

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

Notes of a Meeting of the
TAC-PLANNING COMMITTEE
July 13, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT: Holly Anderson, Bob Byers, Mike Corbett, Bill Dermody, Innocent Eyoh, Jack Forslund, Lisa Freese, Jean Keely, Elaine Koutsoukos, Michael Larsen, Dan McCormick, Ann Pung-Terwedo, Kevin Roggenbuck, Katie White, Rachel Wiken

OTHERS PRESENT: Russ Owen, Neil Ralston, Steve Peterson, Steve Elmer, Jonathan Ehrlich, Taylor Beswick, Carl Ohrn, Steve Wilson, Cole Hiniker, Ashley Hartle

1. Call to Order

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was amended to change presentation order. White moved, Roggenbuck seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of the Minutes from the June 2017 meetings

White moved, Roggenbuck seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

4. Action Items

1. 2017-18: 2018 UPWP (Katie White)

Katie White presented the 2018 Unified Planning Work Program for approval.

The 2017 UPWP had significant changes to structure of the document. The 2018 version is an update of the 2017 document and does not include significant structural changes. Many projects concluded in 2017 and very few carried over to 2018 because of the TPP update process happening now. Two new projects included are Congestion Management Process work and Transit Service Allocation.

White noted there will be some minor financial number changes as this document goes to TAC, as the budget is not yet finalized.

Holly Anderson asked about the CTIB section, if that will be rewritten considering the action to dissolve. White replied that yes, that section will be revised as we know more about how that process will unfold. Motion to recommend for approval, Bob Byers moved, Roggenbuck seconded. Motion passed.

2. 2017-19: MAC – Crystal Airport Long Term Comp Plan (Russ Owen)

Russ Owen and Neil Ralston (Metropolitan Airport Commission (MAC)) presented on the Crystal Airport Long Term Comp Plan (LTCP).

Under state statute, the Met Council must review all LTCPs if the plan is determined to have a multi-city effect or substantial effect on metropolitan development.

Owen reviewed the LTCP requirements – a 20 year planning document focusing on needs, operational parameters, and environmental and financial requirements. They must also be consistent with Thrive MSP 2040.

The Crystal Airport is a primary Reliever airport in the Twin Cities. It accommodates personal, recreational and business aircraft. Primary objectives of the LTCP are to better align the infrastructure with demand levels, preserve and improve operational capacity, and enhance safety.

The LTCP includes removing some taxi space to reduce conflicts, keeping the turf runway (after strong feedback in support of this), new pavement to main a runway extension, and removing obstacles (ie trees).

Twenty seven comments were received in the first round of commenting. Common themes in comments were supporting the runway extension and keeping the turf runway. Comments from the public (vs airport users) focused on noise and landuse around the airport. \

City of Crystal has given a letter of support for the LTCP.

Several committee members asked questions about type of aircraft and type of travel seen at that airport. Most are recreational or personal flights, with some smaller business traffic. There is a flight school at the airport as well as a propeller repair service.

Ann Pung-Terwedo asked how the airport runway length and landuse compared to Lake Elmo airport in Washington County. Ralston replied that they have similar runway lengths but Lake Elmo is in a less developed area.

Motion to recommend, White moved, Koutsoukos second. Motion passed.

5. Info Items

1. Transit Onboard Survey Results (Jonathan Ehrlich)

Jonathan Ehrlich presented some early results from the Travel OnBoard Survey.

The onboard survey is conducted every five years on fixed route bus and rail system. Funding for this survey came from TAB/Regional Solicitation and from other local sources. The Met Council partnered with all the local travel providers to complete this work. Phase 1 of the survey was on/off counts on high ridership lines, collected in the Spring-Summer of 2016. Phase 2 of the survey was full origin-destination survey, which was a detailed questionnaire filled out while on transit, collected Summer-Fall of 2016. Ehrlich presented selected data on demographics, ride purpose, and the effects of the Green Line on ridership. Full charts can be seen here https://metro council.org/Council-Meetings/Committees/Transportation-Advisory-Board-TAB/TAB-Technical-Advisory-Committee/TAC-Planning-Committee/2017/TAC-Planning-Committee-7-13-17/5-OBS_TAC-Planning-July-2017.aspx

2. TPP Update – Highways and Freight (Steve Peterson and Tony Fischer)

Steve Peterson and Tony Fischer presented the highways system update in preparation for the Transportation Policy Plan Update. They asked the committee for reactions to high level concepts, clarifying the “story”, ideas for changes, and items for future discussion.

Like other system updates for the TPP, they started with “Where are we now?” – current conditions and current policy. They moved into what’s changing – updates on studies and known policy direction. Steve Elmer joined to present some details on the freight system and policy direction.

Full length slide show available online

https://metro council.org/Council-Meetings/Committees/Transportation-Advisory-Board-TAB/TAB-Technical-Advisory-Committee/TAC-Planning-Committee/2017/TAC-Planning-Committee-7-13-17/3TAC-Planning_Highways_07_13_17-final-Copy.aspx

3. Bike Barriers Study – Steve Elmer

At the end of the meeting, Steve Elmer quickly reviewed the Bike Barrier Study. This study was a region wide review of the major physical barriers to bicycling (rivers, railroads, freeways). It will identify and rank new crossing opportunities and locations. This study focused on the Regional Bikeways Transportation Network (RBTN). The final study will be completed in the fall of 2017.

6. Other Business

The regional solicitation will be released in early 2018. Before the release, a functional class map must be approved for use during evaluation of projects. The deadline for submissions for functional class changes to be considered for that map is Sept 1, 2017. Following the meeting, an email was sent out to gov delivery and committee mailing lists with this info.

7. Adjournment

adjourn at 3:12 pm