

# Minutes

## TAC Funding and Programming Committee



**Meeting Date:** March 17, 2022

**Time:** 1:30 PM

**Location:** Virtual

### Members Present:

- Bloomington - Karl Keel
- Lakeville - Paul Oehme (Acting Chair)
- Eden Prairie - Robert Ellis
- Fridley - Brandon Brodhag
- Maple Grove - Ken Ashfeld
- Plymouth - Michael Thompson (Chair)
- Minneapolis - Nathan Koster
- St. Paul - Anne Weber
- Met Council - Cole Hiniker
- Metro Transit - Scott Janowiak

- TAB Coordinator - Elaine Koutsoukos
- MnDOT - Molly McCartney
- MnDOT Metro District State Aid - Colleen Brown
- MnDOT Bike/Ped -Mike Samuelson
- MPCA - Innocent Eyoh
- DNR - Nancy Spooner
- Suburban Transit Assoc - Aaron Bartling

- Anoka Co - Jerry Auge
- Carver Co - Darin Mielke
- Dakota Co - Jenna Fabish
- Hennepin Co - Jason Pieper
- Ramsey Co - Scott Mareck
- Scott Co - Craig Jenson
- Wash Co - Joe Ayers-Johnson
- = present,  = absent

### Call to Order

A quorum being present, Acting Committee Chair Oehme called the regular meeting of the TAC Funding and Programming Committee to order at 1:32 p.m.

### Approval of the Agenda

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

### Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Keel and seconded by Pieper to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2022 regular meeting of the TAC Funding and Programming Committee. **Motion carried** unanimously via roll call.

### Public Comment on Committee Business

There were no public comments.

### TAB Report

Koutsoukos reported on the March 16, 2022 TAB meeting.

## Business

### 1. 2022-13: Southwest LRT TIP Funding Increase (Joe Barbeau, MTS)

Joe Barbeau from MTS presented Metro Transit's request for an amendment to the 2022-2025 TIP to increase the 2022 cost of the Southwest LRT (SWLRT), which would increase funding to the project by \$60 million, including a \$12.5 million local match. Nick Thompson of Metro Transit discussed the project and issues the SWLRT, including an additional station, barrier protection from the railroad, and the Kenilworth corridor tunnel. Thompson also discussed the negotiations with the construction firm. The project will require an additional 34 months and will increase in cost up to \$500 million. Thompson discussed the sources of additional funding.

Keel asked whether new funding is being requested through the sources TAB oversees. Thompson noted this is federal formula funding for capital investments. Eyoh asked whether more money will need to be allocated. Thompson replied that this amendment is the first step but that additional funding needs to be identified so there may be future TIP amendments and that as a regionally significant project it will be reflected in the TIP.

It was moved by McCartney and seconded by Spooner-Mueller to recommend approval of the Southwest LRT TIP amendment to the 2022-2025 TIP to increase the cost of the SWLRT 2022 project by \$50 million. **Motion carried** unanimously.

### 2. 2022-15: I-94 East Metro Freight Project TIP Amendment (Joe Barbeau, MTS)

Joe Barbeau presented MnDOT's TIP amendment request to the 2022-2025 TIP to add a project line funding a new auxiliary lane from I494/I694/I94 in Oakdale to Washington County Highway 19 in Woodbury and to add a guardrail and noise wall to its associated existing I-94 maintenance project located between Oakdale and the St. Croix River. This is a regionally significant project so the request cannot be streamlined and will be released for public comment by TAB next month. After the public comment, TAB will consider recommendation for approval. McCartney noted this project recently went through a TPP amendment process. Eyoh said that while a new air quality conformity determination is not needed, the applicant should address air quality and traffic concerns during construction.

It was moved by Mareck and seconded by Eyoh, to recommend approval of an amendment to the 2022-2025 TIP to add a project line funding a new auxiliary lane from I494/I694/I94 in Oakdale to Washington County Highway 19 in Woodbury (SP # 8282-132F) and to add a guardrail and noise wall to MnDOT's associated I-94 maintenance project located between Oakdale and the St. Croix River (SP # 8282-132) for the purpose of release for public comment. **Motion carried** unanimously.

## Information

### 1. 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program Update Schedule

Joe Barbeau of MTS discussed the [2023 to 2026 Transportation Improvement Program \(TIP\) update schedule](#). Barbeau stated the draft TIP is expected to be available in May, with a public comment period following, and TAB approval in August with Council approval in September. The TIP will go through a federal review process after Council approval.

### 2. Travel Demand Management Project Update

Theresa Cain of Metro Transit discussed Metro Transit's their [Travel Demand Management Project](#). Cain discussed Metro Transit's employer and institutional outreach and highlighted some successes as well as upcoming projects.

Hiniker asked about the role of telework in this project and whether new strategies are being investigated. Cain noted that Metro Transit and the Transportation Management Organizations (TMO)s are regularly in contact with companies to connect them with resources and experts.

Hiniker also discussed MTS's upcoming travel demand management (TDM) study and MnDOT's vehicle miles traveled and congestion research project.

Keel asked about the successes of TDM compared with more traditional project investments and whether this will be examined in the upcoming TDM study. Hiniker replied that the study will explore quantifiable benefits, though he cautioned that it is difficult to compare TDM investments to other investments.

## Other Business

Acting Chair Oehme noted that the Transportation Advisory Board will be returning to in-person meetings. Joe Barbeau of MTS responded that the May meeting may be in person, but that the Met Council's Office of General Counsel is still reviewing the laws and evaluating the potential for hybrid meetings.

## Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 2:27 p.m.

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