

Minutes

TAC Funding and Programming Committee



Meeting date: January 18, 2024

Time: 1:00 PM

Location: Virtual

Members present:

- | | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Bloomington – Karl Keel | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TAB Coordinator – Elaine Koutsoukos | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anoka Co. – Jerry Auge |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lakeville – Paul Oehme (Vice Chair) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MnDOT Metro District – Aaron Tag | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carver Co. – Jack Johansen |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eden Prairie – Robert Ellis | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MnDOT Metro District State Aid – Colleen Brown | <input type="checkbox"/> Dakota Co. – Jenna Fabish |
| <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> MPCA – Innocent Eyoh | <input type="checkbox"/> Ramsey Co. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plymouth – Michael Thompson (Chair) | <input 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. – Matt Fyten | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wash Co. – Madeline Dahlheimer |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Met Council – Cole Hiniker | | <input checked="" 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 noted that a roll call vote was not needed for approval of the agenda unless a committee member offered an amendment to the agenda. Committee members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda.

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Nathan Foster, seconded by Jerry Auge, to approve the minutes of the December 21, 2023, regular meeting of the TAC Funding and Programming Committee. **Motion carried unanimously with seven abstentions.**

Public comment on committee business

There were no public comments.

TAB report

E. Koutsoukos reported on the December TAB meeting.

Business

2024-08: Oakdale Program Year Extension Request

Joe Barbeau of the Metropolitan Council's Metropolitan Transportation Services office presented the program year extension and background information to the committee. The City of Oakdale requests a program year extension for its Greenway Avenue North Sidewalk Project (SP# 185-236-003) from fiscal year 2024 to fiscal year 2025 to better align with Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit construction. In the 2020 Regional Solicitation, Oakdale was awarded \$400,000 to construct pedestrian facilities on the west side of Greenway Avenue North from Hudson Boulevard North to 7th Street North in 2024.

It was moved by Paul Ohme, seconded by Madeline Dahlheimer, to "approve Oakdale's requested program year extension from fiscal year 2024 to 2025". **The motion passed unanimously.**

2024-09: Anoka County Program Year Extension Request

Joe Barbeau of the Metropolitan Council's Metropolitan Transportation Services office presented the program year extension and background information to the committee. Anoka County requests a program year extension for its 44th Avenue Bridge bike/pedestrian trail project (SP# 002-602-015) from 2024 to 2025 because of the need to rehabilitate the 44th Avenue bridge. Anoka County was awarded \$2,015,200 in the 2022 Regional Solicitation, within the Multiuse Trails and Bicycle Facilities category, to construct a new bike and pedestrian trail adjacent to the roadway on the 44th Avenue Bridge over the Burlington North Santa Fe (BNSF) railway from East River Road (CSAH 1) to Main Street (CSAH 102) in 2024. During the design engineering process, the county received three separate reports from BNSF that concrete was falling off of the bottom of the bridge and into the railyard. The county requests a program year extension for the 44th Avenue Bridge bike/ped trail project so that it can be constructed along with the bridge rehabilitation.

It was moved by Colleen Brown, seconded by Jim Kosluchar, to "approve Anoka county's requested program year extension from fiscal year 2024 to 2025". **The motion passed unanimously.**

2024-10: MnDOT HSIP Scope Change Request

Robbie King of the Metropolitan Council's Metropolitan Transportation Services office presented the scope change request and background information to the committee. MnDOT requests a scope change to add protected bike lanes to TH 65 (3rd Ave S) between 2nd Street and Washington Avenue (SP# 2710-60). MnDOT Metro District was awarded \$1,350,000 in Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funds in the 2022 HSIP Solicitation, in the Reactive application category. The award was to fund bumpouts, protected intersections, and protected bikeways on TH65 (3rd Ave S) between 1st and 2nd Street. As a result of a mistake, one block between 1st Street and Washington Avenue on TH 65 (3rd Ave S) was not included in the original application materials.

Joe Barbeau added that this item might not need be a scope change request if the applicant was going to use local funding for the addition. However, because the applicant has requested to retain federal funding this request had to be a scope change request.

Kaare Festvog noted that this was the first project that their team worked on with MnDOT Bike & Ped. Additionally, they noted that the mistake on the application was their own.



Jason Pieper asked for clarification if there was coordination between this project and the forthcoming Metro Transit F Line Bus Rapid Transit project.

K. Festvog confirmed that there are discussions between Suzy Scotty at MnDOT and the Project Manager are aware of the F Line project.

Nathan Koster confirmed that MnDOT has communicated well with Minneapolis about this project and that this was an oversight and a technicality with the application.

It was moved by N. Koster, seconded by M. Dahlheimer, to “approve the scope change request”. **The motion passed unanimously.**

2024-11: Regional Solicitation Qualifying Review

Joe Barbeau of the Metropolitan Council’s Metropolitan Transportation Services office presented the Regional Solicitation Qualifying Review and background. This business item is split up into four separate items.

A. St. Louis Park: West End Trail Connection (20475, Multiuse Trails and Bicycle Facilities)

Joe Barbeau of the Metropolitan Council’s Metropolitan Transportation Services office presented the application for review. Saint Louis Park applied for regional solicitation funds for a proposed trail that runs along city-owned roadways, it interacts with infrastructure from the mainline highway bridge. Due to this, a letter of support is needed from MnDOT. No letter of support was initially provided, and the application is now working with MnDOT to obtain a letter.

Deb Heiser reported that the mistake was an oversight by Saint Louis Park and that they have confirmed with MnDOT that a letter of support from the agency is forthcoming.

It was moved by M. Dahlheimer, seconded by J. Auge, “That St. Louis Park project (20475) be allowed to compete provided a MnDOT letter of support is provided by January 31, 2024.” **The motion passed unanimously.**

B. Hennepin County: CR 116 (Fletcher Ln) Bikeway Project (20259, Multiuse Trails and Bicycle Facilities)

Chair Thompson and Joe Barbeau of the Metropolitan Council’s Metropolitan Transportation Services office presented the application for review. A basic principle for trail projects is that they can be used year-round. Therefore, commitment to winter maintenance (i.e., snow and ice removal) is required. The proposed project would be in parts of two cities; Rogers and Corcoran. While Rogers committed to year-round maintenance, Corcoran did not, leaving a portion of this trail uncommitted for year-round maintenance.

Jason Pieper noted that when this application was being submitted it is standard process that the county notify the impacted cities and ask for a support letter. That was shared with Corcoran on October 24th. As a result of this, Hennepin County learned that the Three Rivers Park district is exploring a trail within the Diamond Lake Regional Trail which is just west of the Fletcher Lane corridor.

J. Pieper noted that this put Corcoran in a difficult position, because of the potential redundancies with two trails in proximity that might both have cost participation responsibilities and the snow and ice control responsibilities on the county road. These circumstances resulted in the letter from Corcoran indicating that they cannot commit to winter maintenance.



J. Pieper continued that Hennepin County does have a standing policy that specifically assigns snow and ice control onto cities.

J. Pieper requested additional clarification or consideration from the committee about extending the deadline for submitting a commitment from the City of Corcoran from January 31st to mid-February. This extension would provide enough time for a new resolution to be submitted for consideration by Corcoran City Council.

Chair Thompson asked Metropolitan Council staff for clarification about the deadline specified and noted that while it is important to maintain equal treatment among the review of these applications there are extenuating circumstances here that may necessitate an exemption to the deadline for this review.

J. Barbeau clarified that the deadline was specified as January 31st to ensure ample time to ensure proper scoring, however, a deadline extension to mid-February would be workable.

Elaine Koutsouokos provided additional clarification that if it is presumed that the letter and resolution will come through for support it will not affect the application's scoring.

J. Barbeau asked for clarification when the next Corcoran City Council meeting is scheduled.

J. Pieper confirmed that the next council meeting is scheduled for February 8th.

Jim Kosluchar made a motion to approve the staff recommendation with the amendment that the deadline be changed to February 12th.

Prior to a second there was additional discussion.

J. Barbeau asked for clarification on how the support from Corcoran would be communicated and if it need be in a letter that may extend the time it would take for support to be confirmed.

Chair Thompson clarified that a simple notice from the city or county to the Metropolitan Council that Corcoran has confirmed support might suffice.

E. Koutsoukos confirmed that this type of communication of confirmation would suffice.

Paul Ohme seconded the motion made by J. Kosluchar.

N. Koster asked for clarification from Hennepin County if they have considered performing the winter maintenance themselves.

J. Pieper noted that this week is the County Engineers Conference, so the County Engineer is currently offsite. In situations where the county wishes to deviate from cost participation and/or winter maintenance policies the responsibility lies with the County Engineer so he will need to wait until hearing from them before answering this question.

Chair Thompson noted that the Metropolitan Council does not concern itself with who is maintaining the trail, just as long as it is maintained. If by the deadline Corcoran has not committed to maintenance, the County has the chance to commit to the winter maintenance itself.

J. Barbeau confirms that this is how it is written.

To summarize this motion and discussion; It was moved by J. Kosluchar, seconded by P. Ohme, "That Hennepin County project 20259 be disqualified unless it can provide commitment to year-round maintenance on the entire project by February 12th, 2024." **The motion passed**



unanimously.

C. Woodbury: Valley Creek Road Trail Gap (20201, Safe Routes to School)

Joe Barbeau of the Metropolitan Council's Metropolitan Transportation Services office presented the application for review. Neither the nearby school, nor school district is a participant in this project. While the definition of a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) project only refers to a project's proximity to a school, an additional qualifying criterion, specific to SRTS says that all schools benefitting from the SRTS program must conduct after-implementation surveys. Note also that this application would qualify in the Pedestrian category.

E. Koutsoukos noted that an attachment was added indicating the number of walkers to school that was produced by the school. However, the school indicated that they had no intention of participating in a safe route to school program.

Chair Thompson asked for clarification on whether the application could stay in the current category and simply get a zero score for not satisfying that section.

E. Koutsoukos notes that there would be multiple zero scores.

Chair Thompson asked if the applicant is comfortable moving to the pedestrian category.

E. Koutsoukos noted that the applicant is okay moving to the pedestrian category.

P. Oehme asks for policy clarification on whether applications can move between categories.

J. Barbeau indicated that there is no policy against moving applications between categories.

E. Koutsoukos described scenarios where this has happened in the past.

Chair Thompson notes that the committee trusts staff on their relay of Woodbury's intentions.

It was moved by P. Oehme, seconded by E. Koutsoukos, "That Woodbury project (20201) be moved to the Pedestrian category and that the applicant be permitted to respond to measures not yet responded to by January 31, 2024."

N. Koster rose in support of the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

D. Anoka: TH 47 at BNSF Railroad Crossing (20242, Roadway Reconstruction and Modernization)

Joe Barbeau of the Metropolitan Council's Metropolitan Transportation Services office presented the application for review. The project is on State Highway 47. Because of this, a letter of support is needed from MnDOT. No letter of support was provided.

Chair Thompson asked if there was anyone from the applicant on the call.

J. Barbeau noted that applicants were given short notice to join the committee call.

Chair Thompson asked for clarification on why the short notice.

J. Barbeau clarified the timetable for reviewing these applications and reaching out to applicants.

E. Koutsoukos noted that applicants who were missing components were alerted 3 weeks prior to



the meeting. The ones in this review were the applicants who did not respond to that initial request.

Innocent Eyoh asks if the applicant still wishes to continue with the application given that MnDOT has not supported this application.

E. Koutsoukos noted that Anoka had not responded at all.

A. Tag noted that Anoka is in discussion with MnDOT regarding this project. MnDOT declined to support this project.

It was moved by J. Auge, seconded by M. Dahlheimer, "that the Anoka project be allowed to compete provided a MnDOT letter of support is provided by January 31, 2024.." The motion passed unanimously.

Information

2024 Regional Solicitation Update (Steve Peterson, MTS)

S. Peterson reported on the progress of the 2024 Regional Solicitation. For this solicitation, there were 127 applications received. A total of \$445 million of federal funds were requested added to \$377 million of match funds for a total of \$822 million in projects. Estimated funding sources were outlined for fiscal years 2024 to 2029.

Nathan Koster asked for clarification on the totals present within the estimated funding sources.

S. Peterson clarified the debit amounts.

Regional Solicitation Evaluation (Steve Peterson, MTS and Molly Stewart, SRF)

S. Peterson presented on the progress of the Regional Solicitation Evaluation recommended development structure. This includes a series of working groups for developing evaluation criteria for the 2026 regional solicitation.

M. Stewart presented on the schedule for the two year process that has just began. This is broken down into four major decision points; Alternative Application and Preferred Application Structure, Application Criteria, Simplified Application, Final Application Materials.

S. Peterson discussed ways for members of the committees to get involved in the various groups working to devise the evaluation criteria for the Regional Solicitation. Additionally, he discussed a new working group that has been created to discuss the new Active Transportation funding from the legislature. First meeting in late January or Early February and membership will be a mix of policymakers and technical experts.

Maddie Dahlheimer asked for clarification on when the roster will be filled for the technical steering committee.

S. Peterson and M. Stewart clarified that the first meeting will be in April so the roster will be filled in the next two weeks.

Innocent Eyoh discussed that grants from the MPCA have opened up and are listed on the MPCA website.

Reports

Add recap of reports discussion.



Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 2:39 p.m.

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