
*Transportation Advisory Board
Of the Metropolitan Council*

**Minutes of a Meeting of the
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, November 7 2018
9:00 A.M.**

Members Present: Doug Fischer, Lyndon Robjent, Brian Sorenson, John Doan, Brian Isaacson, Lisa Freese, Jan Lucke, Steve Bot, Elaine Koutsoukos, Steve Peterson, Michael Larson, Adam Harrington, Lynne Bly, Innocent Eyoh, Bridget Rief, Andrew Emanuele, Dave Jacobson, Karl Keel, Jesse Farrell, Paul Oehme, Michael Thompson, Kim Lindquist, Robert Ellis, Jim Kosluchar, Jen Hager, Paul Mogush, Bill Dermody, Paul Kurtz (Excused: Peter Dahlberg, Danny McCullough, Ken Ashfeld)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Lisa Freese at 9:02 a.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was moved by Brian Isaacson and seconded by Karl Keel. No discussion. Motion passed.

3. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes was moved by Elaine Koutsoukos and seconded by Brian Isaacson. Motion passed.

4. TAB Report

Elaine Koutsoukos reported on the October 17 TAB meeting.

Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee (Lisa Freese, Chair)

Lisa Freese reported on the Executive Committee meeting, which discussed the day's agenda and regional solicitation scoring challenges. She also reported that Brian Isaacson is now representing Ramsey County, Paul Mogush from the City of Minneapolis, Lynne Bly from MnDOT, and Jesse Farrell is sitting in for Anne Kane today.

B. Planning Committee (Jan Lucke, Chair)

Jan Lucke introduced the October committee meeting report.

2018-47 TPP Amendment: Riverview Corridor. Jan Lucke introduced the item. Bridge Rief asked why the LPA timing did not allow inclusion in the original TPP. Jan Lucke responded that the new TPP was too far along to include the project earlier. Brian Isaacson moved and John Doan seconded the recommended motion. Motion passed.

C. Funding and Programming Committee (Paul Oehme, Chair)

2018-49 TIP Amendment: Chaska. Paul Oehme presented the item. Lyndon Robjent moved and Dave Jacobson seconded the recommended motion. Motion passed.

2018-50 TIP Amendment: Anoka County. Paul Oehme presented the item. Karl Keel moved and Lyndon Robjent seconded. Motion passed.

2018-48 TIP Amendment: I-94 Expansion. Paul Oehme presented the item. Steve Bot moved and Lynne Bly seconded. Motion passed.

2018-51 TIP Amendment: I-94 Bridges. Paul Oehme presented the item. Michael Thompson moved and John Doan seconded. Motion passed.

6. Special Agenda Items

Regional Solicitation Funding Scenario Options. (Steve Peterson, MTS) Steve Peterson presented the funding options requested by TAB and requested the group's feedback on the connector issue. Elaine Koutsoukos said that projects 3 and 4 are connectors, but is looking for the group's ideas on if projects 1 and 2 are as well. Bill Dermody suggested that project 2 is a connector improvement. Doug Fischer said that project 2's intent is to focus on the reliever. Lyndon Robjent said that the connector funding requirement is meant to assist two lane rural highways to connect more towns. These are hard to fund traditionally. Lisa Freese said that rural two lane roads are part of the regional system and should have the ability to get regional funding. Karl Keel said that we need to know how many projects we skip to pull up a connector; skipping three or four projects is fine but we shouldn't be picking the lowest scoring project to meet this aim. Brian Isaacson agreed. Lyndon Robjent argued that bridge scoring is very different than expansion scoring and bridge connector projects should not be included.

Lyndon Robjent asked about the schedule for the remainder of the project picking process, as TAB will discuss the projects three times but TAC only twice. Doug Fischer, Jan Lucke, and Lyndon Robjent expressed concern that TAC should see project lists before TAB in order to provide technical feedback in the committee structure as well as to TAB members in advance of the meeting. Karl Keel suggested that the November TAB meeting should be dedicated to reviewing scores and unique projects, with December TAB for the draft funding scenarios. Doug Fischer expressed concern that next week's Funding & Programming meeting has a very full agenda and perhaps another meeting should be added. Adam Harrington asked if project selection could be delayed until February. Joe Barbeau responded that this runs into conflict with the TIP adoption schedule, although we have worked within this constraint before. Lyndon Robjent said that his TAB member has already committed to the existing scoring schedule and may be unavailable if the schedule changes.

Regional Solicitation Before and After Study. (Katie White, MTS and Lance Bernard, HK) Katie White introduced and Lance Bernard presented on this study. Dave Jacobson asked if TAC would receive periodic updates on this work; Lance Bernard said yes. Steve Bot asked why usage is not included in bike/ped projects. Lance Bernard responded that we would like to but the data (especially 'before') is hard to collect. Karl Keel suggested the use of Strava data. Brian Isaacson asked how the solicitation would be restructured after seeing the results. Lance Bernard responded that we should know what types of projects deliver the best benefit, especially HSIP. Doug Fischer asked if the \$5 million cap on bike/ped projects would be included in the analysis. Lance Bernard responded that the MPO questions could help strike this balance. For instance Raleigh has a project maximum of \$20 million, indicating they fund bigger projects.

Bill Dermody indicated that a bike trail may be getting the same number of crashes but a higher usage and will therefore not appear to be scoring well under this metric. Dave Jacobson asked if the study will include a look at the return on investment for the projects. Lance Bernard responded yes. John Doan added that the leveraging of other dollars is important to consider. John Doan suggested that environmental and equity concerns should be investigated as well. Lance Bernard responded that the MPO questions include an equity question. Brian Sorenson said that the cost/benefit should be redone post-application. Elaine Koutsoukos said that the new solicitation has added this. Doug Fischer asked if the project cost could include staff time and other non-construction costs. Katie White responded that in order to reduce participatory burden on local jurisdictions, the datasets being used are the original applications and the MnDOT State Aid records. Karl Keel would like to see a similar statistical analysis on the impact of various scoring measures. Steve Peterson said that work would be repeated again this year.

7. Agency Reports

Innocent Eyoh reported that MPCA has closed the application periods for school buses, electric vehicle fast charger corridors, and level-2 chargers and are evaluating those applications. We currently have an open application period for the non-road equipment. RFPs for on-road heavy-duty vehicles (all fuels) and all-electric heavy-duty vehicles will be coming out in the next few months.

Lisa Freese recommended that local jurisdictions look at the exhibition of UMN students in the resilient communities program on December 7 from 12pm-4pm at the Humphrey School.

Doug Fischer requested that the meeting time be moved back to accommodate the morning rush hour. This will be explored by MTS staff.

8. Other Business and Adjournment

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 10:20AM.

Prepared by:

Katie White