

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

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Karl Keel (Chair), Craig Jenson, Joe Lux, Brian Isaacson, Colleen Van Wagner, Gina Mitteco, Mary Karlsson, Ann Pung-Terwedo, John Sass, Cynthia Wheeler, Innocent Eyoh, 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 March 21, 2013, Meeting

Minutes from the March meeting were approved without change.

4. TAB Report

Kevin Roggenbuck said the TAB adopted the TIP amendments for the Section 5310 program and to reallocate available federal funding for 2013. The TAB will extend its trial period for three months to suspend meetings of its subcommittees to allow for the bylaws to be revised to eliminate the Planning and Programming subcommittees. TAB will continue to meet as a whole. TAB members discussed providing comments on Thrive MSP 2040. The Regional Solicitation Evaluation will include a workshop in May to discuss the process. The target completion for the study is July or August. The next solicitation could possibly start this time next year, but it will take significant time to make revisions to the process based on the study results. The evaluation includes the process itself and looking for opportunities to shorten the process, which is arduous. In response to a question about where information about the study is available to any who are interested in it, K. Roggenbuck said he would check on options.

5. Update on 2013-2016 TIP Amendment for 2013 STP Reallocation

Colleen Van Wagner provided a handout of the county projects using the reallocated 2013 STP funding. It will be mid-May before they are finalized, so an update will be provided in the future once those modifications have been done.

6. Draft 2014-2017 TIP – Approval for Public Comment Purposes

Heidi Schallberg provided an overview of the funding distribution in the draft 2014-2017 TIP. Brian Isaacson presented on MnDOT's program in the TIP. The committee discussed concerns about not having much time to review the draft and the possibility of sending comments later.

MOTION: K. Roggenbuck motioned to recommend the approval of the draft 2014-2017 TIP for the purposes of a public comment period. Joe Lux seconded. The motion carried with one abstention.

7. Discussion of Federal Funds Program Management Policy

K. Roggenbuck discussed previous policies that address managing federal funds in the region, but the region continues to need to address situations where funding must be reallocated to avoid it being lost to the metro. Funding programs are now managed separately, where before they weren't, so there is less flexibility. Projects that slip in schedule will result in reduced funding for future solicitations. Currently the

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region has more than \$20 million in funding pushed out to 2017, which reduces the amount available for the next solicitation. The committee discussed combining current policies with additional tools, such as adding funding to existing or new projects or defederalizing projects. The 2013 funding reallocation involved counties because of the short timeframe in which to use the funds; however, cities were disappointed to not have been able to participate, and TAB also noted the need for equity or fairness for transit in these types of situations. The committee discussed creating a working group to resolve the issue by the beginning of next year so the region is prepared if the situation arises at that time again. MnDOT State Aid is interested in the possibility of defederalizing projects, and that discussion will need to happen sooner to be prepared this time next year. K. Keel said he could ask the TAC executive committee to decide the process, scope and schedule for addressing these concerns. The major tasks for a work group would need to be outlined since defederalization is a more complicated option. Metro Transit has defederalized projects, and it has been done out state.

8. Other Business

Mary Karlsson said the Transportation Policy Plan update has begun and will involve two work groups, one with partner agencies and one with policy makers.

9. Adjournment

With no other business, the meeting adjourned.