

Minutes of the REGULAR MEETING OF THE TAC FUNDING & PROGRAMING COMMITTEE

Thursday, January 16, 2020

Committee Members Present: Paul Oehme (Chair, Lakeville), Jerry Auge (Anoka County), Angie Stenson (Carver County), John Sass (Dakota County), Jason Pieper (Hennepin County), Joe Lux (Ramsey County), Craig Jenson (Scott County), Emily Jorgensen (Washington County), Elaine Koutsoukos (TAB), Cole Hiniker (Metropolitan Council), Anna Flintoft (Metro Transit), Jody Carr (MnDOT Metro District), Dan Erickson (MnDOT Metro District State Aid), Mehjabeen Rahman, Mackenzie Turner Borgen (MnDOT Bike & Ped), Aaron Bartling (MVTA), Jim Kosluchar (Fridley), Ken Ashfeld (Maple Grove), Michael Thompson (Plymouth), Nathan Koster (Minneapolis), Anne Weber (St. Paul)

Committee Members Absent: Nancy Spooner-Mueller (DNR), Karl Keel (Bloomington), Robert Ellis (Eden Prairie)

I. CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Acting Committee Chair Keel called the regular meeting of the Funding & Programming Committee to order at 1:31 p.m. on Thursday, January 16, 2020. Chair Oehme introduced Jerry Auge, Anoka County's new member.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: It was move by Koutsoukos and seconded by Thompson to approve the agenda with the addition of Item VIII, Other Business. **Motion carried unanimously.**

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: It was moved by Lux and seconded by Jorgensen to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2019, regular meeting of the Funding & Programming Committee. **Motion carried unanimously.**

IV. TAB REPORT

Koutsoukos reported on the January 15, 2020, TAB meeting.

V. BUSINESS

1. 2020-06: Program Year Extension Request: St. Louis Park CSAH 25/Beltline Improvements

Barbeau said that the City of St. Louis park was awarded \$560,000 from the 2016 Regional Solicitation to fund Beltline Boulevard pedestrian improvements and that the city is requesting a program year extension from 2020 to 2021 due to delays in the Southwest Light Rail Extension. For this and the next two action items, MnDOT Metro District State Aid has determined via scoresheet that the projects will be viable in 2021. Each applicant understands that their projects must be delivered in 2021, though federal reimbursement is scheduled for 2024.

Jack Sullivan from the City of St. Louis Park said that the project will enable the city to move forward with the public process and project development.

Erickson said that there is enough capacity to absorb the federal funds from all three projects by paying back advanced construction.

MOTION: It was moved by Thompson and seconded by Ashfeld to recommend approval of this program year extension. **Motion carried unanimously.**

2. 2020-07: Program Year Extension Request: Richfield 77th Street Extension/MN 77 Bridge

Barbeau said that the City of Richfield was awarded \$7,000,000 from the 2016 Regional Solicitation to fund the 77th Street extension project and that the city is requesting a program year extension from 2020 to 2021 in order to close a funding gap.

Kristin Asher from the City of Richfield said that MnDOT wanted this project to be postponed due to the schedule its Highway 5 project, which increased costs for the city.

Jenson asked whether completing the project is contingent on the bonding request, to which Asher said that it is. She added that if bonding falls through the city will try to get the funding through other means. Pieper said that this project is related to MnDOT's modification of interchanges in the area of Interstate-494.

Thompson asked what happens if the funding is not secured, to which Barbeau said that the project would be withdrawn.

MOTION: It was moved by Thompson and Seconded by Koutsoukos, to recommend approval of this program year extension. **Motion carried unanimously.**

3. 2020-08: Program Year Extension Request: Dakota County

Barbeau said that Dakota County was awarded \$4,200,000 from the 2016 Regional Solicitation to reconstruct CSAH 86 and that the county is requesting a program year extension from 2020 to 2021, following scheduling delays in working with the railroad.

Jake Chapek said that work with the railroads should be completed soon.

MOTION: It was moved by Lux and Seconded by Pieper to recommend approval of this program year extension. **Motion carried unanimously.**

4. 2020-05: Streamlined TIP Amendment Policy

Barbeau said that the Streamlined TIP amendment policy was established in 2014. A revision is being considered because:

- It has not been reviewed since it was established.
- Included in the qualifying criteria, is the provision that "project changes do not relate to solicitation scoring based on cost effectiveness." Starting in 2016, the Regional Solicitation has a cost-effectiveness score determined after all other scores are calculated, rendering this criterion outdated.
- The Twin Cities area recently became an attainment area for carbon monoxide. While a small area continues its role as a maintenance area for particulate Matter 10 (PM₁₀), few projects will be subject to air quality review. Therefore, an updated definition of "regionally significant" is likely to be written and it makes sense to remove the definition from the policy and simply reference the definition in the Transportation Policy Plan.
- There has been feedback from TAB members that it does not make sense for TAB to hear the details of routine amendment requests and that it might be better for these to be included on the consent agenda.

A proposed updated policy addresses these concerns. Included in the policy is "the project is not a regionally-significant project." Barbeau suggested that language could be added allowing for streamlining if a change does not impact regional significance. Lux suggested that such language should be added.

Kosluchar asked what TAC Executive Committee's role is. Barbeau replied that the committee currently determines whether a request can be streamlined, though the proposed policy would take the committee out of that role.

Hiniker asked who determines whether a request can be streamlined to which Barbeau replied that this would entail staff moving items to TAC, which would have the decision.

MOTION: It was moved by Koutsoukos and Seconded by Lux, to recommend approval of the updated policy with inclusion of allowing for streamlining if a change does not impact regional significance. **Motion carried unanimously.**

VI. INFORMATION

1. ADA Small Business Opportunity Pilot

Mary Schmidt from MnDOT presented on MnDOT's ADA Small Business Opportunity Pilot, which trains small businesses to be able to contract on small Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) projects.

Hiniker suggesting exploring separating work for outreach and education as a way to provide more opportunities to small businesses. Koster asked how MnDOT's list of participants can be provided to cities and counties, to which Schmidt said that the list can be shared and added that firms completing projects for other agencies is good for MnDOT's program.

2. 2020 Meeting Schedule – October Meeting

Barbeau said that the October meeting would be scheduled for the 15th, six days before TAB. Koutsoukos added that in October, the committees may be working through Regional Solicitation funding scenarios, so it is probably best to move the meeting back a week. Members agreed to move the meeting back to October 22.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Steve Peterson from Met Council said that the Council is soon going to update the Transportation Policy Plan (TPP).

Peterson provided an update on the Regional Solicitation Before/After Study, Phase 2, which is tentatively slated for the following tasks:

1. Analyze results from funded Reg Sol and HSIP projects for safety, delay, and other benefits.
2. Identify what happened to unfunded projects?
3. Use Streetlight data to identify bicycle/ped volumes on completed projects. Is "potential usage" being measured in the best manner?
4. Develop a list of 20 Crash Modification Factors that can help applicants fill out safety measure.
5. Use aerial photography to capture before and after project conditions.
6. Identify ways to simplify the application and process.

Ashford suggested looking at crashes per vehicle mile. Hiniker suggested finding a way to rate impacts on people, as opposed to traffic, providing the example of considering re-weighting peak vs. off-peak traffic. Jenson suggested identifying projects with regional benefit. Pieper suggested exploring actual cost versus cost submitted. Kosluchar asked whether unique projects are going to be a part of the study, to which Peterson replied that this is not the plan, but it could be considered. Erickson suggested exploring the rationales for program year extensions as they relate to project readiness.

Koutsoukos said that workshops will be held for Regional Solicitation applicants on January 28 and 31.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: It was moved by McCartney and seconded by Ashfeld to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried unanimously** and the meeting was adjourned.

Joe Barbeau
Recording Secretary