

**Minutes of the
REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD (TAB)**

Wednesday, February 18, 2015
Metropolitan Council Chambers, 390 North Robert St., St. Paul

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Hargis, William, Chair	Fawley, Ethan	Butcher, Gerry
Crimmins, Carl	McBride, Scott	Drotning, Karl	Slawik, Nora
Van Hattum, David	Look, Matt	Swanson, Dick	Miron, Fran
Hansen, Gary	Lilligren, Robert	Maluchnik, Randy	Sanger, Sue
d’Almeida, Anani	Ulrich, Jon	Stark, Russ	Duininck, Adam (Rodriguez, Katie – MC rep.)
Donahoe, Margaret	Goins, William	Gaylord, Kathleen	Hovland, James
Laufenburger, Denny	Thornton, David	McGuire, Mary Jo	Reich, Kevin
Callison, Jan			
ABSENT:	Janovy, Jennifer	Gunyou, John	Hamann-Roland, Mary
	McKnight, Kenya	Petryk, Becky	
LIAISON/STAFF PRESENT:	Elaine Koutsoukos, TAB Coordinator		

I. CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Chair Hargis called the regular meeting of the Transportation Advisory Board to order at 1:35 p.m. on Wednesday, February 18, 2015.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Hargis stated that there have been revisions to the agenda since the public posting. The original Information Item #3 (Metro Transit Winter Operations) will not be presented at this meeting. Information item #2 will be a report on Rail Safety from David Christenson-MnDOT, and the Modern Streetcar Policy Update will be Information Item #3. Motion by Gaylord, seconded by Lilligren to adopt the revised 02/18/15 agenda. Motion carried.

III. PUBLIC FORUM

Invitation to the public to address the Board about any issue not on the agenda. There were no members of the public present to address the TAB at today’s meeting.

IV. REPORTS

1. TAB Chair’s Report

Hargis reported that the TAB Executive Committee met prior to this TAB meeting. Elaine Koutsoukos will prepare notes and send to TAB members. Koutsoukos also gave an update on the Regional Solicitation scoring and appeal process, status and timelines. Applicants have until February 27 to appeal scores, appeals will go the Funding & Programming Committee in March. Staff will work on preparing summaries of the applications and how they scored for the TAC, then forward options and recommendations to TAB.

Hargis stated that the bylaws adopted by TAB now include 9 TAB Executive Committee members and it is time to establish the Executive Committee. Members should let Koutsoukos know by March 1 if they are interested in serving, with the goal to vote on members at the March TAB meeting. The next Executive Committee is scheduled for April. Today is Hargis’ last TAB meeting. There should be a new TAB Chair and new Metro Council-appointments to the TAB named by the March 11 Metro Council meeting, following the Governor appointment of met Metro Council members.

Russ Stark announced that March will be his last meeting as a TAB member. He is stepping down because he has been appointed St. Paul City Council President and will not be able to attend TAB meetings in the future.

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

MnDOT: Scott McBride reported on the Governor's funding plan. The Governor released a list of potential projects that would be included in his plan. The plan is preservation intensive, with some expansion in metro area and outstate as well. The plan does not include everything that is in the TFAC report, but the Governor's plan fits well with MnDOT's plan and TAB discussions and actions. There are a lot of expansion projects that are not on the list. In answer to Goins, McBride stated that return on investment was a consideration when listing projects. The governor has been supportive of MnDOT and is pushing MnDOT to be more creative in ways to be more efficient.

MPCA: David Thornton – Nothing to report.

MAC: Carl Crimmins reported that MAC has received two awards from the American Council of Engineering Consultants for: 1) the diversion diamond interchange at I-494/34th Ave, and 2) airport restroom renovations.

Metro Council: Katie Rodriguez – Rodriguez reported that she has been asked by Adam Duininck to fill in at TAB until appointments are made. She thanked Chair Hargis for his service on behalf of Chairs Haigh and Duininck. She stated that interviews for TAB Districts E, F, G, & H are scheduled for February 25, with Metro Council action either March 11 or 25. New Council Chair Duininck has been conducting his 7-week tour of 7 counties.

4. Technical Advisory Committee

Steve Albrecht's report consisted of the action items below.

V. CONSENT ITEMS

Motion by Goins, seconded by Stark and passed to approve the consent item below.

1. Approval of the Minutes from January 21, 2015.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

1. 2015-10: Program Extension: CSAH 10/TH 10 Ramsey County

Albrecht presented this item. McGuire stated support from Ramsey County.

Motion by Hovland, seconded by Swanson that the Transportation Advisory Board approve the program year extension request to move Improvements at the Intersection of CSAH 10/TH 10/CR H in Mounds View (SP# 062-610-004) to 2016.

Motion passed.

2. 2015-11: Program Extension: North Creek Regional Greenway Trail Lakeville

Albrecht presented this item. Albrecht responded to Sanger's question that delaying a project in order to possibly get more favorable bids was not the basis for the decision to recommend an extension.

Motion by Drotning, seconded by Hansen that the Transportation Advisory Board approve the program year extension request to move the North Creek Regional Greenway Trail (SP# 188-090-002) to 2016.

Motion passed.

VII. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Legislative Report

Metro Council Director of Government Affairs Judd Schetnan presented this item. He stated that the Governor's transportation funding package dedicates a ½ cent sales tax for transit in the 7-county Metro Area. The Senate package is proposing 1 cent sales tax, which incorporates the current ¼ cent MVST (MVST is not a stable source of funding), and the House package proposes zero.

Schetnan responded to a question from Slawik that the proposed ½ cent would not be administered by CTIB. It would be collected through the Department of Revenue and the funds would come to the Metro

Council. Regarding proposed transitways, Slawik noted the importance of lesser circulator investments and stated that transitways without adequate circulators will not be successful. In answer to Sanger about the scenario if the Federal government reduces its LRT funding match from 50% to 40%, Schetnan stated that Metro Council would then need to react to that, but that the proposed sales tax would keep the system nimble and would be able to plan ahead using a stable funding source.

Goins stated that there was discussion at a Greater MSP annual meeting last November that included industry clusters in Minnesota and asked how much industry clusters play into Metro Council's plan for economic development. Schetnan answered that representatives of businesses in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area have come to the legislature in support of the Governor's plan and investments in the transit system. Look asked if the ½ cent sales tax would be used for transitways, or used for debt service against bonding. Schetnan answered that the first call in the prioritization of these funds is for debt service. This proposal could provide a funding source that could probably do both.

McGuire suggested a stakeholders group for the various transit lines that are proposed, and include county commissioners and city leaders in planned events.

Stark asked if Metro Council has thought of different financing strategies including defederalizing some of the projects, as some other areas have done. Schetnan replied that the revenue that can be generated though the sales tax could allow for flexibility, and the Metro Council will look at all of the different financial tools to accomplish goals.

Callison asked if Metro Council is getting pushback at the Legislature for the proposal of having Metro Council in control of funds, and this may affect the relationship with CTIB. Schetnan stated that Metro Council has attended one hearing prior to the bill introduction and has not yet attended a committee. There are larger, robust conversations to come around what the amount of sales tax funding will be, and what the governance around that sales tax will be.

Fawley asked about the governance of biking/walking projects and distribution of funds in the sales tax funding proposal. Schetnan stated that walking and biking funding would come to the Metro Council and be distributed as grants.

Ulrich requested that the presentation be made available to TAB members.

2. Rail Safety Update

David Christenson – MnDOT presented this item which included dealing with crude (and other hazardous material) shipments by rail. The presentation included classification of rails, shipment statistics, regulatory structure, projections and rail crossing upgrades needed for safety.

Christenson directed Slawik to the report on the MnDOT website to see the ranking of crossings by risk factor.

Callison commented that the state has a good handle on the challenges and concerns, but she does not have confidence on the solutions and fixing the problems.

McGuire asked if MnDOT has been working with local governments (counties, cities, AMC, LMC) to help lobby government for the funding to be able to pursue some of the solutions. Christenson said the process at the federal complicates matters. MnDOT can be the "lead" in conversation.

3. Modern Streetcar Policy Update

Arlene McCarthy, Director MTS and Nick Thompson – Parsons Brinckerhoff.

Due to time constraints, this item was deferred to a later meeting.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS AND ITEMS OF TAB MEMBERS

Hovland/Stark and all TAB members thanked Hargis for his service with a plaque and invited members to a short reception to be held immediately following the TAB meeting.

IX. ADJOURNMENT - Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.