
*Transportation Advisory Board
Of the Metropolitan Council*

**Minutes of a Meeting of the
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, December 2, 2015
9:00 A.M.**

Members Present: Doug Fischer, Lyndon Robjent, Brian Sorenson, Jim Grube, Tim Mayasich, Lisa Freese, Jan Lucke, Steve Bot, Elaine Koutsoukos, Mark Filipi, Michael Larson, Adam Harrington, Pat Bursaw, Amanda Smith, Bridget Rief, Beverley Miller, John Tompkins, Danny McCullough, Jean Keely, Steve Albrecht, Michael Thompson, Kim Lindquist, Bruce Loney, Jim Kosluchar, Jenifer Hager, Jack Byers, Bill Dermody, Paul Kurtz (Members Excused: Karl Keel, Paul Oehme)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Steve Albrecht at 9:03 a.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Elaine Koutsoukos proposed the following changes to the agenda:

- 1) Add agenda items 2015-50, 2015-51, and 2015-52 per the agenda change on Tuesday.
- 2) For the Funding & Programming report, put item C first, then A and B.
- 3) Remove the MnDOT presentation on the Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan and MnSHIP, due to our large agenda.

Mark Filipi moved and Tim Mayasich seconded. No discussion. Motion passed.

3. Approval of March Minutes

The November 4, 2015 meeting minutes were approved as written. Pat Bursaw moved and Tim Mayasich seconded. No discussion. Motion passed.

4. TAB Report

Elaine Koutsoukos reported on the November 18, 2015 TAB meeting.

REPORTS

TAB Chair's Report

Hovland reported that the TAB Executive Committee did not meet this month. The second Equity Workshop will be held following the TAB meeting today.

Agency Reports (MnDOT, MPCA, MAC and Metropolitan Council)

MnDOT: McBride – reported that the Lafayette Bridge has opened after 5 years of construction. The northbound I-35E MnPASS lane north of St. Paul will open on 11/30. There will be a 1 month free operation period. Sometime right after the first of the year MnDOT will begin charging for the MnPASS lanes on I-35E. There is information online about the process for signing up for the transponders. Maluchnik added that a bridge opening ceremony is scheduled for Highway 101 on 11/24.

MAC: Carl Crimmins – reported that MAC Executive Director Jeff Hamiel will be leaving MAC in May. A nationwide search is beginning for a replacement MAC Executive Director. A new aircraft viewing area has opened at Longbow & Carver Road. MAC is also partnering with the U of M on a fenced-off area for beekeeping. The U of M is also working with the Veteran’s Administration to involve veterans with trauma disorders in the beekeeping operations.

Metropolitan Council: Katie Rodriguez – reported that LRT ridership continues to be strong. The Green Line ridership is approaching the 2030 daily ridership forecast projections.

TAB Bylaws Proposal

Current TAB bylaws allow for one alternate for the Metropolitan Council representative. Rodriguez suggested also allowing 1 alternate (in total) that could fill in for the transit and non-motorized representatives (3 positions). State Law is silent on this. Discussion followed and Swanson stated that currently only cities of the first class are allowed alternates and he would like to see it extended to the other cities as well. Goins would also like the opportunity for an alternate for the freight representative. TAB directed the Bylaws Committee to look at a broader range of alternates for all forms of representation on the TAB.

ACTION ITEMS

Steve Albrecht, TAC Chair, gave a recap of the Streamlining process and guidelines and explained the next three projects (2015-42, 2015-43 and 2015-48). The committee voted on each item separately.

1. 2015-42: 2016-2019 Streamlined TIP Amendment: 5309, Metro Transit, Ladders of Opportunity
TAB adopted the amendment into the 2016-2019 TIP to include funding for improvement, replacement, and construction of bus facilities in the Minneapolis and St. Paul region (SP# TRF-TCMC-16BE).
2. 2015-43: 2016-2019 Streamlined TIP Amendment: National Highway Performance Program (NHPP), I-35W, MnDOT
TAB adopted the amendment to the 2016-2019 TIP to adjust the scope and description of MnDOT’s I-35W pavement resurface and rehabilitation project (SP# 6284-166).
3. 2015-48: 2016-2019 Streamlined TIP Amendment: Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), Three Rivers Park District
TAB adopted the amendment to the 2016-2019 TIP to adjust the cost of Three Rivers Park District’s Bassett Creek Regional Trail project (SP# 091-090-076).

Albrecht explained the next two items (2015-44 and 2015-45). This project may be eligible for New Starts funding, but we won’t know until well into 2016. If the project is awarded New Starts funding in the SWLRT project, then \$2.1M will be freed up for other projects. John Doan, Hennepin County, was present and answered questions from committee members regarding the funding and status of the project.

4. 2015-44: Scope Change: Cedar Lake Trail, Hennepin County

TAB approved of the scope change request to include stairs at the crossings and include the project in the New Starts application.

5. 2015-45: 2016-2019 TIP Amendment: Cedar Lake Trail, Hennepin County

TAB adopted the amendment into the 2016-2019 TIP to adjust the cost, change the sponsor, and add stairways to the scope of Hennepin County's Cedar Lake LRT Regional Trail Crossings project (SP# 027-090-024) and reserve reallocation of funds until notified by Metropolitan Council, but no later than year end 2016.

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Public Participation Plan

Michelle Fure, Metropolitan Council Manager Public Involvement-Communications, presented this item. She answered questions from committee members about the extent and methods of engagement with communities. Sanger suggested that MC share learned information with the local governments that will help the locals reach out to different cultures. Rodriguez encouraged locals to reach out to their Metropolitan Council member with any concerns or questions that they may have.

2. Clean Air Minnesota

David Thornton introduced this item and stated that this presentation is a result of interest from recent TAB meetings and conversations about Federal Standards and non-attainment. Bill Droessler, Clean Air Minnesota, presented this item.

3. 2016 Regional Solicitation

Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Analyst Steve Peterson presented this item. Peterson covered as much information as he could in the remaining time left for the meeting, there will be more discussion at future TAB meetings.

5. Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee (Steve Albrecht, Chair)

At this morning's TAC Executive meeting the group discussed the recently added agenda items. Preferably the TAC wouldn't add agenda items so late before the meeting, but the TAB Chair is asking for their December meeting so be more focused, so therefore this action needs to be taken today.

Additionally, today is Beverley Miller's final TAC meeting as a representative from the Suburban Transit Association. The TAC thanked her for her service.

B. Funding and Programming Committee (Tim Mayasich)

Draft Defederalization Policy. Joe Barbeau presented this item. This is an information item for now but will be an action item in 2016, perhaps as late as March, due to the increased activity level on the TAB agendas. Pat Bursaw said that this will be a useful policy, but there needs to be a tracking mechanism within the region for TIP and STIP purposes. The projects still need to be accounted for even though they are not receiving federal funds.

2015-46 Hennepin County Defederalization. Tim Mayasich presented this item. Jim Grube expressed Hennepin County's intention to abide by the draft policy discussed above.

Tim Mayasich moved and Doug Fischer seconded. Motion passes.

2015-47 Hennepin County TIP Amendment. Tim Mayasich presented this item. Tim Mayasich moved and Michael Thompson seconded. Motion passes.

C. Planning Committee (Lisa Freese)

The Planning committee met in November and had informational presentations regarding the metro centerline project, functional classification and Regional Bicycle Transportation Network changes before the next solicitation, MnDOT's Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan and MnSHIP, and the Council's performance measure work.

2015-49 Metropolitan Airports Commission Capital Improvement Program. Lisa Freese presented this item. Bridget Rief added information about the individual projects that are being included, some of which were not presented in the TAC-Planning action item due to the conclusion of the environmental documentation and public involvement process. Lisa Freese moved and Tim Mayasich seconded. Motion passes.

6. Special Agenda Items

Regional Solicitation (Steve Peterson, MTS)

Elaine Koutsoukos explained that the past two TAB meetings have not had a lot of discussion on solicitation issues. Chair Hovland wants to change the approach for the rest of the process to clarify discussion vs. decision-making conversations. Chair Hovland and Council staff have pulled out three issues that have been generally agreed-upon in the past in order to solidify them for TAB's knowledge.

2015-50 Application Funding Categories. Doug Fischer asked if this means we will be tweaking criteria, not creating new criteria. Steve Petersaid said yes. Doug Fischer would like to see railroad safety improvement as its own category to do something bigger to address this need. Pat Busaw said that there are lots of other categories could be added with similar needs, such as interchanges. However it is hoped that this group can address the criteria we have instead of creating new categories. Tim Mayasich agreed with Pat Bursaw. Ramsey County has a lot of at-grade crossings as well. Kim Lindquist said that the next solicitation should advertise that railroad crossings have a better chance of being competitive in the 2016 solicitation. Lyndon Robjent asked if we are measuring the impact of railroad crossings on roadway delay. Steve Peterson said that at a previous meeting this group agreed to allow Synchro to model this in the applications. Tim Mayasich moved and Doug Fischer seconded. Motion passes.

2015-51 Functional Classification Scoring. Doug Fischer asked if it made sense to pick one of the alternatives laid out in this action item instead of sending all of these options to TAB. Elaine Koutsoukos said that Chair Hovland would like a recommendation, but this action item states that there isn't a consensus yet. Kim Lindquist said that it is easier to get information back if we provide a recommendation instead of giving the TAB more options to choose from. Kim Lindquist, Tim Mayasich, and Doug Fischer said that option #2 is ideal and consistent with the previous action item. Doug Fischer moved the item, to be changed to state a preference for option #2. Lyndon Robjent seconded. Motion passes.

2015-52 Cost Effectiveness Criteria. Lyndon Robjent moved the action item, with the selection of option #1 as the preferred action. Doug Fischer seconded. Michael Thompson asked if the usage numbers will

not be collected since they won't be used to calculate cost-effectiveness. Elaine Koutsoukos said that the measures will remain but will not be tied to cost-effectiveness. Motion passes.

Tim Mayasich requested that all jurisdictions be represented at the next Funding & Programming meeting to complete the criteria work.

Steve Peterson presented the recommended changes to the transit, bicycle, and pedestrian solicitation categories.

Adam Harrington clarified that these numbers are directly connected to transit trips, not to transit routes. Pat Bursaw asked if transit modernization projects should also account for attracting new riders instead of just benefiting existing riders. Steve Peterson responded that it is hard to determine new riders on existing routes. The number is kept for emissions purposes but not for usage. Adam Harrington added that the "value of investment" is the number of people served. Jan Lucke asked why population concentration is part of transit applications but not other applications. Steve Peterson said that last year's working group came up with these measures. Elaine Koutsoukos said that population within 2.5-5 miles counts for points at park and ride locations.

7. Agency Reports

There were no agency reports.

8. Other Business and Adjournment

Tim Mayasich reported that the U.S. House and Senate conference committee has agreed on a 5 year, \$300 billion transportation package. A presentation for TAC would be appreciated after the new year when we know more about the details.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 10:14AM.

Prepared by:

Katie White