

MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday | September 16, 2020
12:30 PM

REPORTS

1. Chair's Report – Hovland reported on the Governor's executive order establishing the Blue Ribbon Committee which states that the committee is to review:
 - a. The role of elected versus appointed Metropolitan Council members
 - b. The Metropolitan Council's role as a Metropolitan Planning Organization ("MPO") and identify and evaluate the ways this federal designation may complement and conflict with the Council's responsibilities under Minnesota law
 - c. The effectiveness of the delivery of regional transit service
2. MnDOT Report – Barnes reported that projects are on schedule; low traffic has helped. New projects are out for bids.

MPCA Report – Biewen reported

Clean Cars rulemaking - Moving forward anticipate publishing draft rule in fall to be followed by public comment period and hearing.

VW settlement – have three requests for proposals out

1. Outstate EV fast charging stations – it is estimated that the charging stations will be installed a couple years after award
2. Electric school bus pilot project
3. Minnesota clean diesel off-road DERA grant

A Level 2 EV charging grant is expected to open this fall for all of Minnesota.

MAC Report – Crimmins reported that traffic around the airport is running smoothly with the detour. The number of passengers going through TSA per day were 15,000 after the pandemic began. There are 80,000 passengers per day going through TSA now; compared to 200,000 in 2019. Passengers are down 75%. Cleaning crews are continuously cleaning in the airport; there are 250 hand sanitizers throughout the airport. All who enter the airport must wear mask. Airlines are sterilizing inside the planes. Delta is keeping middle seat open through the year; Southwest through Thanksgiving and will evaluate after.

Metropolitan Council Report - Barber reported that SWLRT received full funding. The Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) was signed on Monday, September 14. The Council is repurposing transit service; including food delivery to food banks and food shelves. Transit service level has returned to 80%.

BUSINESS

TAB approved the following items and they were forwarded to the Transportation Committee.

1. 2020-30: Program Year Extension Request: City of St. Paul Bridge Reconstruction
Transportation Advisory Board approved Saint Paul's program year extension request to move its Kellogg Boulevard Bridge project (SP# 164-158-025) from fiscal year 2021 to fiscal year 2022.
2. 2020-31: Program Year Extension Request: City of St. Paul Minnehaha Avenue Safety Improvements

Transportation Advisory Board approved Saint Paul's program year extension request to move Minnehaha Avenue Signal Safety Improvements (SP# 164-010-075) from fiscal year 2022 to fiscal year 2023.

3. 2020-33: 2020-2023 and 2021-2024 Streamlined TIP Amendment for MnDOT: I-94 Frontage Road Pedestrian Improvements (September 28, 2020, Transportation Committee)

Transportation Advisory Board recommended that the Metropolitan Council adopt an amendment to the 2020-2023 and 2021-2024 TIPs to increase the cost of MnDOT's I-94 frontage road pedestrian project (SP# 6282-231)

4. 2020-29: 2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) (September 28, 2020, Transportation Committee)

Transportation Advisory Board recommended to the Metropolitan Council adoption of the 2021 Unified Planning Work Program.

5. 2020-32: 2020 Regional Solicitation: Arterial Bus Rapid Transit Project Selection Timeline Revision

Transportation Advisory Board approved allowing a timeline extension of the project selection for F Line in the Arterial Bus Rapid Transit Project funding category from December 2020 to April 2021 and directed staff to include \$25 million for the F Line arterial bus rapid transit project in all 2020 Regional Solicitation funding options brought forward for TAB consideration.

INFORMATION

1. 2040 TPP Public Comments

Amy Vennewitz and Sara Maaske presented this item.

The TPP Work Program includes a study area on "Equity Analysis for Transportation" which call for studies on safety outcomes by race and income, spending on preservation by race and income, and analyzing impact of COVID on travel by race and income. TAB members discussed changes to the next Regional Solicitation regarding impacts on of COVID. Indigenous communities and low-income populations were impacted by climate change before COVID. These populations should be brought in for engagement for the next solicitation.

2. Regional Solicitation: Scenario Discussion

Steve Peterson, MTS, presented this item.

TAB advised staff to prepare the following funding scenarios for discussion at the October TAB meeting:

- 1) Midpoint of the modal funding ranges, then, within each mode, the number of applications submitted
- 2) Midpoint-Focus on smaller project categories within each mode to get more projects funded
- 3) Midpoint-Focus on larger projects categories within each mode to leverage outside funds

Regarding appeals of scores, let the technical committee handle the scoring challenges and bring other issues to TAB. Requested a summary of issues, what was brought forth, so when TAB members are talking about scoring and revising the applications in the future, they know what applicants are appealing or what they are having trouble with. This can be brought forward at a later date.

Link to September 16, 2020, TAB agenda and materials - <https://metro council.org/Council-Meetings/Committees/Transportation-Advisory-Board-TAB.aspx>