

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

Notes of a Meeting of the
TAC-PLANNING COMMITTEE
September 14th, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT: Holly Anderson, Jack Byers, Paul Czech, Jack Forslund, Lisa Freese, Anton Jerve, Elaine Koutsoukos, Steve Mahowald, Jason Pieper, Amanda Smith, Katie White, Rachel Wiken, (Jean Keely, excused)

OTHERS PRESENT: Daniel Pena, Tony Fischer, Michelle Fure, Taylor Beswick, Amy Vennewitz, Carl Ohrn, Cole Hiniker, Jonathan Ehrlich, Aaron Bartling (MVRTA), Brad Larsen (MnDOT), Dave Burns, Kris Riesenbergl (FHWA).

1. Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order by Lisa Freese.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Agenda changed to remove info items 4) TPP Chapter 2 and 5) RBTN Changes. White moved, Czech seconded.

3. Approval of the Minutes from the August 2017 meetings

White moved, Koutsoukos seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

4. Action Item **2017-24 Hennepin County Functional Class Requests #1349 & #1350**

Jason Pieper from Hennepin County presented two functional class change requests.

#1349 – Lowry Ave in Minneapolis, from St Anthony Blvd to West Broadway

Hennepin County wished to upgrade the road from Other Arterial to A Minor Augmentor. The road connects the industrial areas in North Minneapolis, future developments near the Mississippi River, and North East Minneapolis. It is also a major freight corridor in Minneapolis.

Mike Larson commented on the difference between the eastern and western portions of this roadway. Hennepin County responded that they wanted the classification to be continuous along the whole roadway, and that they would work with the City of Minneapolis to address access modifications on the eastern portion of the roadway.

Jack Byers from Minneapolis commented that the City Council had adopted development plans along the road that support this roadway reclassification.

#1350 Vernon Ave in Edina, from Hwy 100 to Hwy 62

Hennepin County wished to upgrade this road from Other Arterial to A Minor Reliever. The road provides access to Principal Arterials that frequently experience congestion. On the North/East end of the road, the Grandview District Plan supports upgrading this road to serve future landuse.

Committee Members and MnDOT both expressed concerns that the suburban residential nature of this roadway conflicted with A Minor designation. MnDOT expressed concern the current configuration of

the roadway did not support reliever functions and questioned if an upgrade would reduce multimodal access to the road. Pieper replied the County did not have plans to reconfigure the road and hoped to increase bike/ped accommodations on the roadway by widening the bridge over CP Rail in the future. He also noted that Edina City Council supports the upgrade.

Motion to approve, White Moved, Jack Byers Second. Motion passed with Chair Freese as single opposition to the Vernon Ave reclassification.

5. Info Items

1) MnPASS III Study (Brad Larsen)

Brad Larsen from MnDOT presented the MnPASS III Study. This was a study to update the MnPASS system vision. Previous MnPASS and highway studies were evaluated to develop three scenarios of corridors which were modeled. Corridors were evaluated based on change in person throughput, person hours saved, travel time savings, and cost. Scenario 3 was chosen for similar benefits to Scenarios 1 and 2, but for less anticipated cost. Scenario 3 corridors will be included in the TPP along with Existing MnPASS, Tier 1 MnPASS (funded) and Tier 2 (currently identified as future MnPASS corridors, but no funding attached).

Steve Mahowald asked how person throughput factored in transit and Larsen replied that transit providers were included in the summaries, to factor in how transit service would improve on highway corridors with MnPASS.

The final report will be available in October.

2) TPP Overview Challenges and Opportunities (Michelle Fure)

Michelle Fure presented the outline for Section D: Regional Transportation Challenges and Opportunities. This document includes new and emerging trends, issues to be addressed in the TPP revisions. She asked the committee to consider these topics and think about what should be presented in a stronger fashion, what is missing, and needs to be reflected differently. The full document is available online.

Overall the committee asked for more detail, less summary language. Jack Byers wanted to see more examples, such as “Other Technology” should detail smart system, smart railways, etc.

Amanda Smith commented that environmental equity and justice were used interchangeably and care should be taken framing these separate issues. She also noted that more attention should be given to impact of overall population from vehicle emission, not just greenhouse gasses.

Committee members were encouraged to bring thoughts back to the next meeting or to email staff.

3) TPP Chapter 1 Performance Based Planning (Cole Hiniker)

Cole Hiniker presented the new Chapter 1 concept. In the last TPP Chapter 1 was existing system for all modes. This version of the TPP, Chapter 1 will include performance based planning and the system vision.

Cole noted that this section has been taken on by other staff because of recent absence of Mark Filipi.

Hiniker walked through a handout on performance based planning, federal requirements, and relationship to Thrive.

Jack Byers asked if equity was not a goal. Hiniker commented that the same question was received from the Council, but that the plan is being written using the equity lens across all measures and goals.

He encouraged staff to send feedback to himself, Katie White, or Rachel Wiken.

5. Other Business

Katie White commented that soon TAC Planning will be getting redlined TPP chapters for review. She encouraged committee members to make time to review these and share with others at their organizations that need to see the material. Lisa asked that packets get mailed a week ahead of time to allow for better collaboration and review.

Amy Vennewitz encouraged committee members to review the strategies chapter ahead of the next meeting.

Holly Anderson asked how TPP comments by committee members will be responded to. White said that we will not have a formal comment response like during the public comment period. Emails and comments from the committee will be considered and discussed.

6. Adjournment

Adjourn at 2:57pm