

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

Minutes of a Meeting of the
FUNDING AND PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE
May 19, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tim Mayasich (chair, Ramsey County), Lynne Bly (MnDOT Metro), Colleen Brown (MnDOT Metro State Aid), Innocent Eyoh (MPCA), Anna Flintoft (Metro Transit), Craig Jenson (Scott County), Jane Kansier (MVTA), Karl Keel (Bloomington), Andrew Korsberg (MnDNR), Jim Kosluchar (Fridley), Elaine Koutsoukos (TAB), Paul Oehme (Chanhassen), Ryan Peterson (Burnsville), Steve Peterson (Metropolitan Council), John Sass (Dakota County), Carla Stueve (Hennepin County), Michael Thompson (Maplewood), Anne Weber (St. Paul), Andrew Witter (Anoka County), and Joe Barbeau (staff)

OTHERS PRESENT: Mary Gustafson (Metro Transit)

1. Call to Order

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

2. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION: Koutsoukos moved to adopt the agenda. Seconded by Thompson. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Approval of the Minutes from the April 21, 2016 Meeting

MOTION: Kansier moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by Ryan Peterson. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. TAB Report – Information Item

Koutsoukos reported on the May 18, 2016, TAB meeting, at which TAC Chair Steve Albrecht reported that work is continuing on the federal funds exchange policy. He also presented an overview of the 2016-19 funding reallocation information that had been presented at TAC.

Three action items were approved:

1. 2016-33: Revision of TAB Bylaws, which will go to the Council for concurrence.
2. 2016-28: Scope change for the Hennepin County CSAH 46 Bridge over Godfrey Parkway, modifying the bridge design.
3. 2016-32: Release of the 2020-2021 MnDOT Metro District Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Solicitation.

5. Draft 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program – Action Item

Barbeau provided a brief presentation on the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and funding sources and mode share within. Bly provided a presentation on funding distribution, significant projects, and key changes. Mary Gustafson, Metro Transit, provided a presentation on transit funding sources, key projects, and formula funds.

MOTION: Koutsoukos moved to recommend that the draft TIP be adopted by TAB for release for a public comment period. Seconded by Steve Peterson. The motion was approved unanimously.

6. Policy and Process to Exchange Federal Funds between Projects – Action Item

Barbeau said that some TAB members have expressed concern with the removal of disadvantaged business enterprise (DBE) goals for project from which federal funds are removed. Koutsoukos added that some

members may suggest trying to keep a DBE goal while removing all other requirements that can be forgone when federal funds are removed.

Thompson suggested local agencies could be asked to state how they will address the issue. Mayasich said that would become a political discussion at TAB.

Keel suggested tracking how many fund swaps result in no DBE for a project as opposed to resulting in a local substitute.

Witter said that transferring funds from smaller to larger projects could actually increase the overall statewide goal.

Mayasich said that it would be helpful if larger counties could relay their substitute programs before moving the issue to TAB.

Eyoh asked whether there have been concerns related to loss of the environmental processes. Koutsoukos replied that TAB has not expressed such concerns.

Steve Peterson asked how the benefits of funds exchanges can be shown. Barbeau replied that he has informally heard that projects see a 10 to 30 percent cost reduction, though he is not aware of any documented results.

Mayasich suggested that a primer be created on how a process to include DBE would work.

Gustafson said that transit projects are less likely than highway projects undergo a funds exchange because TAB-funded projects tend to include a lot of federal funds. She added that the Metropolitan Council's Office of Diversity & Equal Opportunity has limited staff time and would be hard-pressed to oversee more projects.

MOTION: Thompson moved to reconvene the Federal Funds Exchange Work Group to consider options and how to provide clarity to TAB. Seconded by Oehme.

Keel asked whether federal funds exchange requests could be considered case-by-case in the interim, to which Koutsoukos replied in the affirmative.

The motion was approved unanimously.

7. Other Business

Koutsoukos said that the Regional Solicitation online system training sessions have been scheduled. She added that a tutorial will be created.

Eyoh reported that he will not be in attendance for the June and July meetings.

Steve Peterson said that the Council will host a "Plan It" kickoff webinar to help communities update their comprehensive plans by 2018.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.