

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD  
Metropolitan Council  
390 N. Robert St., St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-1805

Minutes of a Meeting of the  
FUNDING AND PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE  
September 19, 2013

MEMBERS PRESENT: Karl Keel (Chair), Craig Jenson, Joe Lux, Brian Isaacson, Colleen Van Wagner, Greta Alquist, Tom Johnson, Mary Karlsson, Eriks Ludens, Richard McCoy, John Sass, Jenifer Hager, Steve Albrecht, Andrew Witter, Innocent Eyoh, Susan Moe, Adam Harrington, Cynthia Wheeler, Lyndon Robjent, and Heidi Schallberg (staff)

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m.

**2. Adoption of Agenda**

The agenda was adopted as presented.

**3. Approval of the Minutes from the August 15, 2013, Meeting**

Minutes from the August meeting were approved unanimously.

**4. TAB Report**

Mary Karlsson reported on the September TAB meeting. The TAB Coordinator position posting closes on this date, and an action to ratify the hiring recommendation is expected at the November TAB meeting. The TAB approved the Eagan TH 149 and TH 55 project scope changes and TIP amendment, the Minneapolis Bridge No. 9 scope change and TIP amendment, an amendment to the 2013 UPWP, and the release of the 2013 CMAQ Travel Demand Management solicitation. The TAB heard presentations on the Regional Solicitation Evaluation, options for allocating FY 2017 funding, preliminary local forecasts to 2040, and the MnDOT Corridors of Commerce program.

**5. Dakota County CSAH 60 & CSAH 50 Roundabout Project**

*Scope Change Request*

The county presented its scope change request. : In the 2009 solicitation, the City of Lakeville received \$1,632,000 in Surface Transportation Program funding for the CSAH 60 and CSAH 50 roundabout project. The county is now the lead agency on the project. After further study and design work, the cost of the roundabout increased to approximately \$4 million in total cost. This scope change request includes the expansion elements of: CSAH 50 north from CSAH 60 to Jurel Way and CSAH 60 west from CSAH 50 to Orchard Trail to full 4-lane divided highways. The two 4-lane extensions extend 1,763 feet north and 920 feet west of the multi-lane roundabout project. Adding this locally-funded work to the project scope would increase the project's total cost to \$6,780,000, with the increase paid with local funding from the City of Lakeville and Dakota County. Bicycle and pedestrian access is still included in the project. The city will provide a letter of support for the project and submit to Council staff.

MOTION: Lyndon Robjent motioned to recommend the approval of the scope change. Joe Lux seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

*TIP Amendment*

The TIP amendment would modify the project scope in accordance with the presented scope change and increase the budget to a total of \$6,870,000 with \$1,632,000 in STP funds and an increased local amount of \$5,238,000.

MOTION: Joe Lux motioned to recommend the approval of the TIP amendment. L. Robjent seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**6. Options for Allocating FY 2017 TAP/STP/CMAQ Funds**

Amy Vennewitz presented on options for allocating 2017 funds for the different programs. The Regional Solicitation Evaluation was originally scheduled to be completed in the spring/early summer of 2013. This timeline would have allowed for a new solicitation design to begin in the summer with a potential late fall 2013/early winter 2014 release of a solicitation package. Due to a number of factors, the evaluation has been delayed and is now scheduled to be completed in February 2014. Once completed, the policies and recommendations of the evaluation will then be implemented through the design and release of a new solicitation package. For past solicitations, the complete solicitation process, through amendment of the selected projects into the regional TIP, has taken approximately 20-21 months. While a major goal of the evaluation is to streamline the solicitation process, a conservative estimate is that a newly designed process will likely be able to reduce the past timeline by about 25%, or four months. As a working assumption to design a timeline, staff has been assuming that a new solicitation process will take between 16-18 months from start to finish, recognizing that this is probably aggressive since a new solicitation package will require significant review and approval by the Council/TAB/TAC before it is implemented. The earliest a new solicitation would likely be ready would be by fall 2014 with project selection approvals by June 2015.

Typically projects have had three to four years development time from when they have been selected. To allow for a three year lead time, 2017 funded projects would need to be selected by the spring of 2014. With the evaluation schedule, it would be impossible to meet a spring 2014 deadline. For the Transportation Alternatives program, the staff recommendation for allocating 2017 funds is for TAB to direct staff to explore using the TE application from the 2011 solicitation as the base with modifications to include eligibility for Safe Routes to School infrastructure projects and bring a proposed TAP solicitation through TAC and TAB in October through December for review and approval, with an anticipated release in January 2014. TAB provided direction to proceed with that option. The staff recommendation for 2017 STP funds is for TAB to wait to make a decision until late spring/early summer of 2014 to determine how to distribute the funds. This will allow for the local program review in the spring to determine whether additional projects have slipped in schedule and provide a better estimation of the funds that will be available. The staff recommendation for 2017 CMAQ funds is for TAB to consider over the next 4-6 months whether some amount of the funding should be awarded to regionally significant projects, with the remainder to be included in the 2014/2015 solicitation process. Staff went directly to TAB because once the solicitation schedule was outlined, it was apparent there wasn't any time to spare. The committee discussed the need to avoid amending in the full solicitation to the TIP if possible, since it is considerable work. The committee also discussed the possibility of proceeding with the existing solicitation for 2017 and 2018, but A. Vennewitz indicated that would not be likely to be acceptable to the policymakers. The regular TAC and TAB committee process will continue to make the recommendations and decisions about which projects should receive funding under any scenario.

**7. Regional Solicitation Evaluation Update**

H. Schallberg provided a brief update on the evaluation study status. The Steering Committee has made recommendations for the first step of the process focused on the overall structure (by funding program or by mode) and the general eligibility within each. The committee expressed concern about how projects would be selected across categories instead of on the available funding. The subcategories within each category are important, and those are still under discussion. There was interest in making the process less burdensome for applicants while maintaining the rigorous and fair evaluation. The committee will be copied on Steering Committee meeting notices.

**8. Adjournment** With no other business, the meeting adjourned.