

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

Thursday, November 19, 2020

**Committee Members Present:** Paul Oehme (Chair, Lakeville), Jerry Auge (Anoka County), Angie Stenson (Carver County), John Sass (Dakota County), Jason Pieper (Hennepin County), John Mazzitello (Ramsey County), Craig Jenson (Scott County), Emily Jorgensen (Washington County), Elaine Koutsoukos (TAB), Cole Hiniker (Metropolitan Council), Anna Flintoft (Metro Transit), Molly McCartney (MnDOT Metro District), Innocent Eyoh (MPCA), Colleen Brown (MnDOT Metro District State Aid), Mackenzie Turner Bargaen (MnDOT Bike & Ped), Nancy Spooner-Mueller (DNR), Aaron Bartling (MVTA), Karl Keel (Bloomington), Robert Ellis (Eden Prairie), Jim Kosluchar (Fridley), Ken Ashfeld (Maple Grove), Michael Thompson (Plymouth), Jenifer Hager (Minneapolis), Anne Weber (St. Paul)

**Committee Members Absent:** Robert Ellis (Eden Prairie)

## I. CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Chair Oehme called the regular meeting of the Funding & Programming Committee to order at 1:33 p.m. on Thursday, November 19, 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was held via teleconference.

## II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved without a vote. A vote is only needed if any changes are made to the agenda.

## III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: It was moved by Spooner-Mueller and seconded by Jorgensen to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2020, regular meeting of the Funding & Programming Committee. The motion was approved unanimously via roll-call with Keel and Ashfeld yet to arrive.

## IV. TAB REPORT

Koutsoukos reported on the November 18, 2020, TAB meeting.

## V. BUSINESS

1. 2020-38: 2020 Highway Safety Improvement Program Project Selection

Steve Peterson, Metropolitan Council, reported that the MnDOT Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) solicitation process selected a slate of 26 projects, 25 for inclusion into the TIP with one in Chisago County. Peterson said that one project from Hennepin County scored well enough to be funded in the Regional Solicitation and that it was replaced in the HSIP program by a project from Ramsey County.

MOTION: It was moved by Keel and seconded by Auge to recommend that TAC recommend that TAB approve the 25 HSIP projects for funding through the HSIP program and include them in the TIP. The motion was approved unanimously.

2. 2020-39: 2020 Regional Solicitation Funding Scenario Options

Peterson provided a summary of TAB's November 18, 2020, discussion that led to the board to determine that scenario 1B should be selected because it funds projects in all counties and funds additional pedestrian and bicycle projects. He added that a Metro Transit project is going

to return \$4.5 million, but TAB suggested consideration of how to use that money at a later date. He also discussed that MnDOT has limited funding with which to help pay for local matches.

Koster asked whether projects from two different modes can be funded in the same corridor. Peterson said that the project elements cannot “double dip” funds. Koutsoukos said that that the requirement for not funding in the same corridor is within the same mode.

Koster asked whether the HSIP solicitation is considered alongside the Regional Solicitation in terms of regional balance and funding all counties. Peterson replied that it is not but it should be discussed.

Hiniker mentioned that a TAB member questioned funding two high-cost projects simply to get to one Scott County project, even though the projects were only separated by one point. In this case, accommodating Scott County forced funding a project in Carver County, which was already receiving disproportionately high funds. He suggested that TAB could be more flexible. Koutsoukos said that TAB’s decision there was based on TAC’s firm stance that projects should not be skipped.

Koster said that the new \$10 million maximum federal award in the Strategic Capacity category, created some inflexibility. Koutsoukos said that TAB discussed this in October and that this can be brought up going into the 2022 Regional Solicitation.

McCartney said that there should be more flexibility for two projects to be done in one place, citing projects within the same transit line that are coordinated. She said she would not want to see pieces of projects left out because of the rules about one project per mode per location.

Stenson said that the inclusion of partial funding for a project that is not the lowest-scoring project has no precedent. Peterson said that the partial funding idea started at the Funding & Programming Committee. He added that both partners said they would accept the reduced federal amount.

Hiniker said that “regional balance” should be an official rule, since it is already an un-written rule that TAB makes great effort to follow.

Eyoh asked whether the basis for making sure that projects are funded in all counties. Peterson replied that TAB members did not want to see any county go unfunded.

MOTION: It was moved by Keel and seconded by Thompson that the Funding & Programming Committee recommend that TAC recommend to TAB selection of the projects listed in Scenario 1B to be included in the 2022-2025 TIP.

Koster said that it was difficult to just be handed a scenario and told to make a decision. He added that Scott County was awarded an HSIP project and wondered whether consideration is given to that, as opposed to two years ago when TAB made sure to give Washington County a project but no HSIP project was funded there.

The Motion was approved unanimously.

Kosluchar asked whether a motion is needed to address a rule about geographic balance. Peterson suggested responding about this in the survey that staff sends to members.

Keel suggested that the geographic balance discussion could be informed by using Streetlight data to determine commute patterns. Stenson added that a definition of what is “balanced” is

needed, along with a definition of what is meant by “every county gets a project.” Koster said that regional balance is much more complex than geographical dispersion of projects. McCartney said that the impact on land use should be examined, as should how people and goods, as opposed to vehicles, are moved.

## **VI. INFORMATION**

None.

## **VII. OTHER BUSINESS**

Barbeau said that TAC is going to appoint a new chair at its December meeting. He added that the new TAC chair will select a Funding & Programming chair and members should let him know if they are interested in chairing.

This potentially being his last meeting, members thanked chair Oehme for his three years of service as chair.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned via voice vote.

Joe Barbeau  
Recording Secretary