

MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday | November 18, 2020
12:30 PM

REPORTS

1. Chair's Report – Hovland informed the members that they are still waiting for volunteers to serve on the TAB Executive Committee. TAB will select membership of the Executive Committee in January. TAB members interested in serving on the Executive Committee should send an email to the Chair and Elaine Koutsoukos.

Hovland reported on funding that Metro Transit will be returning from a previously selected Regional Solicitation project. TAB will discuss how to allocate the funding as part of Regional Solicitation discussion later in the meeting.

FHWA and FTA hold periodic TMA Certification review of the Council's planning process. The review of the process with staff will occur December 8 and 9. FHWA and FTA volunteered to host a presentation and listening session for feedback from TAB members. The listening session will be added at the end of the December TAB meeting.

2. MnDOT Report – Barnes reported that Deputy Commissioner Scott Peterson is retiring. Kim Collins will replace him. Hwy 5 is open. Construction is wrapping up. Freight solicitation is out for years 2023, 2024, 2025 will complete in December.

MPCA Report – Biewen reported that VW funding, continuing grants. New grant of \$170,000 for installing 22 EV level 2 charging station in public places or workplaces; advancing transportation equity or in areas of increased air pollution. Work on Clean Cars rulemaking is continuing. MPCA plans to publish the final rulemaking in early 2021.

MAC Report – Crimmins reported that MSP received an award for best airport 2019, for the fourth continuous year. They also received an award for General's level of excellence. A COVID testing site was added in the Blue ramp, on second level. It is free for Minnesotans. It is set up for 1,000 per day. Flights down 68%, which is improving. TSA predicts travel of 6.9 million (typically 12-15 million) in US over Thanksgiving holiday. Most people will be travelling by car. MSP is offering \$7 off parking if staying 7 days in the ramp; also offering \$7 a day off of parking over holidays with pre-booking. Construction at the airport will be completed soon.

Metropolitan Council Report – Barber reported that Council will adopt the TPP today. The Council is hosting a second round of input about the regional transit system on Dec. 3. An email was sent to TAB members to register to attend the online transit workshop.

TAC Chair Report – Freese reported that TAC is underway with process to select the next TAC chair. Freese's three-year term ends in December.

BUSINESS

TAB had no business items.

INFORMATION

1. Arterial BRT Engagement Update

Katie Roth and Robin Caufman presented this item. Metro Transit conducted outreach on 11 Arterial BRT corridors. Engagement strategies included website, mass emails, social media, in person, with assistance of community organizations, and city and county partners. They received 2,663 surveys. Advancing equity is the top priority of the respondents. Metro Transit

will advance 10 corridors and prioritize in tiers. These tiers will be presented at the December 16 TAB meeting. Outreach and engagement on the tiers will continue in December.

2. Regional Solicitation: Funding Scenarios

Steve Peterson, MTS, presented this item. Metro Transit is returning \$4.4M-\$4.5M of a \$7.2M project funded in a previous solicitation. All over-programming has been spent down. TAB adopted the staff recommendation to wait on allocating the returned funding until after the Regional Solicitation projects are selected. TAB members discussed the four draft funding scenarios. Michael Barnes stated that MnDOT could provide \$10M per year, or a total of \$20 M, as local match to projects, as a cautionary note to the funding of larger projects in Strategic Capacity category. Applicants are committed to funding the remainder of the local match of their projects. TAB voted to recommend moving forward scenario 1B for approval. Scenario 1B provides funding for all counties, provides modal balance, and funds all pedestrian and Safe Routes to School projects, which fulfills a TAB priority of funding safety projects.

Link to November 18, 2020, TAB agenda and materials - <https://metrocouncil.org/Council-Meetings/Committees/Transportation-Advisory-Board-TAB.aspx>