
*Transportation Advisory Board
Of the Metropolitan Council*

**Minutes of a Meeting of the
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, August 6, 2014
9:00 A.M.**

Members Present: Andrew Witter, Lyndon Robjent, Kristine Elwood, Tom Johnson, Joe Lux, Lisa Freese, Jan Lucke, Elaine Koutsoukos, Mark Filipi, Michael Larson, Pat Bursaw, Innocent Eyoh, Bridget Rief, Beverley Miller, Jim Gromberg, Dave Christianson, Danny McCullough, Karl Keel, Jean Keely, Paul Oehme, Michael Thompson, Duane Schwartz, Steve Albrecht, Kim Lindquist, Bruce Loney, Jenifer Hager, Paul Kurtz, Michelle Beaulieu (Members Excused: Steve Bot, Jack Byers)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved after re-ordering the special agenda items. Tim Mayasich made the motion and Karl Keel seconded. No discussion. Unanimous.

3. Approval of March Minutes

The July 2, 2014 meeting minutes were approved as written. Jim Gromberg made the motion, Lisa Freese seconded. No discussion. Unanimous.

4. TAB Report

Elaine Koutsoukos reported on TAB's July 16 meeting:

Reports:

Chair: Bill Hargis reported that TAB Executive Committee had not met since the last TAB meeting, but they had been met as part of a couple Regional Solicitation Steering Committee meetings.

TAC – Elaine Koutsoukos read TAC Chair Bursaw's report on the July TAC and TAC Executive Committee meetings. TAC Executive Committee approved two TIP amendments for streamlining. TAC approved two scope change requests and a roadway functional classification change. The TIP amendments and Scope Change requests are on the TAB consent agenda. There was one information item on the Regional Solicitation. The consultant team presented the modal funding options, equity measures, and applications for each of the modal categories of roadways, transit, and bike/walk.

Consent List:

The June TAB minutes were approved.

Two Scope change requests were approved (Carver County CSAH 10 and Maple Grove Weaver Lake Road Roundabout). The streamlined TIP Amendment for Blue Line LRT Capital Maintenance and Track Modifications was approved. The streamlined TIP amendment for allocating 5307 fund to 7th Street/B Line Design and Engineering was tabled per request of Ramsey County and St. Paul, pending outcome of discussions on issues regarding Riverview Corridor.

Info Items:

Regional Solicitation Update – Marie Cote and Steve Peterson, SRF, reviewed the applications for each of the modal categories of roadways, transit, and bike/walk., the criteria percentages, and the modal funding options. TAB will receive a full packet of applications for final review at the August TAB meeting, with approval of the applications in September. TAB will make a decision on the modal funding categories at the August TAB meeting.

Corridors of Commerce – Mark Gieseke, MnDOT, presented an overview of the Corridors of Commerce program. The 2013 Program's emphasis was metro capacity, interregional corridor capacity, and freight bottlenecks. The 2015 Program emphasis will be freight preservation, freight bottlenecks, and main streets. MnDOT will invite public suggestions for additional projects prior to selecting the FY 2015 projects. FY 2015 programming results will be announced in the fall of 2014.

Key Changes to 2040 Transportation Policy Plan for Public Comment – TAB ran out of time for this information item. Amy Vennewitz distributed the presentation materials. Amy announced that the release of the TPP for public comment has been rescheduled to August 13 to allow additional time to respond to comments received. Review of the TPP will continue at the August and September TAB meetings.

5. Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee (Pat Bursaw, Chair)

Three new members are joining us today: Michael Larson, Danny McCullough, and Dave Christianson. They were welcomed and introduced themselves. An orientation is available if they would like to participate.

There is still a need to develop a policy on how to spend withdrawn funds. The scope change policy was not adopted by the TAB, and the consultation process that is currently used needs some work. Pat Bursaw solicited volunteers to meet and come up with a proposed solution by the end of this year. Pat Bursaw, Lyndon Robjent, Tim Mayasich, Paul Oehme, Michael Thompson, and Lisa Freese volunteered. They will also look for a Transit representative and perhaps Colleen Brown from State Aid.

It is now time to think about transitioning of TAC leadership. Pat Bursaw read through the bylaw item on this topic. There is an informal process of rotating between cities, agencies, and county leadership, and city would be next in the rotation.

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

Action item 2014-53: Scope Change Request – Ramsey County Dale Street: There was no discussion. Karl Keel moved and Tim Mayasich seconded. **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

Action item 2014-55: HSIP Solicitation: This is a MnDOT solicitation and fits with the schedule for the regional solicitation this fall. Provides 70% for "reactive" projects and 30% for "proactive" projects. Karl Keel moved and Tom Johnson seconded. **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

C. Planning Committee (Lisa Freese, Chair and Mark Filipi)

Action item 2014-43: Functional Classification Change – Bloomington and Eden Prairie: Mark Filipi presented this item. There was no discussion. Mark Filipi moved and Jim Gromberg seconded. **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

Action item 2014-49: Functional Classification Change – Minneapolis: Mark Filipi presented this item. There was no discussion. Mark Filipi moved and Jenifer Hager seconded. **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

Action item 2014-50: Functional Classification Change – Scott County: Mark Filipi presented this item. There was no discussion. Mark Filipi moved and Bruce Loney seconded. **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

Action item 2014-51: Functional Classification System Map: Mark Filipi presented this item. There was no discussion. Mark Filipi moved and Innocent Eyoh seconded. **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

Action item 2014-52: Unified Planning Work Program: Katie White presented this item. Danny McCullough asked if this was the place to reserve an opening for a potential source of new trail funding. Katie White responded that it is not. Mark Filipi moved and Michael Thompson seconded. **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

6. Special Agenda Items

A. Corridors of Commerce (Mark Nelson, MnDOT)

Mark Nelson provided an overview of the next round of Corridors of Commerce funding, due to a TAB request for input.

Lyndon Robjent asked if IRCs are inside the 7 county metropolitan area. Lisa Freese responded that they are not, per the 2008 TPP. Tim Mayasich asked if freight investments could be applied to railroads. Mark Nelson responded that trunk highways that connect at intermodal facilities could work. Pat Bursaw noted the significant decrease in funding for this round, and the 50/50 split between outstate and metro Minnesota. Lyndon Robjent clarified that ROW and design are eligible expenses. Lisa Freese added that these are not meant to be shovel-ready but can work towards shovel-readiness. Karl Keel asked several questions regarding the lack of a process for a solicitation. Mark Nelson responded that they are requesting any potential projects be made known to MnDOT staff at this time. Lyndon Robjent asked if there will be a notice coming out for suggestions. Mark Nelson responded that the projects should be suggested at this time. Carl Ohrn suggested that since the regional solicitation will require commercial vehicle counts, the CoC program should as well.

B. Transportation Policy Plan (Amy Vennewitz, MTS)

Amy Vennewitz presented a summary of responses to TAC comments from last June, as well as text and timeline changes since July.

Steve Albrecht and Kim Lindquist expressed concern that the “advisory” land use regulations on slide 15 are too prescriptive and are not optional. Amy Vennewitz was glad for that feedback, and elaborated that transitway investments come with expectations on land use. Jan Lucke thanked MTS staff for working with Washington County to accommodate Gateway.

C. Regional Solicitation Design (Marie Cote and Steve Peterson, SRF)

The solicitation will be an action item in September, and will go to Funding & Programming this month. The packet is 50% smaller than the previous solicitation packet, which is a success for this project. Danny McCullough requested clarification on what a “unique” project is. Steve Peterson responded that there are some federally-eligible projects that are not competitive with other projects, such as electric vehicle charging stations. Karl Keel commented that the minimum project amounts have been going up, which is a good idea. Pat Bursaw added that the upper cap has been changing as well. Karl Keel reiterated that this schedule is extremely tight and cannot be postponed further. Pat Bursaw elaborated that the timeline is governed by the TIP developing in June 2015. Karl Keel would like to seeing scoring groups underway faster in the coming months to eliminate lag time. Michael Thompson asked if provided less than two months to submit an application is normal; staff responded in the affirmative. Lyndon Robjent asked if the online application testing has begun. Elaine Koutsoukos responded that it has not because they are just entering the air quality calculation pieces. Marie Cote added that some agencies have volunteered to test the system with their own projects. Jan Lucke asked about the process for TAB and the Transportation Committee approving the solicitation on the same time. Lyndon Robjent would have liked to see previous projects be tested under the new scoring. Carl Ohrn responded that that would have been too time-consuming at this point. Lyndon Robjent would like that relayed to TAB.

The Steering Committee has a proposal on equity from their July 25 meeting. Lyndon Robjent expressed concern with the housing scoring for cities without an allocation. Marie Cote explained the scoring calculations to allow those communities to be held harmless and scored at a similar level to the other communities. Heidi Schallberg added that using the county scores would not provide much differentiation between counties. Lyndon Robjent believes equity is too focused on RCAPs and not other populations (elderly, disabled, etc). Marie Cote responded that page 25 has a new measure for these other populations and lower concentrations. Karl Keel prefers the RCAP measures for equity over the housing measures, since housing doesn't have a direct relationship to the project. Kristine Elwood said that Dakota County will not support the Steering Committee's recommendations and would like to see Funding & Programming make a different recommendation.

1. Agency Reports

Mark Filipi reported that MTS staff Mary Karlsson has accepted a new position as Assistant Director of Service Development at Metro Transit.

8. Other Business and Adjournment

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 11:15AM.

Prepared by:

Katie White