

Minutes of the REGULAR MEETING OF THE TAC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Thursday, January 13, 2022 ~ Online meeting

Committee Members Present: Nathan Abney, Dave Burns, Paul Czech, Bill Dermody, Andrew Emanuele, Innocent Eyoh, Jack Forslund, Jason Gottfried, Charlie Howley, Emily Jorgensen (chair), Elaine Koutsoukos, Michael Larson, Steve Mahowald, Scott Mareck, Gina Mitteco, Ben Picone, Angie Stenson, Jim Voll

Committee Members Absent: Marc Culver, Bridget Rief

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved with no changes.

Chair Jorgensen introduced the new Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS) director, Charles Carlson, who shared more of his background. Before starting in the director role, he ran the bus rapid transit program for Metro Transit. He started his career 15 years ago working for MTS and was the staff person on this committee at that time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The December 2021 minutes were approved without modification.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Update on the 2020 Census

Todd Graham from the Council presented this item. The presentation slides are [posted on the agenda](#).

Data and other resources for the 2020 Census are posted on the Council's web site at metrocouncil.org/Census2020. There were no questions, but committee members thanked Graham for the informative presentation.

Electric Vehicle Planning Study

Tony Fischer from the Council presented this item, and the slides are [posted on the agenda](#). Jason Gottfried asked how school bus fleets could be considered for electrification and if they would fit in the unique projects category for the Regional Solicitation. Fischer said that MPCA has funded electric buses for some schools. Charlie Howley said the City of Chanhassen did recent polling of residents to get input on electric vehicles and charging needs as the city considers building public charging station, and he would share that information with Fischer. Innocent Eyoh said 15% of the VW settlement funds for Minnesota were for electric vehicle infrastructure and asked if the Council has been working with the MPCA. Fischer said MPCA staff were involved in developing the scope of this study and involved throughout. He also said that 15% of VW settlement funds had been used. Charles Carlson shared a [link to a recent presentation](#) to the Council on Metro Transit's Zero Emission Bus Transition Plan and said the Council is also looking at possibilities on the contracted services side for electrification of vehicles. He said it is a complex process that includes infrastructure, not just vehicles.

TAC Bylaws

Joe Barbeau from the Council reported on proposed changes to the TAC bylaws, some of which would affect this committee. The draft revised bylaws are [posted online](#) and are expected to be an action item for TAC in February. He clarified that new committee chair terms would begin in 2023 with the start of a new Regional Solicitation cycle.

Barbeau highlighted the IV E section on Non-Member Participation, which has changed since the draft was posted online for the committee's meeting. The text in bold was added to this section:

All meetings of the TAC and its standing committees shall be open to public input related to committee business. **In agenda item 4 (Section F, below), Public Comment on Committee Business, when a non-member has a comment on a specific agenda item, the chairperson will have discretion on whether to take comment at that time or ask the non-member to comment when the item is discussed later in the meeting.** Time limits on non-member participation shall also be at the discretion of the Chairperson.

Angie Stenson commented that she liked the idea of additional coordination with agencies and shared from her experience that committees can be challenging as the number of members increase and get in the 40+ range. Barbeau shared there was a supportive comment at TAC for this change.

OTHER BUSINESS

Paul Czech said MnDOT currently has an open comment period for their Minnesota Rail Crossing Safety Action Plan with a survey and a comment map. Comments will still be accepted for the next two weeks. MnDOT has held stakeholder focus groups to inform the plan, which must be completed by February. The link to the plan was also included in the committee meeting notice, and a one-page summary will be emailed to the committee after this meeting.

Elaine Koutsoukos said she is doing an orientation for new TAB members, and new technical committee members are welcome, as are any members who may be interested. One session will be held on January 14, and another one will be held in February. Interested committee members should contact her for the link. There is also a Regional Solicitation workshop on January 21, and interested committee members should register. It will also be recorded and posted online later, along with other training materials for applicants.

Cole Hiniker from the Council said that staff will have a schedule for the next Transportation Policy Plan soon. The committee will likely hear more about that within the next few months, and the plan update will be kicked off later this year.

ADJOURNMENT After business was completed, the meeting adjourned.