

Minutes

TAC Planning Committee



Meeting Date: July 13, 2023

Time: 1:00 PM

Location: Virtual

Members Present:

- | | | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anoka Co – Jack Forslund<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carver Co – Angie Stenson (Vice Chair)<input type="checkbox"/> Chanhassen – Charlie Howley<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council Community Development – Michael Larson<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council MTS – Dave Burns<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dakota Co – Gina Mitteco<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FHWA – Josh Pearson (ex-officio) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hennepin Co – Ashley Morello, alternate for KC Atkins<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Metro Transit – Patrick Haney<input type="checkbox"/> MAC – Bridget Rief<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minneapolis – Kelsey Fogt, alternate for Kathleen Mayell<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MnDOT – Michael Corbett<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MPCA – Innocent Eyoh<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ramsey Co – Scott Mareck (Chair) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> St. Paul – Bill Dermody<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Co – Nathan Abney<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Suburban Transit Assoc – Grace Almeida<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TAB Coordinator – Elaine Koutsoukos<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Washington Co – Lyssa Leitner, alternate for Sara Allen<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> West Saint Paul – Ross Beckwith <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> = present, E = excused</p> |
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Call to Order

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Scott Mareck, Ramsey County, called the regular meeting of the TAC Planning Committee to order at 1:01 p.m.

Agenda Approved

Chair Mareck asked for any additions or corrections to the agenda. Committee members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by David Burns, MTS Planning, seconded by Elaine Koutsoukos, TAB Coordinator, to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2023 regular meeting of the TAC Planning Committee.

Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment on Committee Business

There were no public comments.

Business

1. **2023-38:** Smoothed Urban Area Boundary

It was moved by Lyssa Leitner, Washington County, seconded by Jack Forslund, Anoka County, that the TAC Planning Committee recommend adoption of the proposed smoothed urban area boundary.

David Burns, MTS Planning, presented the action item. Burns explained that urban area boundaries are updated after each decennial census, and metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) may expand the boundaries to smooth them and incorporate features at the edges of census boundaries like roadways, water features, and municipal boundaries.

Burns stated the boundary has significance in certain federal programs and is used for determining an MPO's metropolitan planning area. Burns stated that state law requires the Met Council include the entirety of the seven (7) county metropolitan area in its metropolitan planning area boundary, so the urban-rural designation set by the urban area boundary has less significance in the Met Council's planning process. Burns described coordination with certain stakeholders and proposed changes to the boundary since it was previewed in June.

Chair Mareck said this appears to be somewhat inconsequential administrative requirement.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. **2023-39:** Regional Bicycle Transportation Network (RBTN) Adjustments for 2024 Regional Solicitation

It was moved by Lyssa Leitner, seconded by Gina Mitteco, Dakota County, that the TAC Planning Committee recommend that the Technical Advisory Committee accept the updated RBTN with administrative adjustments for use in the 2024 Regional Solicitation.

Steve Elmer, MTS Planning, presented the action item. Elmer explained that agencies were provided an opportunity to request administrative adjustments to the RBTN prior to release of the 2024 Regional Solicitation and provided the definition of an administrative adjustment. Elmer described the number and nature of the requests received, summarized requests that were or were not incorporated, and provided a map of changes.

Vice Chair Angie Stenson, Carver County, said they were interested to hear that another agency in addition to theirs was interested in a tier change, and said that Carver County had been interested in this in the past. Stenson asked what the process will be to look at the tiers in the future. Elmer answered that is to be determined, but acknowledged there may be a need to re-evaluate certain alignments in a future Transportation Policy Plan update.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. **2023-40:** Draft Amendment to the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan (Amendment #2) to add two highway projects

It was moved by Lyssa Leitner, seconded by Michael Corbett, Minnesota Department of Transportation, that the TAC Planning Committee recommend to TAC release of the attached draft 2040 Transportation Policy Plan Amendment #2, which adds two regionally significant projects, for public review and comment.

David Burns, MTS Planning, presented the action item. Burns described the reason an amendment is required, the projects included in the amendment, their sources of funding, and their consistency with the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan.

Ashley Morello, Hennepin County, asked if these projects meet the region's goals related to climate action. Burns answered that the amendment is still being assessed for its performance outcomes by modelling staff, and that staff are keeping an eye on the topic. Charles Carlson, MTS, said this is a significant topic of the new state transportation law, and a related working group is being formed to figure out how to assess and mitigate these issues in projects. Carlson said the work group will kick off on July 28th, with a report due to the Minnesota Legislature on February 1st, 2024, ahead of the law taking effect in 2025.

Innocent Eyoh, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, expressed concern that long range plan work has sought to reduce induced demand, and that these projects are expanding from four to six lanes. Eyoh mentioned the issues of greenhouse gas emissions and climate change. Eyoh asked if cities, counties, and citizens were engaged, particularly BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of color) communities. Burns answered that this topic is on mind but some outcomes have yet to be assessed. Burns said the environmental justice and equity analyses have not been completed at this time, but there will be opportunity for public comments and input as these projects develop over the next few months.

Motion carried unanimously.



Information

There were no information items.

Other Business

There were no other business items.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 1:43 p.m.

Council Contact:

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