
*Transportation Advisory Board
Of the Metropolitan Council*

**Minutes of a Meeting of the
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, January 4, 2017
9:00 A.M.**

Members Present: Doug Fischer, Lyndon Robjert, Brian Sorenson, Carla Stueve, Tim Mayasich, Lisa Freese, Lyssa Leitner, Steve Bot, Elaine Koutsoukos, Mark Filipi, Michael Larson, Adam Harrington, Pat Bursaw, Amanda Smith, Bridget Rief, Kris Riesenber, Dave Jacobson, John Shoffner, Peter Dahlberg, Danny McCullough, Jean Keely, Steve Albrecht, Michael Thompson, Kim Lindquist, Bruce Loney, Jim Kosluchar, Jen Hager, Jack Byers, Bill Dermody, Paul Kurtz (Excused: none)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Steve Albrecht at 9:01 a.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was moved by Pat Bursaw and seconded by Dave Jacobson. No discussion. Motion passed.

3. Approval of July Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes was moved by Dave Jacobson and seconded by Tim Mayasich. No discussion. Motion passed.

4. TAB Report

Elaine Koutsoukos reported on the December 21, 2016 TAB meeting.

REPORTS

TAB Chair's Report: Hovland reported the TAB Executive Committee met prior to TAB and discussed the items that are on the agenda today. The Executive Committee discussed the possibility for the TAB to act on the Regional Solicitation scenarios, but decided to leave the item as information and give the TAB time to give direction to the TAC.

Agency Reports (MnDOT, MPCA, MAC and Metropolitan Council)

MnDOT: Scott McBride reported that MnDOT has submitted three applications to the USDOT for FAST Lane funds: 1) a grade separation in Morehead, 2) an application in Duluth, and 3) I-35W MnPASS from Highway 36 to Highway 10. The MnPass application includes an upslope from mill & overlay to new concrete pavement and some spot mobility improvements. McBride said he expects that the announcement of the recipients will be made prior to 1/20/17.

MPCA: David Thornton reported that Minnesota is slated to receive \$43.6M for emission reduction projects from the VW settlement for the 2 liter diesel engines. A settlement was

reached this week on the 3 liter engines and will be another \$3M+. This money will be used for electric vehicle infrastructure and diesel emission projects. A trustee will be assigned by the court to manage the funds. He expects the money will start flowing to projects by the end of summer or fall 2017.

Metropolitan Airports Commission: Carl Crimmins reported that discussions with TSA indicated that the Thanksgiving security lines at MPS went smoothly. The TSA has increased staff and received more canine units. They expect the Christmas lines to be smooth as well. The MAC received an award for the best restrooms in North America. Members asked questions about the 5,000 space parking ramp. Bridget Rief - MAC Director for Airport Development was present to explain the construction schedule and existing facilities.

ACTION ITEMS

1. 2016-61: Streamlined TIP Amendment: MnDOTm I-35W Maintenance and Bridge Replacement Project
2. 2016-62: Streamlined 2017 UPWP Amendment: Metro Transit, FTA TOD Planning Grant Funds
3. 2016-56: Metropolitan Airports Commission Capital Improvement Program
4. 2016-58: Regional Solicitation Inflation Factor – approved no inflation adjustment
5. 2016-60: Travel Behavior Inventory and Regional Model
 - TAB approved \$2.7 M from the Regional Solicitation for the TBI ad Regional Model with the following TAC Work Group recommendations
 1. That consultant selection committees for TBI and modeling related activities include local city, county, and agency representation.
 2. That Council modeling staff establish a regional transportation modeling work group, inclusive of the counties, cities, and other interested agencies, to establish how to best assure that the Regional Model is of optimal use to the Council’s regional partners.

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Regional Solicitation Draft Funding Scenarios

Some members expressed their preference for a certain scenario: Van Hattum supported the Transit Bike/Walk Heavy Scenario. Fawley was interested in the conversation that took place at F&P around the Preservation/Maintenance Heavy (Modernization) Scenario and said that with no transportation bill, there will be challenges this session, he is interested in maintaining existing infrastructure; he favored this option along with the Base option. Hamman-Roland agreed with Fawley in that we must maximize our projects, in the queue and ready to go and modernization makes a lot of sense. Peterson said that there was interest at F&P in Modernization and Highway Heavy scenarios. Several members expressed preference to have the TAC look at a mixture between the Base scenario and the Modernization Heavy scenario. TAB members expressed much thanks and appreciation for the hours that staff, scoring committee members, and technical committee members to provide TAB members the scenarios of projects to review.

Comments and recommendations for next Solicitation:

1. Refine definitions of Transit Expansion and Modernization projects. A question was raised on how a project that hasn’t been started yet can be modernized.

2. Suggestion to combine the transit expansion and modernization applications
3. Review the weighting of the measures to determine whether certain types of projects are prevented from scoring well. (In the last solicitation, the measures were revised for underpasses and railroad crossings, and a funding decision made to accommodate Collector roads.) Review the Transit scoring; ridership weighting appears to preclude regular transit routes from scoring well.

Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee (Steve Albrecht, Chair)

Steve Albrecht reported that the committee discussed today's agenda.

B. Planning Committee (Lisa Freese, Chair)

Lisa Freese reported that the committee did not meet in December but will meet in January.

C. Funding and Programming Committee (Tim Mayasich, Chair)

2017-02 Regional Solicitation Project Selection. Tim Mayasich introduced this item and Joe Barbeau presented additional information.

Tim Mayasich moved the recommended motion and Adam Harrington seconded to begin discussion.

Dave Jacobson asked if the charts had changed since the last meeting. Joe Barbeau said they had not changed. Doug Fischer asked if TAB wanted to see one recommendation or if the TAC should forward all options with pros and cons for each. Tim Mayasich recommended against ranking the options available since TAB has historically wanted to see ranked options.

Lyssa Leitner requested that the motion remove the statement about 2022 projects being advanced in the interest of regional balance.

Pat Bursaw said that regional balance should be viewed over several years instead of each individual year. Additionally, TAB discussion in December indicated a preference for preservation projects since there is not enough money available to maintain the roads we currently have.

Adam Harrington and Carla Stueve spoke in favor of the base scenario. Carla Stueve suggested that the geographic balance issue is most prevalent in the transit funding categories. Adam Harrington added that Metro Transit submitted projects in many counties, not just Hennepin.

Lyssa Leitner spoke against the base scenario as the demand for projects is calculated by the number of applications submitted. Since counties strategize which applications are worth submitting, this does not reflect actual demand for funds.

Bill Dermody asked if there was a preference between the highway-heavy and transit-heavy scenarios. Lyssa Leitner said that the highway-heavy option preserves geographic balance.

The group then spent a considerable amount of time discussing the 2022 project options (2016-03 below). Doug Fischer, Lyssa Leitner, Lyndon Robjent, Pat Bursaw, Adam Harrington, and Kim Lindquist spoke on how best a 2022 project selection could be accomplished. There were benefits and drawbacks to how the 2017 project identification worked, and the proposal for 2022 project selection is an attempt

to proactively identify these projects instead of scrambling at the last minute to find projects that are ready to go. Discussion also focused on the promises being made to 2022 project sponsors, and what they would have to do in return.

Tim Mayasich moved to strike the reference to the 2022 project selection from the recommended motion and was seconded. The amendment passed.

Kim Lindquist said that now that the technical work has been completed through scoring as a reaction to policy decisions, project selection is a policy decision and best left to TAB.

Tim Mayasich moved the recommended motion as amended and was seconded. The motion passed.

2017-03 2022 Project Selection. Tim Mayasich moved and Dave Jacobson seconded the recommended motion to open discussion on this item. Carl Ohrn provided background on project selection in the past, and the impacts when selected projects drop out. Tim Mayasich stated that there was not a lot of clarify about this in the Funding & Programming discussion. Joe Barbeau, Elaine Koutsoukos, Tim Mayasich, Pat Bursaw, and Lyssa Leitner discussed the benefits and drawbacks of guaranteeing 2022 projects. Michael Thompson indicated that the intent should be to help ease programming constraints, not have a punitive action against a project sponsor. Doug Fischer asked how the three projects were selected; Carla Stueve indicated that the discussion about this at Funding & Programming was clear.

Tim Mayasich said that this discussion has brought up important topics that require further consideration. There are pros and cons with either approach. Joe Barbeau said that this discussion is not time sensitive and could be brought back through Funding & Programming.

The vote on the motion failed.

Tim Mayasich moved and Doug Fischer seconded a motion to send this item to Funding & Programming for further consideration. The motion passes.

Kim Lindquist said that the process for this is more important than the project list. Jack Byers said that F&P should keep in mind that local planning on these projects is happening more than five years in advance.

2017-04 HSIP Project Selection. Tim Mayasich introduced this item. Joe Barbeau summarized the results of the solicitation and noted that this includes Chisago County since MnDOT solicits these projects by district boundaries.

Tim Mayasich moved and Michael Thompson seconded the recommended motion. Motion passes.

6. Special Agenda Items

There were no special agenda items.

7. Agency Reports

Amanda Smith said that MPCA has released the 2017 report to the legislature titled "The Air We Breathe."

8. Other Business and Adjournment

Steve Albrecht thanked the TAC for the thoughtful discussion.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned.

Prepared by:

Katie White