

Minutes of the REGULAR MEETING OF THE TAC FUNDING & PROGRAMING COMMITTEE

Thursday, January 17, 2019

Committee Members Present: Paul Oehme (Chair, Chanhassen), Jack Forslund (Anoka County), Lyndon Robjent (Carver County), Jason Pieper (Hennepin County), Joe Lux (Ramsey County), Emily Jorgensen (Washington County), Elaine Koutsoukos (TAB), Steve Peterson (Metropolitan Council), Anna Flintoft (Metro Transit), Molly McCartney (MnDOT Metro District), Colleen Brown (MnDOT Metro District State Aid), Mehjabeen Rahman(MPCA), Gina Mitteco (MnDOT Bike & Ped), Jen Lehmann (MVTA), Jim Kosluchar (Fridley), Michael Thompson (Plymouth), and Anne Weber (St. Paul)

Committee Members Absent: John Sass (Dakota County), Craig Jenson (Scott County), Nancy Spooner-Mueller (DNR), Karl Keel (Bloomington), Robert Ellis (Eden Prairie), Ken Ashfeld (Maple Grove), and Nathan Koster (Minneapolis)

I. CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Oehme called the regular meeting of the Funding & Programming Committee to order at 1:33 p.m. on Thursday, January 17, 2019.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Brown and seconded by Thompson to approve the agenda with an item added for the TAB report. **Motion carried unanimously.**

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by McCartney and seconded by Lux to approve the minutes of the December 20, 2018, regular meeting of the Funding & Programming Committee. **Motion carried unanimously.**

IV. TAB REPORT

Koutsoukos reported on the January 16, 2019, TAB meeting.

V. BUSINESS

1. 2017-09 Scope Change Request for St. Paul's Washington Technology School Safe Routes to School Project

Barbeau introduced, and Chris Engelmann from the City of St. Paul presented, this item. Mitteco asked why the Arlington Avenue bike lane is not going to be completed, to which Engelmann said that other work would have to be done to the street. Koutsoukos asked why the new curb ramps were not in the original scope and Engelmann said that these were not adjacent to the sidewalks being added. Brown said that if funds are removed from the project, the federal funding reallocation policy would probably result in those funds being returned back to the project. Pieper asked whether a paving project is planned for Arlington Avenue. Nick Peterson from the City of St. Paul said that the City has a large backlog of roadways in need of paving. Oehme asked how the road's pavement condition index (PCI) dropped by 50 points in three years. Nick Peterson replied that it should have been reconstructed. Steve Peterson said that the yet-to-be adopted new scope change policy says that if a project element is being subtracted, funds cannot be shifted to a new project element; the existing policy is vague. Kosluchar asked whether the City has a Safe Routes to School plan, to which Engelmann replied in the affirmative. Robjent asked why Arlington Avenue cannot be overlaid and painted. Engelmann replied that that would be a \$900,000 effort.

It was moved by Brown and seconded by Thompson that the Committee recommend approval of the scope change request with no federal funding reduction. **Motion carried.**

2. 2017-10 Program Year Extension: Carver County TH 5 Regional Trail

Barbeau introduced, and Marty Walsh from Carver County along with Stewart Crosby from SRF, presented, this item. Steve Peterson asked Brown whether any projects can take the funds being left behind in 2019. Brown said that the funds will have to be placed into existing projects.

It was moved by Robjent and seconded by Lux, that the Committee recommend approval of the program year extension request. **Motion carried unanimously.**

3. 2017-11 Scope Change Consultation and Evaluation Process

Barbeau presented this item. Brown asked whether the policy allows leeway to let applicants keep federal funding when project elements are given up. Barbeau said that TAB members were not fond of that idea, though the policy does not say that there is no leeway. Kosluchar asked whether the updated policy solves what it was intended to solve. Barbeau replied that while compromises were made, it does a good job of making the process more efficient. Brown said that she recently was told of a potential request to undo a scope change and revert back to the original scope. Members thought that this should be able to be done administratively, though any removed funding cannot be returned.

It was moved by Robjent and seconded by Pieper that the Committee recommend approval of the Scope Change Policy update with language added to allow for reversions back to the original scope, with no returns of any lost federal funds, administratively. **Motion carried unanimously.**

4. 2017-13 Federal Funds Management Process

Barbeau presented this item. Brown commented that the current policy requires distribution of extra funds to projects within the same mode before advance construction payback in other modes and suggested that this be reversed.

It was moved by Brown and seconded by Steve Peterson, that the Committee recommend approval of the Federal Funds Management Policy with the added change of reversing the order of steps 4 and 5. **Motion carried unanimously.**

VI. INFORMATION

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Pieper reported that Carl Michaud, Hennepin County Assistant Administrator will retire soon. Koutsoukos said that staff will send out a Regional Solicitation Survey to applicants, scorers and Committee members.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Robjent, seconded by Koutsoukos, to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried unanimously** and the meeting adjourned.

Joe Barbeau
Recording Secretary