

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

Minutes of a Meeting of the
FUNDING AND PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE
May 15, 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT: Karl Keel (chair), Brian Isaacson, Colleen Brown, Craig Jenson, Tom Johnson, Jenifer Hager, Andrew Witter, Jane Kansier, Innocent Eyoh, Eriks Ludins, Cory Slagle, Mary Karlsson, Michael Thompson, Paul Oehme, Bruce Loney, 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 April meeting were not yet available and will be presented at the June meeting for approval.

4. Regional Solicitation Design Update

Steve Peterson from SRF Consulting provided an update on the design of the new regional solicitation and the progress of the modal work groups to date. He reviewed some of the proposed changes and provided handouts of the current drafts of policies, requirements, and the measures. The new solicitation will come back to the Funding and Programming Committee for approval later in the summer.

5. Scope Change Request: Main Street, 5th-13th Aves in Hopkins

This request would modify the scope to add work elements to the original HSIP project and increase the budget. The modified project description and budget would be incorporated into the 2015-2018 TIP. The changes in the project provided the same or better roadway and pedestrian improvements so the scoring of the original project was not reviewed. No elements of the original project were removed. The project limits were extended to increase the efficiency of the corridor improvements and decrease local disruption.

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

6. Scope Change Request: Weaver Lake Road in Maple Grove

This request for Weaver Lake Road in Maple Grove (SP#189-020-030) would eliminate a roundabout at Weaver Lake Road and Dunkirk Lane (MSAS 106). The total project cost will be \$1,481,695 with \$1,185,356 Federal Surface Transportation Program funding and \$296,334 local. The scope change is the removal of the Dunkirk Lane roundabout from the project. Since the time of the application and as a method to attempt to provide interim relief to an ongoing concern, the City has undertaken some traffic signal and lane changes at the intersection. Specifically, the city has altered the northbound outside lane, changing from a combined thru/right turn to a dedicated right turn lane. In addition, the city has modified the signal to a split phase in the north-south direction. These improvements, intended as an interim solution, have significantly improved the congestion. The city also believes, although there is not enough recent history to confirm, that the safety has also improved. As a result, the City believes that the level of improvement offered by the roundabout intersection is marginal relative to the construction expense. The

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city still intends to construct roundabouts at Xene Lane and Niagara Lane to address safety and delay concerns.

Carl Ohrn said staff review of the original application received points for safety and cost effectiveness based on the improvements proposed for Dunkirk Lane and did not include information for Xene and Niagara.

Committee discussion included concerns about if the project would have been selected with changes to safety, cost effectiveness, and the long-term effectiveness of the Dunkirk changes made in lieu of the roundabout.

MOTION: Jane Kansier motioned to continue consideration of this request at the June meeting with additional information from the city. Cory Slagle seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Scope Change Request: Hwys 61 and 97 Reconstruction, Roundabouts in Forest Lake - MnDOT

This request would modify the scope of SP #8206-45 to eliminate one grade-separated pedestrian crossing and add various pedestrian facilities. The total project costs increase to \$7,082,697 with \$5,376,000 federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) funding and \$1,744,000 MnDOT and other funding in 2016. The major project elements to reconstruct the north and south intersections of Hwy 61 and Hwy 97, removal of signals, construction of two roundabouts, replacing drainage system and other infrastructure, upgrading intersection and roadway lighting, constructing a dedicated school only driveway entrance for the south roundabout and many pedestrian and bicycle facilities will not change. The original project includes two pedestrian grade-separated crossings at the north roundabout, one to serve east-west movement and one to serve north-south movement which will be eliminated. In place of the grade-separated crossing to serve the north-south movement, an at-grade pedestrian crossing will be provided.

East of the north roundabout near the school entrance, an at-grade Mid-Block Rapid Flashing Beacon signal system pedestrian crossing will be added. Also, the urban curb and gutter section will be extended further east of the north roundabout, reducing shoulder width, and constructing a center median which will serve as a refuge for pedestrians and students crossing Hwy 97.

At the south roundabout, the addition of an at-grade (east-west) crossing on the south side with extensions to local pedestrian trail facilities east and west of Hwy 61 will be added. They are coordinating with the school, which is supportive of the project. Committee discussion included concerns about vehicle speeds near the school; speeds between roundabouts are usually lower. The modified project description and budget would be incorporated into the 2015-2018 TIP.

MOTION: Michael Thompson motioned to recommend approval of the scope change request. Jane Kansier seconded. The motion carried with one vote against.

8. 2014-2017 TIP Amendment: MnDOT, I-494 in Plymouth between I-394 and I-94

This amendment is to modify the project scope and budget for I-494 in Plymouth between I-394 and I-94 (SP# 2785-330) in 2015 for the purpose of release for a public comment period. The total project cost is \$86,030,000, and the project scope includes a general purpose lane between Hwy 55 and I-94/I-694, an auxiliary lane between Hwy 55 and Co Rd. 6, auxiliary lane from I-394 to Carlson Pkwy, bridge replacements, pavement resurfacing and reconstruction, lighting, and signal revisions. Mary Karlsson said the project is consistent with the Transportation Policy Plan, and an amendment to that plan will include additional funding. The plan supports strategic capacity for lane continuity.

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

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9. 2014-2017 TIP Amendment: MnDOT, Westbound I-94 exit ramp to 5th St S in Minneapolis

This amendment is to add the I-94 westbound exit ramp to 5th St S project in 2015 (SP#2781-462) with \$6,790,000 in TED funds and \$3,000,000 in local funds for a total cost of \$9,790,000; this action is contingent on a positive finding from the joint Metropolitan Council/MnDOT Interchange Review Committee before the TAB meeting. The project will construct a new 15th Avenue bridge that will replace the 5th St ramp connection to I-94. A third lane will be added with restriping on 7th Street for traffic from this ramp. Committee discussion included transit accommodations in the project. The city has been working with Metro Transit on possibilities.

MOTION: Jenifer Hager motioned to recommend the approval of the TIP amendment. Paul Oehme seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

10. Draft 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program

Heidi Schallberg presented an overview of the draft 2015-2018 TIP. Mary Gustafson from Metro Transit presented additional information about transit projects and funding, and Brian Isaacson presented about MnDOT's projects and process. Jane Kansier expressed concern that Shakopee's bus purchase project would be done in 2014 as agreed to with Metro Transit since it is shown in 2015 in the draft TIP. M. Gustafson clarified the FTA requires the projects to be shown in the year in which the funds will be spent, and with this bus purchase, the funds still won't be spent until federal fiscal year 2015.

MOTION: Joe Lux motioned to recommend the approval of the draft 2015-2018 TIP for the purpose of a public comment period, contingent on the air quality conformity process being completed by the June TAB meeting. M. Karlsson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

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