

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD (TAB)

Wednesday, August 21, 2019

Metropolitan Council Chambers, 390 Robert Street North, Saint Paul

Committee Members Present:

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Hovland, James (Chair)	Look, Matt	Barber, Deb
Barnes, Michael	Hamann-Roland, Mary	Boyles, Frank	Ulrich, Jon
Karwoski, Stan	Anderson, Doug	McDonnell, Craig	Lindeke, William
Gaylord, Kathleen	Fox, Nick	Dugan, Peter	Goins, William
Reich, Kevin	Windschitl, Mark	Wosje, Jeff	Geisler, Christopher
Bailey, Myron	McGuire, Mary Jo	Staples, Jamez	Maluchnik, Randy
Tolbert, Chris	Gorecki, Bruce	Goettel, Debbie	Giuliani Stephens, Mary
Hollinshead, Mathews	Hansen, Gary (Droste, Bill)	Crimmins, Carl	
ABSENT:	Petryk, Becky	Foster, Amity	Swanson, Dick
	Sandahl, Suzanne		
LIAISON/STAFF PRESENT:	Koutsoukos, Elaine TAB Coordinator	Freese, Lisa TAC Chair	Thompson, Nick MTS Director

I. CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Chair Hovland called the regular meeting of the Transportation Advisory Board to order at 12:33 p.m. on Wednesday, August 21, 2019.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:

Motion by Hamann-Roland, seconded by Anderson, to approve the agenda of the August 21, 2019, regular meeting of the Transportation Advisory Board. **Motion carried.**

III. PUBLIC FORUM

Invitation to the public to address the Board about any issue not on the agenda. There was no one in the audience who wished to speak on items not on the agenda.

IV. REPORTS

1. TAB Chair's Report

Hovland had nothing to report.

2. Agency Reports MnDOT, MPCA, MAC, and Metropolitan Council

MnDOT, Michael Barnes:

Barnes reported that the Smith Ave project won a National award for excellence because of public engagement and the functional classification review is being worked on currently.

MPCA, Craig McDonnell:

McDonnell reported that the Volkswagen Settlement public comment period has closed and the settlement phase two continues. There are also preparations for the State Fair and opportunities to go eco-friendly in garages will be exhibited. Staples asked about funds for HourCar. McDonnell said it is anticipated that EV infrastructure projects will be used to the maximum amount allowed.

MAC, Carl Crimmins:

Crimmins reported on the goal to increase the number of security lines in the checkpoint areas and updated wait times until December.

Metropolitan Council, Deb Barber:

Barber reported on Metro Transit's State Fair service.

TAC, Lisa Freese,

Freese reported that functional classification will no longer be considered until the MnDOT study is completed.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of Minutes from July 17, 2019

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Bailey, to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2019, regular meeting of the Transportation Advisory Board. **Motion carried.**

VI. ACTION ITEMS

1. 2019-35 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) Public Comments

Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Joe Barbeau presented this item.

Hovland shared that all comments will be in the electronic version.

It was moved by Hamann-Roland, seconded by Windschitl, that:

The Transportation Advisory Board accept the 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Public Comment Report. **Motion carried.**

2. 2019-36 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) Adoption

Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Joe Barbeau presented this item.

There were no questions or comments from TAB members.

It was moved by Reich, seconded by Goettel, that:

The Transportation Advisory Board adopt the 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) inclusive of changes approved in the public comment report (AT No. 2019-35). **Motion carried.**

3. 2019-29 Anoka County Defederalization Request

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson and TAC Chair Lisa Freese presented this item.

Goettel asked if Anoka County has a DBE process and when they knew they had been awarded funds. Thompson answered that this request came because MnDOT has a parallel project that is not Regional Solicitation and the Anoka County project is Regional Solicitation, so this element was not known when the application was made. Look said this project is concerned with Highway 10 traffic mitigation because of upcoming construction. Staples said defederalization is concerning because removing the need for equity places the onus on the DOT to oversee and they do not meet their goals for equity. Ulrich said the options are to have an ironclad policy or work out a case-by-case solution. Thompson said the same issues come up each time and direction from TAB may

help the applicants in their decision-making. Barber said Anoka County has addressed each issue with defederalization for this particular situation but long-term there should be a framework of expectations. Hovland said that in discussions with the Metropolitan Council, Anoka County, MnDOT, the Governor's Office everyone seemed to come to be okay with this situation if these issues were addressed in the way mentioned. Hovland said the TAB today should address this particular situation and then take on in the future what to do when this comes up again. Hamann-Roland added that she concurs that this could be a framework. Goettel asked if Anoka County is going to have a DBE program set up. Look said the Board has not discussed this. McGuire said that MnDOT had expressed that they are committed to this. Barnes added that the program in the Metro is having success and being effective. Staples asked if there is data to support that MnDOT has been successful in achieving the equity goals. Barnes shared a handout detailing some results through June. Barnes added that he would like to come present to TAB in the future as well. Staples said Minnesota has great disparities. Hovland suggested a taskforce on future defederalization issues. Geisler brought up the safety of the area and bringing people to transit and he said he supports this. Hollinshead asked if this is a spur or mainline. Look added that there is significant time that has been put into this request and voiced appreciation. Hamann-Roland concurred with Staples to address the issues of equity.

It was moved by Hamann-Roland, seconded by Maluchnik, that:

The Transportation Advisory Board recommend to the Metropolitan Council approval of Anoka County's federal funding exchange request with the following stipulations:

- All projects will be delivered in their current program year and subject to the Council's Program Year Policy.
- All projects will be completed as proposed in their original applications and subject to the Council's Scope Change Policy.
- Should either or both of the defederalized projects not be completed, Anoka County will reimburse the region the amount of federal funding assigned to the project(s) at the time of defederalization.
- The county will work with MnDOT and the Metropolitan Council to satisfy the vacated Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) requirements.
- The county will complete a resolution agreeing to the above.

Motion carried with Staples and Lindeke voting no.

4. 2019-34 2020 Unified Planning Work Program

TAC Chair Lisa Freese presented this item.

There were no questions or comments from TAB members.

It was moved by Reich, seconded by McGuire, that:

The Transportation Advisory Board recommend adoption of the 2020 Unified Planning Work Program. **Motion carried.**

VII. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. 2020 Regional Solicitation: Policy Work Group Recommendations and TAB September Decision Making

Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning & Finance Deputy Director Amy Vennewitz Highway Planning & TAB/TAC Process Manager Steve Peterson and Multimodal Planning Manager Cole Hiniker presented this item.

Goettel brought up her staff concern that eliminating the \$10 million elimination set-aside for bridges may be too soon. Vennewitz said the amount limited the TAB in its funding decisions because of the natural break. Reich said he would go with the TAC recommendation for the Bicycle and Pedestrian recommendations. Tolbert asked for the outcome on the tier system suggestion. Peterson added that the TAC said they would explore it for the next cycle. Hamann-Roland asked about the multiuse trail and said her staff said \$4 million is the lowest they would be comfortable with. Lindeke said a lower maximum has the issue with needing to phase projects out. Reich said the barrier study may have some influence on criteria and scoring as well. Geisler said if the \$4 million had been in place only 3 of the 11 projects from last year would have been impacted so it hits the larger projects but not the smaller ones. Hamann-Roland shared that her staff is interested in being part of the regional policy work group. Barber said this has been positively received as she's been out in her communities. Windschitl asked what happens in the unique category if there are no projects. Hovland said the money defaults back to the general fund. Regarding Transit, Barber said TAB should at least direct staff whether there is support for a BRT program or not. Geisler said piecemealing through the BRT programs is not efficient so having a BRT program has his support. Hollinshead said there is still confusion between ABRT and BRT and option three would fill the gap in his mind. Wosje commented that this category was created because previous solicitations have had BRTs outscoring other expansions and it takes away from other projects that cannot compete. Wosje agreed that option three is the best in his mind but the top level of how much money is in the transit category should be looked at as well. Barber voiced concern with option two and said there seems to be TAB consensus for option three. Vennewitz said staff still need direction on where to go with the nuance of the definition for option three. Hollinshead commented on excluding New Starts from the Regional Solicitation. Maluchnik reiterated that three is the option to execute this funding cycle. Vennewitz said she is hearing a desire for a BRT program but the definition as yet undecided, but the policy workgroup could focus on this. Geisler said the Regional Solicitation is supposed to forward the goals of the TPP as written.

2. 2020 Regional Solicitation: HSIP Application

Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning & TAB/TAC Process Manager Steve Peterson presented this item.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS AND ITEMS OF TAB MEMBERS

There were no questions or comments from TAB members.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Jenna Ernst
Recording Secretary