

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD
Metropolitan Council
390 N. Robert St., St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-1805

Minutes of a Meeting of the
FUNDING AND PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE
December 18, 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT: Karl Keel (chair), Steve Albrecht, Colleen Brown, Innocent Eyoh, Mark Filipi, Jenifer Hager, Brian Isaacson, Tom Johnson, Jane Kansier, Mary Karlsson, Elaine Koutsoukos, Bruce Loney, Eriks Ludins, Joe Lux, Paul Oehme, Lyndon Robjent, Cory Slagle, Michael Thompson, Andrew Witter, and Joe Barbeau (staff)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION: Brian Isaacson moved to adopt the agenda. Seconded by Mark Filipi. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Approval of the Minutes

MOTION: Mary Karlsson moved to approve the minutes from the November meeting. Seconded by Paul Oehme. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. TAB Report

Elaine Koutsoukos reported on the December 17 TAB meeting. Bill Hargis recognized outgoing TAB members, Paul Krause for 20 years of service and Steve Gallagher for seven years of service. Pat Bursaw was recognized for her three years of service as TAC Chair. Adam Duinick reported that Met Council will be posting applications for TAB members soon.

TAC Chair Bursaw reported on the December 3 TAC meeting. Two action items were forwarded to TAB. Steve Albrecht of Burnsville has been selected as the new TAC Chair. Two information items were presented at TAC and are also on the TAB agenda: Federal Funding Reallocation Policy Workgroup Update and MnDOT State Aid Report.

Action Items:

- TAB Bylaws revisions approved
- MAC CIP approved
- 2015-2018 TIP Amendment for 5307 funds for Metro Transit: C Line Design and Engineering approved
- 2040 Transportation Policy Plan – recommended support of the TPP and recommended TAB comments be forwarded to the Transportation Committee and the Council
- TAB Chair recommendation to the Council – TAB forwarded the names of Randy Maluchnik and Robert Lilligren as recommendations for TAB Chair

Information Items:

- Federal Funding Reallocation Policy Update – Pat Bursaw, MnDOT
- MnDOT State Aid Report – Dan Erickson, MnDOT
- Federal Funding Projects Withdrawn – Joe Barbeau, Metropolitan Council

5. TIP Amendment – Anoka County Bridge Street Reconstruction – Action Item

Karl Keel introduced the item. Andrew Witter reported that the purpose of the amendment is to move construction up to coincide with the nearby school's summer break. There is some addition to the scope but all additional costs are local.

MOTION: Michael Thompson moved to recommend approval of the TIP amendment. Seconded by Isaacson. The motion was approved unanimously.

6. TIP Public Participation Process Update – Action Item

Joe Barbeau introduced the item. The Metropolitan Council lacks a public involvement policy for the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and TIP amendments. While the Council has traditionally held a 45-day public comment period for the full TIP, there has been no set time period for regionally significant TIP amendments. After exploring other MPOs, Metropolitan Council Staff suggests 21 calendar days, which enables an adequate public review time and a timely process.

Heidi Schallberg from Metropolitan Council said that outreach comes from posting on the Council Website and by sending emails to a distribution list. Karlsson suggested that rather than spelling out specific outreach techniques that the item could reference the Council’s public involvement policy. She added two other proposed adjustments:

- Changing reference to “public meetings” to “TAC and TAB meetings.”
- Changing “should ask” to “shall ask” so the policy will remain consistent.

Karl Keel said that the second section of the TIP amendment policy is unclear regarding what is subject to the 21-day public review period.

MOTION: Oehme moved to recommend the policy to TAB with Karlsson’s suggested changes, inclusion of the definition of “regionally significant projects,” and clarification to the TIP amendment policy regarding what projects are subject to the review period. Seconded by Karlsson. The motion was approved unanimously.

7. Reallocation of withdrawn Regional Solicitation CMAQ Funds – Action Item

Keel introduced the item. In November, Metro Transit informed TAB that it was withdrawing two CMAQ awards for the B-Line (W. 7th Street) arterial bus rapid transit (ABRT) project, which Ramsey County and the City of St. Paul asked to be removed from the TPP. The W. 7th Street CMAQ awards total \$5,307,855 in FY 2015 and \$7,000,000 in FY 2016. Under the existing federal funding reallocation procedure, available funds are first reallocated to pay for project inflation or over-programming of regionally selected projects. The selected projects in the TIP have already received any allowable inflationary adjustment and the available federal funds are currently not over-programmed. The next step in the reallocation process would be to advance a regionally selected project from a future program year. Metro Transit has indicated that it does have a CMAQ project award for East 7th Street for bus purchases and service demonstration totaling \$7.0 M that can be moved into 2015. Because the available 2015 funds total only \$5,307,855, advancing the E 7th Street project would require Metro Transit to advance fund the remaining \$1,692,145 in E 7th Street project costs with the AC payback in 2016. The table on the following page shows the project funding amounts. Given that this option follows the current revenue reallocation procedure, staff recommends moving the E 7th Street projects to 2015. This proposed reallocation will enable the 2015 amount of \$5,307,855 to be deferred until 2016, along with the 2016 \$7.0M that is also available from the W. 7th Street project and allowing TAB and TAC more time to determine how to program this funding. Total available CMAQ funding to be allocated for FY 2016 would be \$12,307,855 (\$5,307,855 advanced for East 7th Street and \$7,000,000 withdrawn from West 7th Street).

Charles Carlson from Metro Transit said that Metro Transit would prefer that \$617,480 be used to pay for cost inflation on its 2015 Snelling Avenue arterial bus rapid transit award, while the remainder (\$4,690,375) be used to advance the East 7th Street project. Metro Transit also would like 2016 funds to be used on its Penn Avenue arterial bus rapid transit project.

Lyndon Robjant said that reallocation funds should not be provided to projects that have not gone through the regional solicitation.

Keel said he was not comfortable with the inflation adjustment but that he was comfortable advancing the East 7th Street project.

Elaine Koutsoukos said that inflation is built into the project cost at the time of award. She added that accommodation of Metro Transit's inflation adjustment request would necessitate finding out how much inflation has occurred with other projects and providing funding to them as well.

Colleen Brown said that she looked through the CMAQ projects and the only other project that could utilize the funding is a bicycle trail project from Three Rivers Park District.

Robgent said that the funds do not have to be kept within the same mode. Barbeau replied that this is correct but staff recommended keeping it within the mode.

MOTION: Isaacson moved to recommend the reallocation as presented in the action item. Seconded by Albrecht. The motion was approved with one dissenting vote (Robgent).

8. Federal Funding Reallocation Committee Update – Information Item

Barbeau said that the committee will finalize its recommended reallocation and scope change processes at its upcoming final meeting. The reallocation process, as recommended by the committee, will prioritize advanced construction payback, followed by advancing regionally selected projects and pro-rating funds to projects under the 80 percent federal funding limit.

9. Regional Solicitation Scoring Committee Update – Information Item

Koutsoukos provided a brief update of the scoring committee activities. She noted that there are 121 applications asking for \$420,748,530. Staff is reviewing projects to make sure they meet qualifications.

10. Other Business

None.

11. Adjournment

With no other business, the meeting adjourned.