

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

Minutes of a Meeting of the
FUNDING AND PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE
November 20, 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT: Karl Keel (chair), Colleen Brown, Innocent Eyoh, Mark Filipi, Jenifer Hager, Craig Jenson, Tom Johnson, Jane Kansier, Mary Karlsson, Elaine Koutsoukos, Eriks Ludins, Joe Lux, John Sass, Cory Slagle, Andrew Witter, and Joe Barbeau (staff)

1. Call to Order

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

2. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION: Joe Lux moved to adopt the agenda. Seconded by Mark Filipi. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Approval of the Minutes

MOTION: Lux moved to approve the minutes from the September meeting. Seconded by Filipi. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. TAB Report

Elaine Koutsoukos reported on the November 19 TAB meeting. Metropolitan Council Chair Susan Haigh is stepping down and will complete her service when a new chair is selected by the governor. Clarification was made that the TIP amendments previously approved by TAB were to amend the 2015-1018 TIP. The MAC CIP will be before TAB in December for approval. TAC groups caucused to select members for a nominating committee to bring forward a name for TAC chair for the next three years. There were three action items at TAC. One, which was forwarded to TAB, was the approval of the South St. Paul Airport Long Term Comprehensive Plan. In addition, two streamlined TIP amendments from TAC Executive Committee were forwarded to TAB:

- Ladders of Opportunity Award to improve, replace, and construct bus facilities
- Section 5310 funding for 14 Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities projects.

5. TIP Amendment – C-Line Design and Engineering

Karl Keel introduced the item. He said that fiscal constraint is met because federal funding is provided to Metro Transit for the purpose of conducting studies like the one identified on the amendment. Charles Carlson of Metro Transit said that the C-Line arterial bus rapid transit (ABRT) corridor runs along the Penn Avenue corridor in Brooklyn Center and Minneapolis.

MOTION: Mary Karlsson moved to recommend approval of the TIP amendment. Seconded by Jenifer Hager. The motion was approved unanimously.

6. MnDOT State Aid Report – Information Item

Dan Erickson from MnDOT State Aid provided tables highlighting fiscal year 2014 project statuses, Transportation Alternatives Program projects, and 2015 funding adjustments.

Referring to the first handout, Fiscal Year 2014 Project Status, Erickson said that much progress has been made toward completing projects on time, due to reduced federal flexibility with project deadlines. Only two FY 2014 projects have been withdrawn. One, sponsored by Anoka County was withdrawn years ago. The other, sponsored by Three Rivers Park District, was one of the sponsor's three projects that came in with high bids and the District felt it could only afford to complete two projects. Additionally, a City of Burnsville-sponsored project was moved to FY 2015 a long time ago.

Of 55 local projects, 35 were authorized in June, which is the end of the allowable time frame. MnDOT would like to see more projects authorized earlier next year. 2014 saw a project delivery rate of 96 percent due in large part to the changing of the program year policy.

Referring to the second handout, Metro 2014 TAP Tracking, Erickson reported that one project has a program year extension enabling the paying off of advanced construction (AC). Another withdrawn project left \$1,320,892 to be distributed to six projects with capacity for additional federal funding. Projects with a completed funding schedule are not eligible to receive funding that becomes available. MnDOT can hold off on completing the funding schedules until it knows whether funds will be available, though agencies then have to wait for reimbursement.

Referring to the third handout, 2015 Funding Adjustments, Erickson said that the Metro ATP setaside for STP in the STIP for 2017 is \$10,580,598. The Metro District receives about half of the roughly \$8 million federal redistribution to Minnesota. Along with a \$3,369,300 project withdrawal, this makes \$17,949,898 available for the 2017 Solicitation.

Redistribution and withdrawal were utilized to pay off AC in 2017 for three projects. One TAP project withdrawal enabled \$1,100,000 to pay off AC for three other projects in November 2015. Keel said that this shows the benefit of having projects able to utilize AC, as it allows funding of more projects as opposed to redistributing extra funds to existing projects.

7. Withdrawals of Regional Solicitation Funds – Information Item

Along with projects from Three Rivers Park District, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the City of Minneapolis, which were addressed in the earlier reallocation discussion, one more project was recently withdrawn. That project was Metro Transit's "B-Line" project, an ABRT line between Downtown St. Paul and the MSP Airport. Charles Carlson from Metro Transit reported this and provided a brief presentation. The project was funded with FY 2015 and 2016 CMAQ funds of \$5,250,000 and \$7,000,000, respectively. Carlson provided a brief history, which in 2011-2012 included the successful application for Chicago Avenue ABRT, which was eventually withdrawn. Those funds were later awarded to the B-Line. Metro Transit eventually determined that the Penn Avenue corridor should be a high-priority ABRT corridor. Soon thereafter, the City of St. Paul and Ramsey County asked that the B-Line be discontinued, as other options are being studied along that corridor.

Carlson said that Metro Transit suggests moving the CMAQ funds toward the A-Line (Snelling Avenue) ABRT project up to its \$7,000,000 maximum. Metro Transit further suggests moving funds to the "C-Line" (Penn Avenue) ABRT corridor. However, because Metro Transit will not be ready to spend the FY 2015 funds on the C-Line in time, Metro Transit suggests advancing other projects in 2015 and spending funds designed for those projects on the C-Line in 2016.

Colleen Brown said that there are no FY 2015 CMAQ projects that could accept the funding.

Pat Bursaw from MnDOT Metro District added that the funding reallocation work group will have recommendations for reallocation processes by the end of the year. These recommendations will go through committees early in 2015.

8. Regional Solicitation Scoring Committee Membership

Joe Barbeau said that there has been a good response to the request for scoring committee volunteers. Karlsson asked how scoring committees will be organized. Barbeau replied that each roadway application, along with biking and trails, will have its own committee while the two transit applications will be combined into one committee as will the pedestrian and Safe Routes to Schools applications.

9. Other Business

None.

10. Adjournment

With no other business, the meeting adjourned.