

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD
Metropolitan Council
390 N. Robert St., St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-1805

Notes of a Meeting of the
TAC-PLANNING COMMITTEE
May 11, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT: Holly Anderson, Jack Byers, Michael Corbett, Innocent Eyoh, Jack Forslund, Jean Keely, Elaine Koutsoukos, Joe Lux, Steve Mahowald, Dan McCormick, Jason Pieper, Kris Riesenber, Kevin Roggenbuck, Ann Pung-Terwedo, Katie White, Rachel Wiken

OTHERS PRESENT: Angie Stenson, Mai Thor, Michelle Fure, Tony Fischer, Jason Gottfried, Russ Owen, Amy Vennewitz, Steve Elmer, Cole Hiniker.

1. Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order by Kevin Roggenbuck, who was filling in for Chair Freese.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was amended to change presentation order because of a time conflicts for Mai Thor. White moved and Pung-Terwedo seconded adoption of the agenda. Item passed unanimously.

3. Approval of the Minutes from the April 2017 meetings

The minutes were amended to reflect a correction of adding Holly Anderson to the present members of the April meeting. Koutsoukos moved and Pung-Terwedo seconded approval of the minutes of the April 2017 meeting. Item passed unanimously.

4. Info Items

1. Public Participation Plan – Mai Thor

Mai Thor returned to present on the Public Participation Plan (PPP). She was previously at the committee for this topic in July of 2016. This version of the PPP includes changes to incorporate comments from the FHWA. Because of these changes, the PPP will go out for another public comment period, which is happening during June.

The Council is under Transportation Management Area (TMA) Planning Certification review, which included comments for the PPP to provide additional detail on defining and clarifying methods to engage stakeholders and the public, visualization techniques, clear processes for public comment, and detail for evaluating the Transportation Public Participation Plan's overall effectiveness.

Next steps for the PPP include the second 45 day public comment period, final approval, coordination with the Transportation Policy Plan process (to reflect the PPP), and finally implementation.

2. Hennepin County Freight Study – Jason Gottfried

Jason Gottfried gave an overview of the Hennepin County Freight Study, which was completed last December. The presentation started with discussion of stakeholder outreach for this study, including public sector, freight carriers, and other agencies. Gottfried walked through the data collection and analysis, setting performance measures, and the key freight study themes. The study included identifying and prioritizing future freight projects, county wide growth strategy, and areas for future study.

3. Ramsey County Performance Measures – Joe Lux

Joe Lux gave a brief presentation of Ramsey County Performance Measures. He started with a handout of the four goals that Ramsey County Public Works has been using to guide their work. Goals are 1. Strengthen individual, family and community health, safety, and well-being 2. Cultivate economic prosperity and invest in neighborhoods with concentrate financial poverty 3. Enhance access to opportunity and mobility for all residents and businesses 4. Model forward thinking investment, fiscal accountability and transparency. Each goal has supporting strategies and performance measures. For each goal, there were data provided to show progress over time.

He finished by handing out the All Ages and Abilities Transportation Network Checklist, which is used for all County projects, to highlight how the project connects to bike, ped, and landuse strategies. The committee discussed this checklist and the Maryland Ave 4-3 road diet for some time.

4. Regional Truck Corridors Study – Steve Elmer

Steve Elmer presented on the Regional Truck Corridors Study.

The Study looked at key transportation factors (Truck traffic volumes and percent of traffic that is trucks) as well as land use factors, to rank regional corridors for truck traffic priority. The study also dove into congestion and safety data, to find hot spots for safety improvements. The authors visited some of these hot spots on the corridor, to identify issues such as clustering of access points, blockages from trains, and lack of acceleration space.

Elmer finished his presentation, highlighting potential follow up steps to the study and well as how the study will be used to guide TPP development.

5. Appendix F – Tony Fischer

Tony Fischer presented proposed changes to Appendix F, which is the Highway Interchange appendix to the TPP. Fischer provided background on the appendix in its current state, and provided some clarification to the text, better definitions for interchange, where the criteria in the appendix apply. Other proposed changes to the appendix include incorporating Thrive MSP 2040 and 2040 TPP Language, incorporating results of PA Intersection Conversation Study, list of successfully completed proposals, removing engineering language and focusing on planning questions, cleaning up text.

He walked through the new draft evaluation criteria for interchange requests: consistency with local/regional planning, demonstrating a need for interchange, functional class of cross street, supporting local roads / access management, and interchange spacing. There is also a new website being planned, which will help with the interchange request process.

6. Transportation System Performance Evaluation – Russ Owen

Russ Owen presented the Transportation System Performance Evaluation. This is a document is a comprehensive review of the regional transportation system that is prepared before the TPP to inform the writing of that document. The last version was written in 2012. It covers highways, transit, aviation, freight, and bike/ped.

Owen walked through some basic stats about demographics, travel pattern changes, findings on highway conditions, transit ridership, aviation enplanements, freight system tonnage/mode split, and bike ped volumes increasing.

The full plan will be published this summer.

6. Other Business

none

7. Adjournment

White moved, Eyoh second, adjourn at 3:00 pm