

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

Thursday, July 18, 2019

**Committee Members Present:** Paul Oehme (Chair, Lakeville), Lyndon Robjent (Carver County), Jason Pieper (Hennepin County), Brian Isaacson (Ramsey County), Craig Jenson (Scott County), Emily Jorgensen (Washington County), Elaine Koutsoukos (TAB), Steve Peterson (Metropolitan Council), Adam Harrington (Metro Transit), Molly McCartney (MnDOT Metro District), Colleen Brown (MnDOT Metro District State Aid), Innocent Eyoh (MPCA), Jen Lehmann (MVTA), Robert Ellis (Eden Prairie), Jim Kosluchar (Fridley), Jenifer Hager (Minneapolis), Anne Weber (St. Paul)

**Committee Members Absent:** Joe MacPherson (Anoka County), John Sass (Dakota County), Mackenzie Turner Borgen (MnDOT Bike & Ped), Nancy Spooner-Mueller (DNR), Karl Keel (Bloomington), Ken Ashfeld (Maple Grove), Michael Thompson (Plymouth)

## I. CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Oehme Thompson called the regular meeting of the Funding & Programming Committee to order at 1:35 p.m. on Thursday, July 18, 2019.

## II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Eyoh and seconded by Pieper to approve the agenda. **Motion carried unanimously.**

## III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2019, regular meeting of the Funding & Programming Committee. **Motion carried unanimously.**

## IV. TAB REPORT

Koutsoukos reported on the July 17, 2019, TAB meeting and on recent Regional Solicitation Policy Work Group meetings.

## V. BUSINESS

## VI. INFORMATION

1. Overview of Transit/TDM, Introduction, Qualifying, and Forms Changes

Barbeau stated that with the exception of transit changes being considered by the Regional Solicitation Policy Work Group, no key changes are current proposed in the Transit and Travel Demand Management (TDM) categories.

Koutsoukos asked why the ADA transit plan requirement requires the plan be adopted instead of completed. Hager said that “completed” makes more sense because some analysis does not go through policy boards. Members generally agreed to using “completed.”

Koutsoukos asked why the year-round usage qualification does not mention snow and ice removal. Members generally agreed to add that to the language. Eyoh asked how salt application is addressed. Members agreed that including a link to best practices makes sense.

Barbeau said that at its July 17, 2019, meeting TAB talked at length about the maximum federal contribution in the Multiuse Trails and Bicycle Facilities category. There was sentiment toward increasing the maximum and decreasing the maximum from various members. TAB also asked

staff to work with the technical committees on ways to fund high-cost projects and still enable the funding of a large number of low-cost projects. Staff brought ideas for allowing different federal funding maximums for projects with and without barriers along with allowing different maximums for large and small projects. Funding & Programming Committee members expressed concerns that this might not be effective and that skipping higher-scoring projects may come into play. Members also suggested that the proposed \$4 million maximum is not likely to be effective in significantly increasing the number of projects funded.

## 2. Roadway Applications

Peterson provided an update on roadways changes, which include a pedestrian safety measure in the proposed new Spot Mobility and Safety category, along with Strategic Capacity and Reconstruction and Modernization. Another key change is adding a qualitative outreach component in the risk assessment. Members expressed concern with consistency in scoring that element. Weber asked whether the requirement that a project be included in a local plan covers that. The group favored a checkbox-based sub-measure that confirms outreach to agencies and residents.

## 3. Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Draft Application

Peterson and Kaare Festvog, MnDOT, provided an update on the Highway Safety Improvement Program draft application. Noteworthy changes include:

- Increasing the federal maximum award \$1.8 million to \$2.0 million.
- Eliminating the maximum total project cost of \$2 million.
- Removing the reactive project and proactive project targets.
- Reflective of the Regional Solicitation, completion of an ADA transition plan is shown as a qualifying criterion.
- For reactive projects, the number of fatal and serious injury crashes will be provided for 2009-2018.
- Shoulders beyond two feet in width can be provided, though any width beyond two feet cannot be paid for with federal funds.

Brown said that for unique projects, there should be assurance that projects are eligible.

## VII. OTHER BUSINESS

### 1. Scheduling of August Funding & Programming Meeting

Barbeau said that the August 15 meeting would be out of sequence by coming six days before TAB. Members agreed to move the meeting to August 22.

## VIII. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by McCartney and seconded by Ellis to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried unanimously** and the meeting was adjourned.

Joe Barbeau  
Recording Secretary