

Minutes

TAC Funding and Programming Committee



Meeting date: December 21, 2023

Time: 1:00 PM

Location: Virtual

Members present:

- | | | |
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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bloomington – Karl Keel | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TAB Coordinator – Elaine Koutsoukos | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anoka Co. – Jerry Auge |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lakeville – Paul Oehme (Vice Chair) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MnDOT Metro District – Aaron Tag | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carver Co. – Darin Mielke |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eden Prairie – Robert Ellis | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MnDOT Metro District State Aid – Colleen Brown | <input type="checkbox"/> Dakota Co. – Gina Mitteco |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fridley – Jim Kosluchar | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MnDOT Bike/Ped – Mike Samuelson | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hennepin Co. – Jason Pieper |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minneapolis – Nathan Koster | <input type="checkbox"/> MPCA – Innocent Eyoh | <input type="checkbox"/> Ramsey Co. – Vacant |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plymouth – Michael Thompson (Chair) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DNR – Nancy Spooner-Walsh | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Co. – Adam Jessen |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> St. Paul – Anne Weber | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Suburban Transit Assoc. – Heidi Scholl | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wash Co. – Madeline Dahlheimer |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Met Council – Cole Hiniker | | <input type="checkbox"/> = present, E = excused |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Metro Transit – Scott Janowiak | | |

Call to order

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Thompson called the regular meeting of the TAC Funding and Programming Committee to order at 1:00 p.m.

Agenda approved

Chair Thompson asked if any members had any revisions to the agenda. There were no revisions rendering the agenda approved.

Approval of minutes

It was moved by E. Koutsoukos, seconded by C. Brown, to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2023, regular meeting of the TAC Funding and Programming Committee. **Motion carried unanimously with two abstentions.**

Public comment on committee business

There were no public comments.

TAB report

E. Koutsoukos reported on the November TAB meeting.

Business

2024-03: Scope Change Request for South Saint Paul Marie Avenue Bicycle and Pedestrian Facility (Joe Barbeau, MTS) – roll call

Joe Barbeau of the Metropolitan Council's Metropolitan Transportation Services office presented the scope change request and background information to the committee. South Saint Paul requests a scope change to remove components of the project scope that are already completed as a part of another project. The city also requests to retain its full federal funding amount, as the remaining intersections are estimated to cost \$2,391,600, which is roughly the same as the original estimate of the full project (\$2,380,760).

J. Pieper stated that this scope change is a good example of scope changes for the future as a work group is currently considering changes to the scope change policy.

Roll call vote was taken on the motion, as moved by K. Keel, seconded by M. Dahlheimer, to "approve the scope change request without reducing funding". **The motion passed unanimously.**

2024-04: Scope Change Request and TIP Amendment for Inver Grove Heights Curb Ramp Reconstruction (Joe Barbeau, MTS)

Joe Barbeau of the Metropolitan Council's Metropolitan Transportation Services office presented the scope change request, TIP amendment, and background information to the committee. Inver Grove Heights is requesting removal of four of 30 intersections from the project following completion of two projects. One project (on Carter Path) included the completion of two curb ramps from the original application. Upon completing the other project (on Cahill Avenue), the city determined that removing the two ramps, located mid-block on Carmen Avenue, is safer than completing the ramps. Also included with this request is a TIP amendment request reflecting this scope change request.

Paul Merchlewicz requested that the city retain all of its federal funding.

Jason Pieper asked for clarification that the crosswalk was not repainted. P. Merchlewicz confirmed that the crosswalk was not repainted. Nathan Koster requests additional confirmation that the crosswalk was not repainted after comparing the clarification with Google Street View information from Dec. 2022. P. Merchlewicz confirmed that the crosswalk was not repainted by showing newer satellite images of the street section.

C. Hiniker asked where the closest ADA-compliant crossing is to where this crossing is being removed.

P. Merchlewicz confirmed that the closest ADA-compliant crossing is roughly 200 to 300 feet north of the removed crossing.

Roll call vote was taken on the motion, as moved by K. Keel and seconded by J. Pieper, to "approve the scope change request without reducing funding". **The motion passed unanimously.**

2024-05: Scope Change Request for Saint Louis Park Cedar Lake Road and Louisiana Avenue Improvements Project (Joe Barbeau, MTS) – roll call

Joe Barbeau of the Metropolitan Council's Metropolitan Transportation Services office presented the scope change request and background information to the committee. The City of Saint Louis Park requests a scope change to this project to remove bike lane improvements on Louisiana Avenue and provide parallel routes for cyclists on shared roads. The city requests to retain its full federal funding amount.



J. Shamla noted that extensive community engagement was performed for this project. The scope change request is born out of the need to preserve the tree canopy on Louisiana Avenue, which would be significantly affected by the bike lane improvement.

M. Dahlheimer asked for clarification whether; sidewalks would be improved on Louisiana Avenue and if Hampshire Avenue and/or Pennsylvania Avenue would be improved for cyclists.

J. Shamla noted that sidewalks are present on Louisiana Avenue and that signage will be improved for Hampshire Avenue and Pennsylvania Avenue bike routes.

C. Hinicker asked for clarification on bike facility improvements on Wayzata Boulevard with connection to alternate bike routes on Hampshire and Pennsylvania avenues.

J. Shamla indicated that there are future bike facility improvements to Wayzata Boulevard in the capital improvement plan for the city.

M. Samuelson commented that the pedestrian bridges are MnDOT-owned and reminded city staff to reach out to MnDOT on requested improvements. Additionally, he asked Council staff for guidance on Regional Bike Trail Network (RBTN) corridor changes.

J. Barbeau noted that this change from bike lane improvements from Louisiana Avenue to parallel routes may not constitute a change to the RBTN route here. Additional clarification will be sought.

M. Thompson asked for clarification on ADA compliant pedestrian bridges over 394 for connections from Hampshire and Pennsylvania avenues.

D. Hesier confirmed that these pedestrian bridges are ADA compliant and are heavily used as shown on Strava Heat Maps.

J. Kosluchar asked about plans for bike lane improvements on Louisiana Avenue as the tree canopy ages out and needs to be replaced.

D. Heiser noted that the city is currently discussing this very scenario across the city for planning future tree planting. Louisiana Avenue corridor may be a future “no plant” corridor to accommodate for future bike lane improvement.

N. Koster lost connection during his remarks. After reconnecting, he summarized his remarks that he supports the scope change request and that the city has tried to accommodate multimodal transportation to the extent possible.

Roll call vote was taken on the motion, as moved by K. Keel, seconded by N. Spooner-Walsh, to “approve the scope change request with a reduction in federal funding”. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Information

C. Hiniker noted that the South Saint Paul scope change was interesting because it features a project that straddles the boundary between two cities. He asked how cities handle this type of issue. Chair Thompson responded that in the case of a project that straddles between two cities, one city will take the lead on the project and the cities will enter into a joint powers type of agreement. Jim Kosluchar agreed with Chair Thompson that this is the case for a project in Fridley that crossed into Columbia Heights.

C. Hiniker identified this may be an opportunity for emphasis in the regional solicitation to ensure that projects that are close to a border between cities or on the border of two cities consider the



cross-border improvements as well, in particular when considering an adjacent transit route.

Reports

None

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

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