

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

Minutes of a Meeting of the
FUNDING AND PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE
April 17, 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT: Karl Keel (chair), Brian Isaacson, Colleen Brown, Craig Jenson, Adam Harrington, Greta Alquist, Tom Johnson, Jenifer Hager, John Sass, Steve Albrecht, Jane Kansier, Innocent Eyoh, Eriks Ludins, Mary Karlsson, Michael Thompson, Bruce Loney, Ann Pung-Terwedo, Joe Lux, Elaine Koutsoukos, Carl Ohrn (staff) 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

Minutes from the March meeting were approved unanimously.

4. TAB Report

Elaine Koutsoukos reported on the April 16th TAB meeting. TAB approved three action items: the 2014 funding reallocation for CMAQ, the TIP amendment streamlined process, and the 2014-2017 TIP amendment for the WisDOT St. Croix River Crossing. TAB heard four information items. Marie Cote from SRF Consulting presented an update on the Regional Solicitation work groups. For the Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) update, Cole Hiniker covered information about the transit investment plan. Project applicants for 2017 CMAQ transit capital funding presented information about their proposals. Mary Karlsson and Cole Hiniker reported on the public comments received for the TPP amendment for I-94 and TH 610 and the administrative modification for streetcars.

5. 2017 CMAQ Transit Capital Project Selection

In March of 2014, TAB recommended the authorization of \$20 million of CMAQ funds for regionally significant transit capital projects. The project evaluation criteria are: (1) regional significance; (2) usage and impacts of the project; (3) equity; (4) project readiness; (5) project costs; and (6) emissions reduction.

The application deadline was April 11, 2014. MTS received six applications for a total request of \$35,960,000 for the \$20 million available.

The committee felt it did not have enough information on how the projects were ranked to evaluate the rankings due to the tight timeline of the process. (Rankings had just been done with the project rating committee the previous day.) The committee recommended that TAB fund the top three projects and distribute the funding available among these projects. The discussion also recognized that the applicants had not been given a chance to review their ratings prior to them being presented at this meeting, and there was no appeals process provided in the project selection schedule. The committee recommended that the ratings be sent to the applicants for information.

MOTION: Mary Karlsson motioned to accept the project rankings and fund the top three projects. John Sass seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

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6. **2017 TAP Solicitation**

Scoring Appeals

Heidi Schallberg reviewed the scoring appeals received from four applicants for five project applications. The committee voted on each appeal separately.

MOTION: For Carver County's Lake Minnetonka trail application, Tom Johnson motioned to accept the scoring committee's review and recommendation for no changes to the score. Brian Isaacson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: For Carver County's Minnesota River Bluffs trail application, Brian Isaacson motioned to accept the scoring committee's review and recommendation for no changes to the score. Tom Johnson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: For Golden Valley's Douglas Drive application, Mary Karlsson motioned to accept the scoring committee's review and recommendation for an increase of 15 points to the score. Joe Lux seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: For Three Rivers Park District's On-Ramps to Regional Trails application, Brian Isaacson motioned to accept the scoring committee's review and recommendation for an increase of 17 points to the score. Steve Albrecht seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: For Washington County's CSAHs 20 and 38 trail application, Innocent Eyoh motioned to accept the scoring committee's review and recommendation for no changes to the score. Colleen Brown seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Project Funding Options

The committee discussed potential funding options for this federal program. Discussion included whether or not costs should be adjusted for inflation and if overprogramming should be used. If all projects are delivered on schedule and using their full budgets, overprogramming would result in one or more SFY 2017 TAP projects being required to Advance Construct (build the project in SFY 2017 and be paid back by the program in a later year), and \$397,500 fewer dollars would be available in the SFY 2018 TAP solicitation.

MOTION: Tom Johnson motioned to (1) add 4% inflation to the project costs and (2) overprogram by approximately \$397,500 (6.3 percent) by funding the projects in order through Apple Valley's project. Adam Harrington seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

7. **Scope Change Request – Scott County CSAH 8 Reconstruction**

Craig Jenson presented the scope change request to modify the scope of the CSAH 8 reconstruction project to add a roundabout at CSAHs 8 and 91 with a pedestrian underpass. The total cost would also increase. If approved, the changes could be incorporated into the 2015-2018 TIP. The original proposal included the addition of right and left turn lanes and improved interchange lighting. No signal exists at this intersection today or was proposed with the original project. In the course of the CSAH 8 corridor study, a roundabout was discussed for this location. The county's Highway Safety Plan was completed in 2013 and recommended a roundabout at this location.

The pedestrian underpass is being proposed due to the need to locate the Scott County and Dakota County trails on opposite sides of CSAH 8. The CSAH 8 corridor study completed in 2013 found the Dakota County trail had to be on the north side of CSAH 8 to avoid wetlands and existing development. The Scott County trail had to be on the south side to avoid impacting community septic systems. The underpass will allow connection of the trails.

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MOTION: Tom Johnson motioned to recommend the approval of the scope change request. Mary Karlsson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

8. 2014-2017 TIP Amendment – MnDOT Bridges

This amendment is to modify the budget and scope for MnDOT bridges over the Minnesota River in Bloomington and Eagan in 2015. This amendment modifies the project description by adding replace joints and bearing rehabilitation and also modifies the project cost to reflect this additional work.

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

9. 2017 STP and CMAQ TSM Recommendation

Based on previous committee discussion, this recommendation is for approval of the inclusion of 2017 STP and roadway system management CMAQ funds in the next full Regional Solicitation, which is expected to be released in Fall 2014.

MOTION: Mary Karlsson motioned to recommend the approval with the comment that projects should be identified in the solicitation that are ready to go for 2017. Brian Isaacson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

10. Regional Solicitation Design Update

Marie Cote provided an update on the design process. Each of the three modal work groups have met twice, and they are starting to draft text for applications for review and discussion. Work group chairs will attend future Steering Committee meetings to assist with providing insight into the work group discussions as well as to hear the discussion among the Steering Committee. The target is to finish the applications by early July to allow time for approvals. Karl Keel said that committee members should talk to their TAB members if they have any concerns. Attendance at these meetings by committee and work group members is encouraged.

11. Local Program Review

Dan Erickson provided handouts of the status of projects in the local program for 2014. State Aid staff has identified the need for the Program Year Policy to change the deadline for projects meeting criteria from March 31st of the program year to March 1st or at least March 15th. This will be addressed with future committee review of the policy. He also brought up the issue of not having a policy on how to handle situations where projects receive good bids and have significant amounts of federal funds remaining. Some amounts would need to remain with those projects to allow for contract change orders to not put the local agencies at risk, but guidance is needed on how to handle these. Thresholds would be useful to avoid having to redistribute small amounts. The committee had concerns about specifying exact numbers of percentages and thought that reasonable contingency amounts could work. Mary Karlsson noted that TAB's reallocation policy would be reviewed, and this issue could be brought into that discussion.

12. Adjournment With no other business, the meeting adjourned.