

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

Minutes of a Meeting of the
FUNDING AND PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE
July 18, 2013

MEMBERS PRESENT: Karl Keel (Chair), Craig Jenson, Joe Lux, Brian Isaacson, Colleen Van Wagner, Greta Alquist, Mary Karlsson, Eriks Ludens, Richard McCoy, Tom Johnson, Jenifer Hager, Steve Albrecht, Jon Olson, Lyndon Robjent, Kevin Roggenbuck, and Heidi Schallberg (staff)

1. Call to Order

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

2. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented.

3. Approval of the Minutes from the April 18, 2013, Meeting

Minutes from the April meeting were approved without change.

4. TAB Report

Kevin Roggenbuck said the TAB met the day before. The board acted on its comments for Thrive MSP 2040. The consultant team made a presentation on the Regional Solicitation Evaluation to the board, who were interested in more opportunity to comment throughout the process. Work is being done on the bylaws. The board recognized Kevin Roggenbuck for his years of service as the TAB Coordinator at his last meeting; he has accepted a position with Ramsey County.

5. 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program

Public Comment Report

K. Roggenbuck provided the staff report for the public comment report for the TIP and gave an overview of the processes used and the comments received. Details are provided in the report.

MOTION: B. Isaacson motioned to recommend the approval of the public comment report. Eriks Ludens seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Adoption of the 2014-2017 TIP

H. Schallberg said changes were made to the draft in response to project sponsor comments; overall the TIP remained very similar to the draft.

MOTION: Mary Karlsson motioned to recommend the adoption of the 2014-2017 TIP. B. Isaacson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

6. 2013-2016 TIP Amendment: MnDOT I-394 Ramp Entrance

Brian Isaacson presented on MnDOT's amendment request to add the I-394 entrance ramp/bridge from Ridgedale Drive to westbound I-394 in Minnetonka. The project received state Transportation Economic Development (TED) funding, and an amendment is required because a federal action is required for the interstate project.

MOTION: B. Isaacson motioned to recommend the approval of the amendment. Steve Albrecht seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

7. CMAQ TDM Solicitation

Katie White presented about the upcoming CMAQ TDM solicitation for \$1.2 million for 2014 funds. The committee will have an action item in August regarding the solicitation, which would be released this fall. The purpose of this solicitation is to focus on new activities, not ongoing TMO functions. Evaluation criteria are being developed with a stakeholder committee. The committee thought applications should get more points for truly new activities, not just geographic expansion of a current activity.

8. Report on Email Vote for May TIP Amendments

H. Schallberg said the bylaws specify that electronic votes should be placed on the following committee meeting as an informational item. The committee received a memo summarizing the email vote process used in May for two TIP amendments. The two amendments were unanimously recommended for approval by 17 voting members. Staff appreciated the quick response from members; the quorum was met within a couple of days. K. Keel asked if members felt comfortable voting by email and if they had enough information. B. Isaacson said a feedback loop structure is important if any business item put to an email vote ends up being more involved than it initially appeared. Jon Olson suggested that an email vote should have a higher approval percentage required, not just 50/50. Joe Lux said it could work that if any member asked with legitimate rationale, the item could be pulled from an email vote and put on a meeting agenda to address any concerns that may not have been initially apparent, like pulling an item off a consent agenda.

9. Dakota County Project Withdrawal

H. Schallberg said Dakota County sent a letter withdrawing its Mississippi River Regional Trail project from 117th Street to Spring Lake Park from the \$1,090,000 in federal Transportation Enhancements funding awarded for the project due to being unable to obtain an agreement with the Union Pacific Railroad for the trail construction. Colleen Van Wagner said State Aid is working to identify a project that can use this additional funding, and they will report on how the funds were used at a future meeting. They have special permission from OCPPM at MnDOT to have until Sept. 1 to use these funds (beyond the state fiscal year but within the federal fiscal year, which ends Sept. 30.) B. Isaacson said that State Aid did an outstanding job tracking the funding at the end of the state fiscal year.

10. Other Business

Mary Karlsson said that in the transition period where a new TAB Coordinator is being hired, Carl Ohrn will sit on TAB, and Heidi Schallberg would be the project manager for the Regional Solicitation Evaluation and handle any scope change requests. She also said staff would be providing quarterly updates on the Transportation Policy Plan at TAC and TAB in upcoming months, and members could provide any feedback they may have.

C. Van Wagner said that recent discussion at MnDOT has led to the requirement from OCPPM that non-State Aid agencies can no longer sponsor projects. Any such agencies (such as Three Rivers, DNR) would have to have a sponsor with a State Aid account to draw from in the event that federal funding has to be rescinded. Cities and counties may hear from these agencies seeking project sponsors. Technically this wasn't supposed to have been done this way with non-State Aid project sponsors in the past. Carver County has asked for funding from a city it sponsored to control the county's risk. There was a question about this being a MnDOT OCPPM decision, not TAB's. The committee asked MnDOT to provide a representative to present the information for discussion at a future TAC meeting.

11. Adjournment

With no other business, the meeting adjourned.