

Minutes

TAB Technical Advisory Committee



Meeting Date: August 3, 2022

Time: 9:00 AM

Location: Virtual

Members Present:

- Jon Solberg, Chair, MnDOT
- Joe MacPherson, Anoka Co
- Lyndon Robjent, Carver Co
- Erin Laberee, Dakota Co
- Brian Isaacson, Vice Chair, Ramsey Co
- Chad Ellos, Hennepin Co
- Lisa Freese, Scott Co
- Lyssa Leitner, Washington Co
- Andrew Witter, 7W

- Karl Keel, Bloomington
- Charlie Howley, Chanhassen
- Robert Ellis, Eden Prairie
- Jim Kosluchar, Fridley
- Paul Oehme, Lakeville
- Ken Ashfeld, Maple Grove
- Marcus Culver, Roseville
- Michael Thompson, Plymouth
- Nathan Koster, Minneapolis
- Jim Voll, Minneapolis
- Paul Kurtz, Saint Paul
- Bill Dermody, Saint Paul

- Steve Peterson, Council MTS
- Patrick Boylan, Council CD
- Elaine Koutsoukos, TAB
- Innocent Eyoh, MPCA
- Bridget Rief, MAC
- Matt Fyten, STA
- Cyndi Harper, Metro Transit
- Praveena Pidaparathi, MnDOT
- Colleen Eddy, DEED
- Vacant, MN DNR
- Danny McCullough, Bicycle
- Vacant, Pedestrian
- Andrew Emanuele (ex-officio)

= present

Call to Order

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Solberg called the regular meeting of the TAB Technical Advisory Committee to order at 9:02 a.m.

Approval of Agenda

The committee approved the agenda with no changes. Therefore, no vote was needed. Clarification was made that the first agenda item title changed from Sustainable Transportation Advisory Council Recommendations to Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan.

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Koutsoukos and seconded by Leitner to approve the minutes of the July 7, 2022, regular meeting of the TAB Technical Advisory Committee. **Motion carried.**

Public Comment on Committee Business

None.

TAB Report

Koutsoukos reported that the July 20, 2022, Transportation Advisory Board meeting was cancelled.

Business – Committee Reports

Executive Committee (Jon Solberg, Chair)

Chair Solberg reported that the TAC Executive Committee met prior to the TAC meeting. Scott Mareck will be the chair of the Planning Committee and Angie Stenson from Carver County will be vice-chair. The Committee discussed clarification of membership in the Bylaws item on the agenda as well as distribution of Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funds, an overview of upcoming committee items, and a discussion of the Corridors of Commerce program.

1. [2022-28: Streamlined 2022-2025 TIP Amendment: Electric Bus Purchase](#) (Joe Barbeau, MTS)

Joe Barbeau, MTS, said that this amendment request is to add the purchase of eight electric buses for Metro Transit. The funding was obtained through FTA's Low- or No- Emissions Vehicle Program, which is not connected to the Regional Solicitation.

It was moved by Harrington and seconded by Isaacson to recommend that that the Transportation Advisory Board recommend adoption of an amendment to the 2022-2025 TIP to add the purchase of eight electric buses. **Motion carried** unanimously.

Planning Committee/TPP Technical Working Group (Scott Mareck, Chair)

Chair Mareck reported that the TAC Planning Committee did not meet in July. In August the Committee will make a recommendation on the Unified Planning Work Program. In July, the TPP Technical Working Group heard presentations on the June meeting and structure and terminology for the 2050 TPP and the Statewide Multimodal Plan. In August three items will be discussed: the Minnesota State Highway Investment Plan, the E-commerce Freight Distribution Study, and an overview of existing 2040 TPP policies.

Funding & Programming (Michael Thompson, Chair)

Chair Thompson reported that the Funding & Programming Committee met in July but did not have any action items.

Information

1. [Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan](#) (Hally Turner, MnDOT)

Hally Turner, MnDOT, provided an update on MnDOT's Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan.

Barbeau relayed a question that Harrington placed in the chat: "What are some examples of MNDOT transportation equity projects? Or is it still in development?" Turner replied that most of the effort has been policy related, though MnDOT is exploring ways to connect policy and project delivery.

Turner shared the [website](#) on which comments can be made. She then read a question from the chat asking for expansion on the topic of equity in walking and bicycling measures. She stated that walking and biking data are in their infancy, particularly regarding accessibility. She then read a question, posted by Robjent in the chat, on whether there should be a goal or target to increase teleworking and high-speed internet connections, to which she replied that there isn't clarity on whether MnDOT's role should be to prevent people from driving with strategies such as telework.

Keel asked whether Streetlight data is being used and where demographic data comes from. Turner said that Metro District has worked with the Streetlight data and that demographic data comes from the Census.

Turner added that a vehicle miles traveled target will be established. Ellos suggested that the target will likely be higher in the Metro area than the rest of Minnesota, adding that he is curious about how that gets tracked. Turner said that while the per capita target might not vary, the

strategies likely will. Peterson said that MPOs will be able to set their own targets. He added that Streetlight data is used in Regional Solicitation scoring.

2. [TAC Bylaws](#) (Joe Barbeau, Met Council)

Barbeau said that the TAC bylaws were updated in February of 2022 to add members and standing committee vice chairs. Following that, the Council's Office of General Council provided recommended changes to clarify the difference between meeting remotely and in person. Potential changes to address this, along with correcting inconsistencies are shown in the document. He added that the recent appointment of a TAC Planning chair and vice chair that are TAC alternates prompted the TAC Executive Committee to discuss allowing alternates to serve as chairs, as the language currently mentions members. Solberg added that there has been difficulty finding chairs for the TAC Planning Committee and that allowing for alternate members to serve as chairs could open the role up to others. Freese said that the change is a good idea because the chair position has been difficult to fill.

Keel asked whether alternates would be expected to fully participate in TAC. Barbeau replied that they would not be provided an extra vote for their agencies and alternates would have to attend as presenters. Keel suggested that the chair and vice chair would need to be aware of what is happening at TAC.

3. [Regional Solicitation Outreach tool, Draft Scores, and Schedule](#) (Bethany Brandt and Steve Peterson, Met Council)

Brandt shared a Regional Solicitation [outreach survey tool](#), which was created so the public can have input into project selection. Thus far 112 responses have been provided. The survey closes on August 17.

Brandt said that the draft scores have been posted and that today is the last day for applicants to appeal scores, which will be finalized by the Funding & Programming Committee on August 18.

Chair Solberg asked how the survey might influence Regional Solicitation funding scenarios. Peterson replied that a funding scenario could be created based on survey feedback. Another option is to consider using the feedback with overprogramming. Finally, spending the \$41 million of carbon reduction funding over five years could be informed by the feedback. Mareck provided a comment in the chat: "Good survey, but best practice would be to lean primarily into the regional investment direction of the 2040 TPP. I think a similar survey as part of our public outreach for the 2050 TPP would be helpful. Robjett pointed out that committee members did not have input. He also suggested that bigger-picture language would be better for the public and that some language is misleading. Leitner said that the survey would have been more impactful prior to sending out the Regional Solicitation, particularly since agency members might let the project rankings influence their responses. Leitner also suggested expressing that the survey is only a small part of the contribution to the final product. Chair Solberg said that how this is presented could influence TAB and the comments should be balanced with current policy. Ellos said that the survey looks too much like the scenarios and may not capture priorities at a high level, adding that it is difficult to obtain unbiased replies when the draft scores are out.

4. 2023-2026 Draft Transportation Improvement Public Comments (Joe Barbeau, Met Council)

Barbeau said that the TIP public comment report is being created. He stated that 17 commenters made a total of 30 comments, 11 of which were at a public open house in June. There were no themes, and most comments were neither for nor against the TIP or its elements. There were some comments opposed to specific projects as well as three comments from one commenter opposed to funding non-highway projects. Most comments were general in nature. Barbeau said that local contributions to some Hennepin County projects are being updated in response to the county's comment.

Other Business

Eyoh said that MPCA has a grant program meant to help schools, school districts, and school bus companies make up some the difference between EPA grant awards and the cost of buses and

charging stations.

Harrington said that several routes will have a schedule change on August 20, directly related to bus- and rail-operator shortage. The Blue Line will stop at the Terminal 2 and be served by buses to the Mall of America while track maintenance occurs. Metro Transit is testing the effectiveness of using two cars rather than three cars to help with maintenance, cleaning, and enforcement.

Solberg said that the Corridors of Commerce program opened on August 1 and that the program has changed. The closing date is November 30

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned.

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