
*Transportation Advisory Board
Of the Metropolitan Council*

**Minutes of a Meeting of the
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, December 5 2018
9:00 A.M.**

Members Present: Doug Fischer, Lyndon Robjont, Brian Sorenson, John Doan, Brian Isaacson, Lisa Freese, Jan Lucke, Steve Bot, Elaine Koutsoukos, Steve Peterson, Patrick Boylan, Adam Harrington, Lynne Bly, Innocent Eyoh, Bridget Rief, Danny McCullough, Jen Lehmann, Karl Keel, Ken Ashfeld, Anne Kane, Paul Oehme, Michael Thompson, Kim Lindquist, Jim Kosluchar, Jen Hager, Bill Dermody, Paul Kurtz (Excused: Peter Dahlberg, Paul Mogush)

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Approval of Minutes

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

4. TAB Report

Elaine Koutsoukos reported on the November 21 TAB meeting.

Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee (Lisa Freese, Chair)

Lisa Freese reported on the Executive Committee meeting, which discussed the day's agenda. To follow up on Doug Fischer's request from the last meeting, Lisa Freese asked via voice vote if the group preferred meeting at 9am or 9:30am. The preference was for 9:30am. Staff will draft a bylaws change.

B. Planning Committee (Jan Lucke, Chair)

Jan Lucke introduced the November committee meeting report.

2018-54 Metropolitan Airports Commission Capital Improvement Plan. Jan Lucke introduced the item. Russ Owen provided information that had changed in the item since TAC-Planning. Karl Keel asked if the dollar threshold needs to be increased. Russ Owen responded that the number was set in the late 90's or early 2000's and could therefore be due for an adjustment. Innocent Eyoh asked if noise abatement programs are included in the document, and if the public was involved in the creation of the document. Russ Owen responded that there is a line item for noise abatement every year, and there was a public hearing on November 7. Bridget Rief responded that the noise mitigation study has been extended. Jan Lucke moved and Doug Fischer seconded the recommended motion. Motion passed.

2018-55 Safety Performance Measure Adoption. Jan Lucke introduced the item. Brian Isaacson requested that the item be modified for TAB so as to include context for these numbers. Dave Burns responded that it was an oversight and will be added to the TAB item. Jan Lucke moved and Brian Isaacson seconded the recommended motion. Motion passed.

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

2018-57 Program Year Extension: Burnsville. Paul Oehme presented the item. Jen Lehmann moved and Danny McCullough seconded the recommended motion. Motion passed.

2018-58 Scope Change Request: Hennepin County Paul Oehme presented the item. John Doan moved and Adam Harrington seconded. Motion passed.

2018-59 Program Year Extension: Hennepin County. Paul Oehme presented the item. Innocent Eyoh moved and John Doan seconded. Motion passed.

2018-60 TIP Amendment: Hennepin County. Paul Oehme presented the item. John Doan moved and Bridget Rief seconded. Motion passed.

6. Special Agenda Items

Draft 2018 HSIP Project Selection Recommendation. (Steve Peterson, MTS) Steve Peterson presented the draft projects for selection under the HSIP program. Doug Fischer asked when MnDOT started applying for, and receiving, so many of the funds. Steve Peterson responded that MnDOT has historically supplied at least half of the funded projects. Brian Sorenson asked how the criteria of “meets intent for the HSIP program” was scored. Steve Peterson responded that it included a cost/benefit calculation, crash history, and speeds. It was not based on project type. Lyndon Robjent said that HSIP is an excellent program and should be funded at a higher level. Doug Fischer asked why this isn’t an action item. Steve Peterson responded that it will be action in January.

Travel Pattern Flows. (Jonathan Ehrlich and Nicole Sullivan, MTS) Jonathan Ehrlich and Nicole Sullivan described the data sources and how the website can be used to visualize travel flows through the metro. Steve Bot asked if Wright and Sherburne data is available for traffic and jobs. Nicole Sullivan responded that traffic will be added within the next few weeks. Jan Lucke asked about data from St. Croix County. Jonathan responded that data from residents of Wisconsin is available. Adam Harrington said that the data is excellent and should be used in coordination with transit planning work. Lisa Freese asked about data from other collar counties. Nicole Sullivan responded that those counties are not included in the online tool but the data is available in the attachment to today’s presentation. Jen Lehmann asked about the availability of Streetlight data. Jonathan Ehrlich responded that the contract with MnDOT is annual but the data through the tool is updated monthly. This website might only be updated annually. Once the data is downloaded it is available for use.

Regional Solicitation Funding Scenarios. (Steve Peterson, MTS) Steve Peterson introduced the potential funding scenarios. Lyndon Robjent said that roadways are underfunded based on demand; the midpoint scenario should be re-worked with 10% shifts in either direction. Doug Fischer said that he has a suggested course of action to provide more geographic balance without skipping projects. Jan Lucke outlined the process by which Washington County chose which projects to submit. Adam Harrington said that the regional solicitation has always been based on which projects benefit the most number of

people, users, and trips. There are shifts in geography from year to year. Steve Peterson said that the priority is to fund high scoring projects, with geographic balance as a secondary priority. Jan Lucke said that the scoring for roadways is now tilted in favor of spending on the MnDOT system. Lisa Freese said that federal money used to be directly available to local governments to provide connections from MnDOT roadways to smaller A Minors, but that is no longer the case. John Doan said that the group needs to look beyond winners and losers and look to the regional impacts.

Brian Isaacson said that roadway expansion projects are not inconsistent with the TPP. As the system matures the group needs to fund access, which roadway expansion dollars provide. Bill Dermody said that the group should work within the existing system; incorporating balance into a TAC recommendation is more policy than technical. Michael Thompson recommended that the group stick to the scoring efforts that were undertaken by the various subcommittees. Kim Lindquist said that similar conditions exist for transit projects, not just roadways. Lyndon Robjent pointed out that MnDOT submitted a project this round which had typically not happened. Brian Sorenson that regardless of the scoring methodology there will always be subjective scoring. Elaine Koutsoukos said that TAB might get close to making a decision at their December meeting, but the final vote will be in January.

Lynne Bly suggested to go up and down 5% or one project to see if that provides more balance. Doug Fischer asked if transit projects need all the money they're being awarded since they only provide the 20% match, and if they can afford the projects they've submitted. Adam Harrington responded that transit agencies have no alternative funding sources like sales taxes to provide an overmatch. Adam Harrington recommended giving TAB all the options they've requested. Brian Sorenson recommended overprogramming as a way to pull in more projects. Steve Peterson said that TAB hasn't determined if they want to overprogram; it eats into the total available for the next solicitation.

Doug Fischer moved and Lyndon Robjent seconded the formation of a TAC Regional Solicitation Scenario Work Group to discuss another potential scenario. Motion passes.

7. Agency Reports

Innocent Eyoh reported that David Thornton has retired from MPCA.

8. Other Business and Adjournment

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 11:20AM.

Prepared by:

Katie White