

# MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday | August 18, 2021  
12:30 PM

## REPORTS

1. **Chair's Report** – Hovland reported that in Information Item #2 on the agenda, a list of items were identified for possible polling on Regional Solicitation items to make sure all TAB members are able to weigh in on decisions and provide direction to staff to prepare the action transmittals for vote at the September TAB meeting.

An additional TAB Executive Committee meeting will be held on September 15 at 11:00 am to review the action items and the September 15 TAB meeting will start early at 12:00 noon to allow time for voting on the 15 action items that will be on the agenda.

The September 15 and October 20 meetings will be held via Webex. The future status of the remote meetings will be reviewed monthly.

2. **MnDOT Report** – Kauppi reported TED solicitation is out. The E-ZPass lanes on 35W are open again. There is an increase of masking and COVID protocols at MnDOT offices.

**MPCA Report** – Kohlasch reported that the school bus replacement application is open. Off road RFP will go out in the fall. Minnesota adopted clean car standards, which will go into effect for model year 2025 vehicles. MPCA is tracking and reviewing federal rule from EPA to return nation to previous vehicle emission standards to start in 2023.

**MAC Report** – Crimmins reported mask requirements expanded to 2022. They are keeping testing and vaccination sites at the airport open. Passenger levels are at 65 percent of 2019. However, they are seeing more cancellations again as the covid variant has spread.

**Metropolitan Council Report** – Barber reported that MTS director position posted. State Fair service is scaled back due to bus operator shortage. There will be service from 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue park-and-ride in Bloomington, Co Rd 73 park-and-ride in Minnetonka, and Cottage Grove park-and-ride.

## BUSINESS

TAB approved the following item and it was forwarded to the Transportation Committee.

1. **2021-22: Accept Public Comments and Recommend 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program (September 13, 2021, Transportation Committee)**

Transportation Advisory Board recommended that the Metropolitan Council adopt 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to the Metropolitan Council and accept the 2022-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Public Comment Report. There was discussion on how to incorporate recommendations into future actions.

## INFORMATION

1. 2022 Regional Solicitation
  - A. Geographic Balance - Steve Peterson and Jed Hanson, MTS, presented information on the geographic distribution of projects and federal funding. Potential changes to the maximum and minimum funding requests could have an impact on geographic balance. There was a recommendation to consider the whole picture of funding that goes to transportation before looking just at geographic balance of Regional Solicitation funds. MnDOT is preparing a comprehensive report for the state legislature by February 2022. An option was discussed of

setting a cap that a county could receive. TAB requested additional staff analysis before making a more informed decision on this; would like to see a breakdown of the percentage of roads and miles by county, the percentage of bike and ped investment per county and the percentage of transit dollars spent past and present per county. That will give a snapshot of who is road heavy, who is transit heavy, who is asking for more, to better understand when one county is saying they need more of something. It was noted that there was no analysis on mileage traveled by people outside the metro area. A cap doesn't take into account the projects that will come in from each county. It was expressed that it is dependent on which projects come in each solicitation. TAB requested staff analyze what would happen with a cap to a county. TAB members requested information broken down by district, as well as county, and by population of county.

B. Criteria Weighting in Spot Mobility and Safety Application presented by Steve Peterson, MTS, presented three options for changes to the criteria weighting in order to increase the weighting of the safety criterion. There was a question on what is known on whether pedestrian injuries are because of pedestrian behavior or a flaw in engineering design at the intersection. TAB accepted the proposed recommendation to reduce points in the measures from measures 1A and 1B to increase the points for 4A and 4B Safety.

C. Regional Solicitation Scoring Measure Changes

a. Equity and Affordable Housing changes presented by Amy Vennewitz and Jed Hanson, MTS. Proposed changes include:

- Measure A: Engagement, 30%
  - Now includes affordable housing
  - More guidance on successful response
- Measure B: Equity Population Benefits and Impacts, 40%
  - Focus on benefits, combined response
  - More guidance on successful response
- Measure C: Affordable Housing Access, 30%
  - Housing Performance Score removed
  - Focused on subsidized affordable housing, with Council-generated maps
  - Applicants encouraged to tell story about other affordable housing
  - Describe connection between residents and destinations
- In 2022, bonus points are proposed to apply across equity and housing measures. Applications receiving 80% of overall equity and housing criteria points would receive bonus points.

A TAB member requested location information on the projects that received the equity bonus points in the previous solicitation. TAB members accepted recommended changes to the Equity and Housing measures.

b. Update of Other Technical Measure Changes presented by Steve Peterson, MTS.

- In the roadways categories, the pedestrian safety measure was revised based on the Council's Pedestrian Safety Action Plan.
- In the roadways categories, applicants will be allowed to use historic traffic counts due to COVID-19's impacts.
- The newly formed Transit Work Group met on July 28th to discuss how to approach transit ridership numbers in the application given COVID-19's impacts.
- For new ridership in Transit Expansion, give applicants the choice of year.
- For existing ridership in Transit Modernization, use 75% (2019 ridership) and 25% (2020 ridership)

TAB members accepted recommended changes to the technical measures.

## 2. 2022 Regional Solicitation - Polling

- A. Qualifying and Eligibility – recommendation to accept proposed changes
- B. Application Categories and Purpose Statements – recommendation to accept proposed changes
- C. Unique Projects Category Design – a poll was held to consider changing the proposed weighting of the criteria Reduce Adverse Environmental Impacts and Improve Racial Equity to the same weighting. The poll result was to keep the weighting the same as the polling result that was proposed by the TAB Policy Work Group.
- D. Project Selection Guarantees/Limits – recommendation to accept proposed changes
- E. Application Category Criteria Weighting – recommendation to accept proposed changes
- F. Application Category Scoring Measures – recommendation to accept proposed changes
- G. Modal Funding Ranges – It was stated that the Regional Solicitation would be a place to put into action recommendations from the TIP comments. A proposal was made to shift the roadway and transit funding ranges three percent. The poll was tabled as several TAB members had to leave the meeting. The discussion will continue with the action item in September.
- H. Potential Maximum/Minimum Changes – tabled polling as several TAB members had to leave the meeting. The discussion will continue with the action item in September.

Link to August 18, 2021, TAB agenda and materials - [081821 Agenda - Transportation Advisory Board \(metro council.org\)](#).