

Minutes of the REGULAR MEETING OF THE TAC FUNDING & PROGRAMING COMMITTEE

Thursday, December 16, 2021

Committee Members Present: Paul Oehme (Acting Chair, Lakeville), Jerry Auge (Anoka County), Angie Stenson (Carver County), Jenna Fabish (Dakota County), Jason Pieper (Hennepin County), John Mazzitello (Ramsey County), Craig Jenson (Scott County), Joe Ayers-Johnson (Washington County), Cole Hiniker (Metropolitan Council), Elaine Koutsoukos (TAB), Anna Flintoft (Metro Transit), Molly McCartney (MnDOT Metro District), Colleen Brown (MnDOT Metro District State Aid), Mehjabeen Rahman (MPCA), Mackenzie Turner Bargaen (MnDOT Bike & Ped), Nancy Spooner-Mueller (DNR), Aaron Bartling (MVTA), Robert Ellis (Eden Prairie), Ken Ashfeld (Maple Grove), Nathan Koster (Minneapolis), Ann Weber (St. Paul)

Committee Members Absent: Karl Keel (Bloomington), Jim Kosluchar (Fridley), Michael Thompson (Plymouth)

I. CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Acting Chair Oehme called the regular meeting of the Funding & Programming Committee to order at 1:32 p.m. on Thursday, December 16, 2021. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was held via teleconference.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved without a vote. A vote is only needed if changes are made to the agenda.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: It was moved by McCartney and seconded by Spooner-Mueller to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2021, regular meeting of the Funding & Programming Committee. The motion was approved unanimously via roll call.

IV. TAB REPORT

Koutsoukos reported on the December 15, 2021, TAB meeting. The report included mention of Charles Carlson as the new Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS) executive director. Joe Barbeau, MTS, stated that Carlson will be introduced at the next meeting.

V. BUSINESS

1. 2022-03: Scope Change Request for Hennepin County: CSAH 158 Bridge Replacement

Barbeau said that Hennepin County requests a scope change for its CSAH 158 (Vernon Ave) bridge replacement project to increase the project length, remove a channelized right-turn island, reconstruct the southbound MN 100 ramp, and install a noise wall.

MOTION: It was moved by Brown and seconded by Ellis to recommend approval of Hennepin County's scope change request to amend its CSAH 158 (Vernon Ave) bridge replacement project to increase the project length, remove a channelized right-turn island, reconstruct the southbound MN 100 ramp, and install a noise wall and for the applicant to retain all of its original federal funding. The motion was approved unanimously.

2. 2022-04: Program Year Extension Request for City of Blaine Intersection Improvements

Barbeau said that The City of Blaine received \$1,530,000 from the 2020 Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Solicitation to construct a roundabout at the intersection of

99th Avenue and Baltimore Street in program year 2022. The city requests an extension of the program year to 2023, as that would provide better coordination with nearby Trunk Highway 65 improvements. The city had applied for 2024 or 2025 funds to coordinate with that project but accepted earlier funding in anticipation that it would be further along.

Per the Program Year Policy's progress assessment, a minimum score of seven is needed to be eligible for an extension. The city scored six for this request. That said, MnDOT Metro District is comfortable with approval of the request because the score is due to the city agreeing to an earlier program year to be on track with the TH 65 environmental study (phase I completed by MnDOT; phase II in process, led by the city), which was to be completed in 2020 but took longer than anticipated. The score being below seven is not the result of the city not doing its part to deliver the project, which should be able to be delivered in May of 2023. Further, MnDOT Metro District believes it will be able to spend the project's funds in 2023.

Jon Haukaas, Director of Public Works for the City of Blaine said that the project is tied to a Minnesota Highway 65 project and that it can now be de-coupled from the larger project. With the extension, the city should be able to get a consultant on board in January 2022.

Oehme asked whether the project was originally programmed for a later year, to which Haukaas replied that the city originally applied for the funding in 2024 or 2025 but it was awarded 2022 funding with the belief that it could be delivered in that year.

MOTION: It was moved by Auge and seconded by Pieper to recommend Blaine's program year extension request to move its 99th Avenue / Baltimore Street roundabout from fiscal year 2022 to fiscal year 2023. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. 2022-05: Scope Change and TIP Amendment Request for Hennepin County: CSAH 42

Barbeau said that Hennepin County requests a scope change for its CSAH 42 / CSAH 3 signal revisions and pedestrian improvements project to remove BRT station underground and flatwork along with one intersection and approve an amendment to the 2022-2025 TIP reflecting this change. The request removes ABRT station underground and flatwork that was added previously via an administrative modification. On its own, this change would return the project back to its original scope. The change would also remove the CSAH 3 / CSAH 152 intersection from the project. This would enable the signal and pedestrian facilities to be constructed as part of the Metro Transit B-Line ABRT project. It would also change "crossing beacons" to "signal" for the four remaining intersections in the project description.

Oehme asked whether \$171,000 is larger than amounts that are traditionally retained. Barbeau replied that it is a significant amount, though there is history of being lenient when the project is completed elsewhere, as opposed to if part of the project is being removed and not completed. Brown added that this is commonplace when the applicant is spending its own funding to complete the removed elements, as is the case here.

Pieper pointed out that the project uses FHWA funds whereas the project absorbing the CSAH 3 intersection is using FTA funds and removing FHWA funds from the project will simplify it.

MOTION: It was moved by Ashfeld and seconded by Koster to recommend approval Hennepin County's request to remove BRT station underground and flatwork along with one intersection from Hennepin County's CSAH 42 / CSAH 3 signal revisions and pedestrian

improvements project, inclusive of retention of the full federal funding amount, and an amendment to the 2022-2025 TIP reflecting this change.

Stenson asked whether it is appropriate for the applicant to retain all of the federal funding when part of the project is removed, given that the Scope Change Policy states that funds should not be provided for increased costs. Barbeau replied that historically, the committees have allowed for retention as long as the full project is being built. Koster said that there is a precedent with a CSAH 46 pedestrian project, for which Minneapolis led delivery of a project on behalf of Hennepin County for the sake of efficiency.

The motion was approved unanimously.

VI. INFORMATION

None.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Koutsoukos said that she is planning a Regional Solicitation workshop for January 21, though she wanted to check with the group on that date. Mazzitello said that that is the last day of the Minnesota County Engineers Conference. After further discussion that included that the workshop will be recorded, the date was agreed upon, as was a morning time.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Acting Chair Oehme adjourned the meeting.

Joe Barbeau
Recording Secretary