Brooklyn Park
- Chris Hartzell, Woodbury
- Michael Thompson, Plymouth
- Kelsey Fogt, Minneapolis
- Nick Peterson, Saint Paul
- Bill Dermody, Saint Paul
- Aaron Tag, MnDOT

- Cole Hiniker, Council MTS
- Patrick Boylan, Council CD
- Elaine Koutsoukos, TAB
- Aneka Swanson, MPCA
- Bridget Rief, MAC
- Matt Fyten, STA
- Adam Harrington, Metro Transit
- Shelly Meyer, Freight
- Colleen Eddy, DEED
- Vacant, MN DNR
- Kyle Sobota, Bicycle
- Mackenzie Turner Bargaen, Pedestrian
- Josh Pearson, FHWA (ex-officio)
- = present

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Call to Order

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Hager called the regular meeting of the TAB Technical Advisory Committee to order just after 9:00 a.m.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Isaacson and seconded by Leitner to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2024, regular meeting of the TAB Technical Advisory Committee. **Motion carried.**

During the vote, Barbeau informed members that Patrick Boylan will replace Michael Thomason as the Metropolitan Council Community Development representative and Eddy stated that she was at the February 7 meeting. Barbeau said he would add her as an attendee in the final minutes.

Public Comment on Committee Business

None.

TAB Report

Koutsoukos reported on the February 21, 2024, 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. She said that Steve Peterson, MTS, will reach out to volunteers for the Regional Solicitation Evaluation steering committee to reduce the number TAC member participants and attract participation that is broad in terms of agency type and geography. She added that other work groups will be established around the Regional Solicitation Evaluation and that 2024 Regional Solicitation scoring is wrapping up and results will be available soon.

1. [2024-13: Streamlined 2024-2027 TIP Amendment: MnDOT Robert Street Project Cost Increase and Jurisdictional Transfer](#)

Robbie King, MTS Planning, said that the amendment is needed to increase funds for MnDOT's Robert Street jurisdictional transfer to Saint Paul and move it from 2025 to 2024. He added that the motion is that the Technical Advisory Committee recommend adoption of an amendment to the 2024-2027 TIP to increase the project cost of the transfer and reassign the roadway to the City of Saint Paul. **Motion carried.**

2. [2024-14: Streamlined 2024-2027 TIP Amendment: Three New Projects](#)

King said that three new projects are included in the request: 1) a project to install new median cable barriers on MN 5 from Century Boulevard to Market Boulevard/City Road 101 and from MN 101 to Heritage Road in Chanhassen. This project encompasses 3.9 miles of MN 5 in these two sections. 2) A project to replace signal cabinets across MnDOT's Metro District. 3) A project to replace lighting at various locations on Interstate 494 and MN 55. None of the projects are funded through the Regional Solicitation.

Motion by MacPherson and seconded by Keel to recommended adoption of an amendment to 2024-2027 TIP add three new MnDOT projects:

- Add median cable barriers to two sections of MN 5 in Chanhassen;
- Districtwide signal cabinet improvements and;
- Lighting replacements on Interstate 494 and MN 55 in various locations.

Motion carried.

Planning Committee/TPP Technical Working Group (Gina Mitteco, Chair)

Mitteco said that the Planning Committee did not meet in February and that the adoption of the new Greenhouse Gas performance measure will be discussed in March. She said that the TPP Technical Working Group met in February and heard comments on several comments along with a summary of chapters being reviewed at present. In March the committee will hear comments on those chapters, hear a summary of the Work Plan chapter, and discuss the land use policy plan. Hiniker clarified that the Greenhouse Gas performance measures are not tied to the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Impact Mitigation Working Group.

Funding & Programming (Michael Thompson, Chair)

Thompson said the Committee did not meet in February. He said that he will reach out to city members for participation in the Regional Solicitation Evaluation steering committee.

Information

1. [Transportation GHG Emissions Impact Mitigation Working Group](#) (Chris Berrens and Jon Solberg, MnDOT)

Chris Berrens and Jon Solberg, MnDOT, presented.

Issacson asked whether the legislation speaks to what entity is responsible for mitigation activities. Berrens replied that the language says, “the applicable entity.” He added that MnDOT needs to establish a process that is administratively feasible.

Steve Peterson, MTS, asked if the list of mitigations/offsets can include elements from the state’s carbon reduction strategy. Berrens said that they align well with the mitigations/offsets MnDOT and the working group have identified.

Dermody asked for explanation on how induced demand is being considered along with the timeframe. Berrens replied that modeling does not forecast this well. MacPherson added that the group recommended formation of a technical oversight committee made up of various technical experts to explore new tools and technologies.

2. [2050 TPP Policies and Actions](#) (Cole Hiniker and Bethany Brandt-Sargent, MTS)

Hiniker and Bethany Brandt-Sargent, MTS, presented.

Isaacson asked what types of projects are referenced with encouragement to go beyond Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. He added that the Council’s position on ABRT contradicts this statement. Hager added that “go beyond” needs to be defined. Hiniker said that this is not Metro Transit’s plan and there may be times where Metro Transit is asked to change policy.

Isaacson asked whether “placemaking” would apply to the Regional Solicitation so that federal funds can be applied to placemaking elements. Brandt-Sargent said federal restrictions would limit the ability to fund some elements. Isaacson asked whether the policies are meant to encourage applications or if the plan would have direct impacts on the Regional Solicitation. Hiniker said that this will be hashed out in the Regional Solicitation Workgroup.

MacPherson asked for an explanation of “activate unused transportation right-of-way.” Brant-Sargent provided the example of using space under bridges and park space.

Thompson asked how on-going operations relate to the policy work in areas like healthy and safe communities, citing the example of trash at a light rail transit station. Brandt-Sargent said that research shows that bringing in soft features achieves some behavior change. She added that some policies and actions encourage materials selection to minimize vandalism. Charles Carlson, MTS, said that a review of rider survey information included that riders would feel safer at stations with a greater degree of trash removal.

Other Business

Steve Peterson said that the second Active Transportation Working Group meeting will be held on Friday, March 8. He said that other committees are still being established. He said that 2024 Regional Solicitation scores will be shared by the end of the week.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned.

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