

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

Notes of a Meeting of the
TAC-PLANNING COMMITTEE
June 8, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT: Holly Anderson, Jack Byers, Michael Corbett, Bill Dermody, Innocent Eyoh, Jack Forslund, Jean Keely, Michael Larson, Steve Mahowald, Dan McCormick, Jason Pieper, Kevin Roggenbuck, Hally Turner, Katie White, Rachel Wiken

OTHERS PRESENT: Andrew Emanuele (FHWA), Joe Barbeau, Nick Thompson, Carl Ohrn, Amy Vennewitz, Mark Filipi, Tony Fischer, Steve Peterson, Cole Hiniker, Steve Elmer, Heidi Schallberg

1. Call to Order

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was amended to change presentation order. Dermody moved, White seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of the Minutes from the May 2017 meetings

McCormick moved, White seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

4. Info Items

1. TMA Certification Review – Katie White & Andrew Emanuele (FHWA)

Katie White introduced Andrew Emanuele from FHWA. He presented on the Transportation Management Area (TMA) review, which is a joint review by the FHWA and FTA of the planning process for Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs). Only MPOs over 200,000 people are reviewed, the Twin Cities was the only Minnesota MPO to undergo TMA review.

The review consisted of a three-month desk review of all Met Council MPO planning documents (UPWP, TIP, TPP, etc), an onsite visit, and a final report. The onsite visit included a public meeting.

The final report included three areas – commendations (noteworthy practice), recommendation (could be improved) and corrective action (failure to meet fed requirement). There were four commendations, 14 recommendations, and 0 corrective actions in the Met Council's review.

The inclusion of Equity as criteria in the TIP was mentioned as a special commendation.

White and Emanuele discussed several recommendations at length. Improving the MOU and clarifying the Met Council's structure, elevating the UPWP, enhancing the Public Participation Plan (PPP), and improving the Congestion Management Plan (CMP) to fully comply with federal regulations.

After responding to the report, FHWA and the Met Council agree to an action plan for handling the recommendations. After the review, the Met Council's transportation planning process is certified.

2. TPP Update – Transit Investment Direction and Plan Intro and Discussion – Cole Hiniker

Cole Hiniker presented an overview of the current transit system and the current policy direction heading into the TPP update process.

Hiniker started with a recap of the current transit system and recent developments. Highlights: ridership has grown by 20% since 2005; LRT and ABRT systems are helping grow riders; high frequency routes, which have a smaller investment than larger transitways, are also growing riders quickly. Development along transitways has added housing and jobs with good transit access, coordination of land use and planning along transit routes to promote pedestrian friendly environments.

Hiniker then discussed where the transit system is going – the policy directions in the current TPP. He discussed the Thrive goals at length, highlighting stewardship and safety. He then talked about funding, and how it is a complicated part of the planning process to expand and modernize the system. Details on maintaining and expanding the system can be found on the slides linked from the agenda.

The last section of the presentation highlighted changes expected for this TPP update.

- Counties Transportation Improvement Board is dissolving. The sales tax structure and percentages will change, possibly allowing for more projects to be funded.
- Metro GOLD Line alignment and costs have changed since Lake Elmo rejected the project. Alignment now runs south into Woodbury.
- Other changes in cost and schedule to METRO expansion.
- Corridor Study updates, including LPA recommendations for W. Broadway, Rush Line and Riverview
- ABRT funding discussion
- New work plan items

Jack Byers commented that the presentation started with goal of growing ridership and then moved to talking about safety of system and stewardship. He felt the ridership goal should not be first item mentioned, when safety and stewardship have a much higher priority.

Michael Larsen commented that it's important when discussing land use to include realistic development goals for communities on how to grow transit. There needs to be clarity on what is needed for transit development to happen.

Katie White asked the committee to consider what was presented and bring back suggestions and questions. In coming months, other modes will be presented in similar manner. Committee feedback is requested as vital input for the writing process.

3. Regional Bike/Ped Policy Planning Update – Steve Elmer

Steve Elmer gave a brief, mostly informal update on several bike studies and policy direction. He will return to committee in future months to formally present on the bike barriers study and the TPP Bike/Ped chapter.

6. Other Business

none

7. Adjournment

adjourn at 3:04 pm