
*Transportation Advisory Board
of the Metropolitan Council*

**Minutes of a Meeting of the
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, November 4, 2020
9:00 A.M.**

Members Present: Lisa Freese, Joe MacPherson, Lyndon Robjent, Gina Mitteco, Chad Ellos, Brian Isaacson, Emily Jorgensen, Steve Bot, Elaine Koutsoukos, Steve Peterson, Michael Larson, Adam Harrington, Jon Solberg, Innocent Eyoh, Bridget Rief, Matt Fyten, Peter Dahlberg, Danny McCullough, Karl Keel, Ken Ashfeld, Anne Kane, Paul Oehme, Michael Thompson, Kim Lindquist, Robert Ellis, Jim Kosluchar, Jenifer Hager, Bill Dermody, Paul Kurtz, Kevin Roggenbuck

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Freese at 9:02 a.m. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was held via video conference.

2. Approval of Agenda

The Committee approved the agenda via roll call.

3. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the October 7, 2020 TAC minutes was made by Mr. MacPherson and seconded by Mr. Solberg. Motion carried.

(Meeting minutes for the March 4, 2020 minutes will be presented for approval at a future committee meeting.)

4. TAB Report

TAB Coordinator Ms. Koutsoukos provided a summary of the October 21, 2020 meeting.

5. Committee Reports

1. Executive Committee (Lisa Freese, Chair)

Chair Freese updated the Committee on the process of identifying a new TAC Chair. Each of the three TAC subgroups – representing cities, counties, and agencies, will meet at 10:45 a.m. and identify an individual to serve on the nominating committee. The nominating committee will meet to bring forward candidates for consideration of TAC chair.

2. TAC Action Items

No items.

3. Planning Committee (Kevin Roggenbuck, Chair)

No Items.

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

No items.

6. Special Agenda Items

1. Post-COVID 19 Travel Behavior and Trends (Jonathan Ehrlich and Ashley Asmus, MTS)

Ms. Asmus presented this item. She outlined the traffic database that the Council is preparing and its capabilities. Next, she outlined the travel trends in the region over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic. Early in the pandemic, traffic decreased by nearly 75%. It rebounded during the summer and has stabilized at approximately 20-25% below traffic volumes seen in a typical year. The reductions are most pronounced during peak a.m. period (particularly 8:00 a.m.) and at 8:00 p.m. In contrast, traffic is comparatively higher than in a typical year during the mid-day period.

2. 2020 Regional Solicitation Funding Scenarios (Steve Peterson, MTS)

Mr. Peterson presented this item. At its October meeting, TAC recommended bringing forth to TAB six scenarios – five developed by staff plus an additional scenario focused on regional roadways. At its October 21 meeting, TAB narrowed the scenarios down to two: the “Historical Process” funding scenario and the “More Projects” funding scenario. Both scenarios follow the midpoint of the modal funding ranges. TAB also discussed the issue of geographic balance of projects throughout the metro area and whether at least one project located in each county should be awarded this cycle, regardless of the ranking.

Mr. Peterson continued by discussing overprogramming options and the pros and cons of each option. Committee members expressed strong resistance to any scenario in which a lower-ranked project would be funded over a higher-ranked project, which may hurt the integrity of the scoring process. Mr. Peterson noted that staff would bring feedback to both the Funding and Programming Committee and the TAB and further discuss this topic during the December meeting of the TAC.

7. Agency Reports

Mr. Solberg of MnDOT provided an update on the freight program, noting that projects are anticipated to be announced in November.

8. Other Business and Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m. in order to begin the caucus process.

Prepared by:

David Burns