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*Transportation Advisory Board  
Of the Metropolitan Council*

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**Minutes of a Meeting of the  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Wednesday, March 2, 2016  
9:00 A.M.**

**Members Present:** Doug Fischer, Lyndon Robjent, Carla Stueve, Tim Mayasich, Lisa Freese, Jan Lucke, Rhonda Lewis, Elaine Koutsoukos, Mark Filipi, Michael Larson, Adam Harrington, Pat Bursaw, Amanda Smith, Dave Jacobson, Danny McCullough, Jean Keely, Steve Albrecht, Paul Oehme, Michael Thompson, Kim Lindquist, Bruce Loney, Jenifer Hager, Bill Dermody, Paul Kurtz (Members Excused: Brian Sorenson, Bridget Rief, Jack Byers)

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Steve Albrecht at 9:03 a.m.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Tim Mayasich moved and Mark Filipi seconded. No discussion. Motion passed.

**3. Approval of March Minutes**

Jean Keely requested that the February minutes be amended to reflect her excused absence. Mark Filipi moved and Pat Bursaw seconded. Motion passed as amended.

**4. TAB Report**

Elaine Koutsoukos reported on the February 17, 2016 TAB meeting.

**REPORTS**

**TAB Chair's Report**

Jim Hovland reported that the TAB Executive Committee met prior to the TAB meeting. The committee discussed future education and information items for upcoming TAB meetings.

Jim Hovland introduced new TAB member, Rolf Parsons, a citizen representative appointed by the Metropolitan Council. Metro Cities is working to appoint a replacement for Nora Slawik.

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

No report from MPCA or MAC.

MnDOT: Scott McBride announced that MnDOT and the Transportation Alliance are hosting a FAST Act workshop on February 29. Transportation hearings have begun at the state legislature.

MC: Katie Rodriguez reported that Council Chair Adam Duininck presented the State of the Region address on February 11. The focus was on partnerships.

## **TAC Report**

Steve Albrecht reported that TAC approved several functional classification changes. These changes will come before TAB in April, along with previously approved change, in one action item for approval of the Functional Classification map for use in the Regional Solicitation. Albrecht presented the draft policy and process for Defederalization that the technical committees have prepared. The policy and process will come before TAB for approval in March.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

1. 2015-40: Approved Scott County's request to de-federalize the 2018 CSAH 42/TH 13 intersection project, which will be completed with local funds, and move the federal funds to the US 169/TH 41 Interchange project. Both projects will be completed as per the scopes in their Regional Solicitation applications.
2. 2016-15: Approved two changes to the Regional Bicycle Transportation Network (RBTN) and a RBTN map for use in the 2016 Regional Solicitation.
3. 2016-09: Approved the list of projects for funding selected in the Innovative Travel Demand Management solicitation.
4. 2016-18: Approved the addition of inflation to the bus purchases for projects selected in the 2014 solicitation. The inflation factor will be the same factor that was applied to other capital projects awarded funds.
5. 2016-19 and 2016-20: Approved the City of Minneapolis request for a Scope Change and TIP Amendment to its HSIP project to remove project elements that are being completed as part of other projects.
6. 2016-17: Approved a Streamlined TIP Amendment for increased project cost, using local funds, for ADA elements for Minneapolis HSIP project.
7. 2016-21: Approved a Streamlined TIP Amendment to add a box culvert in the project description for MnDOT US 169 project.
8. 2016-22: Approved a Streamlined TIP Amendment for increased project costs, using local funds, for the Bloomington's Old Cedar Trail project.

### **5. Committee Reports**

#### **A. Executive Committee** (Steve Albrecht, Chair)

Steve Albrecht reported that the Executive Committee discussed the ongoing conversation about the defederalization policy. TAB is requesting more information before they act, specifically on DBE and environmental requirements.

**2016-28 TAC Bylaws.** Steve Albrecht presented the item, as discussed at the February meeting. Tim Mayasich moved and Jan Lucke seconded. Motion passes.

#### **B. Planning Committee** (Lisa Freese, Chair)

The committee did not meet in February.

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

**2016-23 2016 Regional Solicitation Public Comment Report.** Paul Oehme presented this item due to Tim Mayasich's absence at the last meeting. Steve Peterson reported that four comment letters were received which included 14 comments. The committee looked at the comments in detail and

recommended two changes to the solicitation as a result. The first related to Safe Routes to School from Eden Prairie and Southwest Transit. The request was to remove the requirement that projects must be in a SRTS plan, but still require the project to be in some other kind of plan.

The second related to the housing score for roadways that go beyond one jurisdiction (worth 7% of the total points available). Funding & Programming left the decision to TAC. There are four options for TAC to consider. Lyndon Robjent preferred the third option. Pat Bursaw asked how to decide which projects this would effect. Steve Peterson explained the process used to evaluate this decision. Doug Fischer requests to specify a one mile radius buffer (“radius” had not been in the language) and prefers options 3 or 4. Doug Fischer moves the recommended motion, with option 3, inserting “radius” before “buffer” and Lyndon Robjent seconds.

Bill Dermody asked what an “isolated” project is. Steve Peterson clarified that it is the difference between a roundabout and a corridor. Lyndon Robjent asked if linear projects between cities get prorated housing and equity points. Steve Peterson responds yes. Elaine Koutsoukos said that roadway segments are a percentage of the roadway that falls in each city. Michael Thompson asked if calculating the population is easy to do. Steve Peterson responded that this is done on other measures. Lyndon Robjent said that this makes the one mile radius buffer reasonable. It gets to the user of the intersection.

Motion passes on the selection of option 3 with changes.

Mark Filipi moved and Paul Oehme seconded the complete motion with the above selection. Motion passes.

**2016-24 Regional Solicitation Release.** Steve Peterson reported on this item. The recommended motion from 2016-23 above is included in this motion. Lyndon Robjent thanked Steve Peterson and the Council staff for their work on this item. Tim Mayasich moved and Lyndon Robjent seconded. Motion passes.

**2016-25 Defederalization Policy and Process.** Paul Oehme turned the floor to Joe Barbeau to present. Due to the one day turnaround between the last TAB meeting and Funding & Programming meeting, this was not discussed. There are questions about the DBE and environmental policies that are required under federal funding but not required after defederalization. Adam Harrington says that this is an important conversation. How do we evaluate the standards of other agencies? How do we gather this information? Defederalization is an important tool for our region to utilize, and it affects which projects get submitted. Doug Fischer said that the local permitting process requires a determination if an EIS is required. This hasn’t happened since 1991 in Anoka County. Sound walls are expensive and pull money from the roadway work. Environmental justice and DBE are outstanding questions. Tim Mayasich agreed that the conversation should go to Funding & Programming. The committee needs to prove due diligence and will then educate TAB members.

Lyndon Robjent agreed with Tim Mayasich. TAB has ruled against TAC recommendations in the past. Doug Fischer added that it can be hard to find qualified DBE contractors. Doug Fischer moved to send the issue to Funding & Programming for evaluation and detail. Tim Mayasich seconded. Motion passes.

## **6. Special Agenda Items**

**Bicycle and Pedestrian Counting Data** (Greg Lindsay, University of Minnesota and Lisa Austin, MnDOT)

Greg Lindsay and Lisa Austin presented a summary of their work in the field of accurate bicycle and pedestrian counting data. Lyndon Robjert asked what kinds of technology is used for these counts. Lisa Austin responded that Eco-Counter is a recommended company, who provides infrared and tube counters. Lyndon Robjert asked about the potential for app use. Lisa Austin responded that very small segments of users will use apps; children and recreational riders are less likely. Adam Harrington said that this data will help pavement focus maintenance needs and prioritize future lanes. Greg Lindsay added that time of day and volume information helps schedule maintenance as well.

#### **7. Agency Reports**

Adam Harrington mentioned that with spring construction season approaching, local governments with road projects should consider whether adding high quality bus stops is possible.

Connie Kozlak thanked the members of the TAC for many positive working relationships over the past several decades.

#### **8. Other Business and Adjournment**

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 10:15AM.

**Prepared by:**

Katie White