
*Transportation Advisory Board
Of the Metropolitan Council*

**Minutes of a Meeting of the
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, June 4, 2014
9:00 A.M.**

Members Present: Doug Fischer, Brian Sorenson, Tim Mayasich, Lisa Freese, Jan Lucke, Elaine Koutsoukos, Mark Filipi, Patrick Boylan, Adam Harrington, Pat Bursaw, Bridget Rief, Susan Moe, Beverley Miller, Karl Keel, Paul Oehme, Michael Thompson, Duane Schwartz, Bruce Loney, Jenifer Hager, Jack Byers, Michelle Beaulieu, Paul Kurtz (Members excused: none)

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of Agenda

Pat Bursaw recommended that the Special Agenda Item for the Regional Solicitation Evaluation be moved to after the TAB Report. The agenda was approved as amended.

Susan Moe announced her upcoming retirement from FHWA. Pat Bursaw thanked her for her service. Susan Moe will miss the people she has been able to work with over the years, but will remain involved in various engineering activities and boards in her retirement.

3. Approval of March Minutes

The May 5, 2014 meeting minutes were approved as written. Motion made by Mark Filipi and seconded by Michael Thompson. Motion carried unanimously.

4. TAB Report

Elaine Koutsoukos reported on TAB's March 19 meeting:

Reports:

Chair: Russ Stark reported TAB Executive Committee meeting. The TAB Executive Committee reviewed the TAB agenda, reviewed the ratings of the CMAQ Transit Capital Projects, a Metro Transit proposal letter to release 2016 CMAQ funds awarded to Chicago Avenue BRT, in order to fund the Hopkins Park-and-Ride LRT Station. TAB Executive prepared to options for TAB to consider.

MnDOT, MAC, and MPCA did not have reports.

Met Council – Adam Duinck reported that the Green Line is opening on June 14. Events are planned along the line. Rides will be free throughout the transit system. The Target Field Station held a grand opening on May 17. A number of developments are going up in the area.

TAC – TAC Chair Bursaw reported on the May TAC meeting. Five action items were approved and are on the TAB agenda. There were four special agenda items: 1) Regional Solicitation Evaluation

Update, 2) Metro District 2015-2018 TIP, 3) MnDOT Local Program of Projects (POP), and 4) TPP Update from Metro Council. Bursaw said that the Draft TPP is available for comment, the TAC is reviewing.

Regional Solicitation Monthly Update – Steve Peterson, SRF, reported on the May 2 Steering Committee meeting. The Working Group chairs were present at the meeting. The four-hour meeting went well. The Equity and Affordable Housing Task Force will begin meeting soon. The three modal Working Groups have met four times and have four more meetings scheduled for each. TAB will receive a full packet of applications to review at the August TAB meeting and will approve the applications in September. The Regional Solicitation will be released in late September/early August.

Consent List: The April TAB minutes were approved.

Scope change – One scope change

TIP Amendments – Three TIP Amendments

Action Items:

Three action items were presented to TAB and approved:

1. 2017 STP and CMAQ TSM Recommendation – tabled for further consideration of the use of funds
2. 2017 TAP Solicitation – approved selected list of projects
3. 2017 Transit Capital Project Selection –
 - a. Mall of America Station - \$7 M
 - b. B Line BRT Capital (2016 CMAQ – Metro Transit released previously funded Chicago Ave project) - \$7 M
 - c. 1-35W/Lake Street Station - \$7
 - d. Hopkins Park-and-Ride Station - \$6 M

Information Items:

1. MnDOT Metro District Draft 2015-2018 TIP – Brian Isaacson
2. MnDOT SFY2014 Local Program Review – Dan Erickson
3. TIP and TPP Amendments – I-694 and I-494 – Scott McBride, MnDOT, presented
4. Transportation Policy Plan Update – Connie Kozlak presented on Freight and Bicycle/Pedestrian. Russ Owen presented on Aviation

Pat Bursaw further explained the 2017 Transit Capital Project Selection and the proposal from Metro Transit that came in after that last TAC meeting. Metro Transit asked for review of the request by the TAC Chair and Funding and Programming Chair. A letter was sent to TAB from Karl Keel and Pat Bursaw to the TAB Executive Committee confirming that the proposal was indeed a policy issue rather than a technical one. (This letter will be sent by Katie White to all TAC members). The letter noted the unusual process that has occurred with the recent CMAQ transit capital solicitation. There is concern about process predictability, transparency and fairness. The TAC will establish a work group soon to provide options for policy on how freed-up funds could be distributed in the future. Doug Fischer added that the group traditionally overprograms to avoid this problem. Karl Keel added that there is concern that we are becoming more comfortable with breaking the established process. Over the past 3-4 years this has become more common.

5. Special Agenda Items

Regional Solicitation Evaluation, Steve Peterson from SRF Consulting

An attachment was emailed to the group on Monday with the latest developments from the work groups. There have been no recent approvals. The equity and affordable housing group met once and will meet again June 10, followed by the Steering Committee on June 13. The Thrive MSP 2040 job and activity center maps have changed and the RSE will accommodate those changes. At the August TAC meeting there will be an application packet for review, and the September TAC meeting will include the approvals. Checkboxes will be a prominent feature of the application. Applicants will supply the transit route numbers affected by their projects, and staff will contribute the ridership numbers. Lisa Freese noted that there is a challenge with the risk assessment portion if an applicant claims there are no risks but the project has not been fully thought out, thus revealing risks at a later date. Doug Fischer agreed that projects should not be penalized for having already considered potential risks. He added that environmental documentation is part of the risk assessment, but FHWA doesn't require environmental documentation until it has been included in the STIP. This could be a prohibitive step.

6. Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee (Pat Bursaw, Chair)

There will be a TAC orientation for new members on Monday, June 9 from 2:00-3:30pm in LLB. A TIP amendment has moved through the streamlining process. The July meeting may be canceled; staff will make the determination in consultation with the Chair next week.

B. Funding and Programming Committee (Karl Keel, Chair)

Action item 2014-38: 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program: Heidi Schallberg provided an overview of the TIP and process, and Mary Gustafson from Metro Transit grants administration summarized the content in the TIP. There were no questions. Karl Keel made the recommended motion, and Adam Harrington seconded. **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

Action item 2014-39: Scope Change for Highway 61/County Road 97: Karl Keel summarized the Funding & Programming conversation, which determined that even if the pedestrian facility did not exist on the initial application, the project would have still scored very well. Karl Keel moved and Doug Fischer seconded the suggested motion. **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

Action item 2014-40: Scope Change for Hopkins Mainstreet: Karl Keel explained that these improvements are being combined with other improvements which are 100% locally funded. Karl Keel moved and Michael Thompson seconded the recommended motion. **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

Action item 2014-41: TIP Amendment I-94 WB and 5th St S in Minneapolis: This is new money made available through the TED program. Karl Keel moved and Jenifer Hager seconded the recommended motion. **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

Action item 2014-42: TIP Amendment I-494 in Plymouth: This is being funded by MnDOT with non-solicitation dollars. Karl Keel moved and Michael Thompson seconded the recommended motion, which was modified to make it contingent on the passage of 2014-36. **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

C. Planning Committee (Lisa Freese, Chair)

Action item 2014-36: TPP Amendment I-494 and I-694: Lisa Freese explained that these funds are reallocated from Chapter 152 and other sources, including the Corridors of Commerce program. A public

hearing will be held at the Council's Transportation Committee meeting on August 11 at 5pm. Lisa Freese moved and Tim Mayasich seconded the recommended motion. **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

Action item 2014-37: Draft 2040 Transportation Policy Plan: Amy Vennewitz and Lisa Freese introduced the purpose of the TPP and the summarized comments from TAC-Planning. Part I changes will be made before the TAB meeting after direction to staff that it needed larger structural changes. After some conversation, the group concurred that all comments from TAC-Planning should be sent to the TAB for their consideration and for their knowledge that some of these conversations had taken place. Jenifer Hager moved and Jack Byers seconded a motion to include Penn Avenue as the C line in the ABRT network. There with three votes in favor and 18 votes against. Motion failed. Tim Mayasich moved and Beverley Miller seconded the motion to send all comments from TAC-Planning to TAB as written and to recommend release of the Draft 2040 TPP for public comment. **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

7. Agency Reports

Adam Harrington reminded the group that the METRO Green Line begins service on June 14.

8. Other Business and Adjournment

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 11:19 AM.

Prepared by:

Katie White