
*Transportation Advisory Board
Of the Metropolitan Council*

**Minutes of a Meeting of the
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, October 1, 2014
9:00 A.M.**

Members Present: Andrew Witter, Lyndon Robjent, Tom Johnson, Tim Mayasich, Lisa Freese, Jan Lucke, Rhonda Lewis, Elaine Koutsoukos, Mark Filipi, Adam Harrington, Pat Bursaw, Innocent Eyoh, Bridget Rief, Dave Christianson, Danny McCullough, Karl Keel, Jean Keely, Paul Oehme, Michael Thompson, Duane Schwartz, Kim Lindquist, Paul Kurtz, Michelle Beaulieu (Members Excused: Steve Albrecht, Bruce Loney)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Mark Filipi made the motion and Karl Keel seconded. No discussion. Motion passed.

3. Approval of March Minutes

The September 3, 2014 meeting minutes were approved as written. Mark Filipi made the motion, Dave Christianson seconded. No discussion. Motion passed.

4. TAB Report

Elaine Koutsoukos reported on TAB's August 20 meeting:

Reports:

Chair: Met with Chair Susan Haigh and Regional Administrator Pat Born on September 10 to discuss administrative issues and give an update on TAB and the Regional Solicitation. All agreed to meet a couple times a year.

MnDOT: Scott McBride thanked Elaine Koutsoukos for sending out the reminder that the Corridors of Commerce request for projects ended yesterday. MnDOT will begin reviewing the projects today. There is approximately \$25 million statewide in the program this year and a list will come out sometime mid-October.

MAC: Commissioner Carl Crimmins reported that the Commission approved a draft Capital Plan and are moving into environmental review. Secondly, there was parcel of land adjacent to the Mall of America that was sold to the Mall of America and adjoins the existing light rail line. That has been approved and is going forward.

Met Council: Adam Duininck reported the Council adopted the I-494 and I-694 2030 TPP amendments.

TAC: TAC Chair Bursaw reported on the September TAC meeting. Two items from TAC and a streamlined TIP amendment from TAC Executive Committee were forwarded to TAB and are on the agenda.

The Work Group was established to address federal funding allocation. The Work Group met on September 9. This group's charge is to review current policy and process and develop proposed changes regarding allocation of funds when projects are deferred or withdrawn or when additional federal funds are made available to the region. There is some policy, but it is not sufficient under MAP-21. The Work Group will also finalize recommendations to the scope change policy. Initial principals that the Work Group has identified in establishing reallocation and new allocation of funds are spending all available funds in the region, in the region; transparency and inclusiveness; fairness and geographic balance; performance based evaluations; where possible, keep funding within the same mode; reward project readiness; and be practical. The two main elements that the group has identified will be how much money is available and the amount of time available will determine the processes. The Work Group will complete its work by the end of the year and forward its recommendations to TAB.

Consent List:

August TAB minutes were approved.

Action Items:

Three action items were approved:

- Streamlined TIP Amendment for West St. Paul Safe Routes to Schools
- Regional Solicitation packet using the Steering Committee recommended weighting of measures
- TDM Solicitation Delay – The TDM application release will be delayed until spring 2015 for the solicitation of 2015-2017 CMAQ funds.

5. Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee (Pat Bursaw, Chair)

The Federal Funding Reallocation Work Group has been meeting and minutes have been sent to the entire TAC. The Scope change policy has not been approved by TAB. Tom Johnson added that a one size fits all policy does not work here due to timing and funding considerations.

The TAC leadership transition process will begin at the November meeting. There will be time during the November meeting for each of the three representative groups to caucus together to select a representative to the Nominating Committee for a new TAC chair. The Nominating Committee will bring their recommendation to the December meeting. There has been an unwritten practice of alternating between a city, county, or agency chair, and this next round would traditionally be held by a city representative.

B. Funding and Programming Committee (Karl Keel, Chair)

Action item 2014-63: Scope Change Request, City of Bloomington Normandale Boulevard

Karl Keel introduced this item from the agenda. Karl Keel moved approval and Tim Mayasich seconded. Motion passed.

Action item 2014-64: Scope Change Request, Three Rivers Park District Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail

Karl Keel introduced this item from the agenda. Karl Keel moved approval and Kim Lindquist seconded. Michael Thompson asked why the logical end point segments weren't in the original application, and if the new neighbors knew about this project. Jonathan Vlaming from Three Rivers responded that those logical connections did not exist at the time of the original application, and that the neighbors are very supportive of the project. An opportunity arose to partner with the YMCA and Edina has chosen not to redevelop the area. Motion passed.

Action item 2014-65: TIP Amendment for Three Rivers Park District Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail

Karl Keel introduced this item from the agenda and explained the confusing layout of the attached table. Some minor formatting changes may appear for TAB after consulting with State Aid. Karl Keel moved approval and Kim Lindquist seconded. Motion passed.

C. Planning Committee (Lisa Freese, Chair)

The Planning Committee did not meet this month but will likely meet in October.

6. Special Agenda Items

Program Year Policy Update

Elaine Koutsoukos summarized the State Aid date change requests. TAC has already approved this document. These are administrative modifications, not policy change. Lyndon Robjant expressed concern with the dates chosen. Michael Thompson said that the dates are based off the June deadline to ensure project delivery.

Metro Transit Service Improvement Program (SIP)

Adam Harrington presented an overview of the SIP which is concluding soon and will lead to the Regional Service Improvement Program (RSIP) process this fall. Jan Lucke requested more detail in the prioritization factors. Lyndon Robjant asked about the use of the TPP and Regional Solicitation in prioritizing routes. Dave Christianson asked about the bus type improvements planned. Adam Harrington responded that breadth and depth of coverage and service levels are included in the SIP. The RSIP will come through TAC-Planning.

Green Line Extension and Blue Line Extension Updates

Mark Furhmann presented an update on the Green Line Extension and Blue Line Extension projects. Lyndon Robjant asked what kind of state money is being used; it is a mix of general fund and two GO Bonding packages. Innocent Eyoh asked about the possibility of securing the remaining federal funding; federal funding is always the last to arrive and lags behind construction completion. Dave Christianson asked about the lawsuit; a Council response will be filed in about a month. Dave Christianson asked if the shallow tunnel will be able to withstand a derailment on top of it; all scenarios are under consideration and no oil trains are moved on the Kenilworth alignment of TCW. Lyndon Robjant asked what the annual operating estimates are; 2020 approximately \$40 million, 36-38% of which is farebox recovery and the remainder is split 50/50 between the state and CTIB. Lyndon Robjant asked what the Green Line run time is; from Mitchell to Target Field it will be 36 minutes. Blue Line Extension completion anticipated 2021; Green Line Extension completion anticipated 2019.

7. Agency Reports

Bridget Rief thanked the cities and counties for the support of the MAC solar project, to be announced tomorrow.

8. Other Business and Adjournment

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 10:06AM.

Prepared by:

Katie White