

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD
Metropolitan Council
Minutes of a Meeting of the
FUNDING AND PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE
May 17, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT: Paul Oehme (Chair, Chanhassen), Ken Ashfeld (City of Maple Grove), Lynne Bly (MnDOT Metro District), Colleen Brown (MnDOT State Aid), Robert Ellis (City of Eden Prairie), Innocent Eyoh (MPCA), Anna Flintoft (Metro Transit), Jenifer Hager (Minneapolis), Craig Jenson (Scott County), Jim Kosluchar (Fridley), Elaine Koutsoukos (TAB), Jen Lehmann (MVTA), Joe Lux (Ramsey County), Joe MacPherson (Anoka County), Gina Mitteco (MnDOT Bike & Ped), Steve Peterson (Metropolitan Council), Jason Pieper (Hennepin County), John Sass (Dakota County), Nancy Spooner-Mueller (DNR), Michael Thompson (Plymouth), Holly Turner (Washington County), Anne Weber (St. Paul), and Joe Barbeau (staff)

OTHERS PRESENT: David Burns (Metropolitan Council) and Shannon Foss (MnDOT)

1. Call to Order

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

2. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION: Lehmann moved to adopt the agenda. Seconded by Jenson. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Approval of the Minutes from the April 19, 2018, Meeting

MOTION: Ellis moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by Thompson. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. TAB Report – Information Item

Koutsoukos reported on the May 16, 2018 TAB meeting, which included a report that four projects were selected through the Corridors of Commerce program: two on I-494, one on TH 169, and one on I-94 in the St. Cloud/Albertville area. The projects will be discussed in the legislative session regarding the projects in Greater Minnesota. One action item was approved, the 2018 Highway Safety Improvement Program application from MnDOT. Information items were presented on the arterial bus rapid transit network, the Shared Mobility Collaborative, and the future of autonomous vehicles.

5. 2018-2021 TIP Amendment: Washington County Hadley Interchange – Action Item 2018-32

Barbeau said that Washington County requested a TIP amendment to accommodate an increase in cost for its Hadley interchange project. The increase is due to poor soils, muck excavation, the addition of management systems items, and the addition of noise walls. The noise walls are being added after a vote during the public involvement process. Local funds will cover the increased cost.

MOTION: Thompson moved to recommend approval of the TIP amendment request. Seconded by Lux. The motion was approved unanimously.

6. Scope Change: Anoka County Hanson Boulevard Expansion – Action Item 2018-33

Barbeau said that Anoka County was awarded \$7,000,000, \$7,560,000 after inflation adjustment, in Surface Transportation Block Grant funds for the 2019 fiscal year in the Roadway Expansion category of the 2014 Regional Solicitation. The project was awarded funding to expand Hanson Boulevard to a four-lane divided facility with a median. Anoka County's request proposes changes to the bridge over Coon Creek. Due to the existence of various power lines on both sides of the street, the planned widening of the bridge is impractical. The County considered several alternatives including constructing a separate bridge and alternate routes for the trail but settled on working within the existing bridge width. The impacts of this scope change will primarily be to the bridge. Key impacts would be:

- The overall bridge width would remain at the current 71.5 feet, as opposed to the planned increase to 88 feet.

- The median would be narrowed from the planned six feet to four feet.
- The inside lane width would be reduced from the planned 14 feet to 13 feet.
- The bicycle trail would remain at the current six-foot width with no clear zone, as opposed to 14 feet. The County received a variance from MnDOT Metro State Aid on to allow this.
- Additional bridge upgrades would be made, including installation of additional reinforcing for the beams, addition of concrete approach panels, deck resurfacing, and improvements to the erosion control best management practices.

Additional bridge upgrades would cost roughly \$530,000. Rescoring reduced the project by two points, rendering the score adequate for the project to retain funding. Staff suggested funding reductions based on 80 percent of the \$470,000 funding gap between the bridge upgrades and the original \$1,000,000 bridge replacement cost or a 60 percent gap, the latter of which reflects that federal proportion of the project total.

MacPherson said that the bicycle accommodations on the bridge will not change from what presently exists. He added that the County explored other ways to widen the bridge, but they were cost-prohibitive and that the public is understanding of the narrow bikeway.

Thompson asked whether there will be bicycle accommodation on both sides of the road, to which MacPherson replied that the bridge was constructed with accommodation on both sides, but a superfund site has eliminated the opportunity for a path along the west side of the road.

Oehme asked whether the path will be maintained in the winter, to which MacPherson replied in the affirmative.

MacPherson said that a lot of cost has been reduced and he suggested the funding option that eliminates 80 percent of the bridge cost gap.

MOTION: Kosluchar moved to recommend approval of the scope change request with removal of \$376,000 of federal funds. Seconded by Ellis. The motion was approved unanimously.

7. **2019-2022 TIP Amendment: Anoka County Hanson Boulevard Expansion – Action Item 2018-34**

Barbeau said that this TIP amendment is for the 2019-2022 TIP, not yet out for public comment. The amendment, if approved, would not take effect until the 2019-2022 TIP and STIP are approved by the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT). He added that the funding amount on the request will be changed to reflect the funding amount approved in the previous agenda item. Brown said that the word “repurposing,” shown crossed out in the TIP description, should remain in.

MOTION: Lux moved to recommend approval of the TIP amendment request with the changes suggested by Barbeau and Brown. Seconded by Kosluchar. The motion was approved unanimously.

8. **Draft 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program – Action Item 2018-35**

Barbeau said that the TIP is a \$4.04 billion program. He added that staff wishes to add transit asset management (TAM) language, required by October 2018, in time for the upcoming TAC meeting.

Eyoh said that the Council has submitted air quality information to MPCA, which will provide a letter for the TIP prior to the TAC meeting.

MacPherson asked when the recently-awarded Corridors of Commerce-funded projects need to be underway. Bly said that they need to be authorized within four years of the award. She added that four projects were approved, two in the Metro District and two in the urbanized area outside of the Metro District. Peterson added that these projects will be in the draft Transportation Policy Plan and will either be amended into the 2019-2022 TIP or included in the 2020-2023 TIP.

Barbeau said that staff would like to add language on transit asset management (TAM) performance targets in time for the draft to go out for public review. David Burns, Metropolitan Council, said that the MPO will adopt targets and the TIP must address them.

MOTION: Ellis moved to recommend adoption of the 2019-2022 TIP for release for public comment, directing staff to add TAM target language. Seconded by Lux. The motion was approved unanimously.

9. MnDOT's Transportation Asset Management Plan – Information Item

Shannon Foss, MnDOT, presented on MnDOT's Transportation Asset Management Plan (TAMP).

Ellis asked whether storm-water management is covered. Foss replied that storm-water tunnels are covered, but hydroptic assets are not. Ellis said that cities would be interested in data on runoff.

10. Scope Change Work Group Update – Information Item

Barbeau said that Oehme presented a summary of the scope change work group's efforts to the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) Executive Committee and that members were concerned that scope changes still retain their key intents and purposes and wanted to understand when re-scoring should and should not occur. They also were concerned with the rationale for not reducing awards for scope changes that are less than \$100,000 for roadway/transit projects and \$50,000 for other projects; they want to see a sound reason not only for the concept of a threshold but for the specific funding amounts. When the proposed policy is brought to TAB, members want to hear about any disagreements on the proposed changes that happen at F&P or TAC.

11. Other Business

Pieper said that Carla Stueve is going to be named Hennepin County Highway Engineer.

Peterson said that an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) survey is going to be sent to all city and county engineers and asked that it be completed by June 1.

Koutsoukos said that the 2018 Regional Solicitation is live on the Web with a July 13 deadline. There are six training sessions scheduled for the online Solicitation program. Bly added that the deadline to request support letters from MnDOT is June 15.

12. Adjournment

MOTION: Brown moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Eyoh. The motion was approved unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.