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*Transportation Advisory Board  
Of the Metropolitan Council*

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**Minutes of a Meeting of the  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Wednesday, September 4, 2017  
9:00 A.M.**

**Members Present:** Doug Fischer, Carla Stueve, Tim Mayasich, Lisa Freese, Jan Lucke, Steve Bot, Elaine Koutsoukos, Steve Peterson, Michael Larson, Adam Harrington, Brian Isaacson, Innocent Eyoh, Andrew Emanuele, Dave Jacobson, Peter Dahlberg, Danny McCullough, Karl Keel, Steve Albrecht, Paul Oehme, Michael Thompson, Kim Lindquist, Robert Ellis, Jim Kosluchar, Jen Hager, Jack Byers, Bill Dermody, Paul Kurtz (Excused: Brian Sorenson, Bridget Rief, Jean Keely, Paul Kurtz)

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Steve Albrecht at 9:03 a.m.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

A motion to approve the agenda was moved by Tim Mayasich and seconded by Doug Fischer. No discussion. Motion passed.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes was moved by Tim Mayasich and seconded by Karl Keel. Motion passed.

**4. TAB Report**

**Committee Reports**

**A. Executive Committee** (Steve Albrecht, Chair)

The Executive Committee reviewed today's agenda and discussed the September TAB meeting.

**B. Planning Committee** (Lisa Freese, Chair)

Lisa Freese reported the results of the Planning Committee.

**2017-24 Hennepin County Functional Classification Changes.** Lisa Freese split the recommended motion into two actions.

*Lowry Avenue.* Lisa Freese moved approval and Tim Mayasich seconded. Motion passed.

*Vernon Avenue.* Lisa Freese moved and Karl Keel seconded. Doug Fischer asked about the dissenting vote. Lisa Freese responded that she voted against it due to the road feeling more like a collector than a reliever. Carla Stueve responded that a few years ago the road was re-stripped due to the 2-lane configuration being driver as if it was a 4-lane configuration. Crashes were also occurring. Bike lanes were striped to prevent crashes and accommodate the increase in bicycle use on the road. Motion passed.

**C. Funding and Programming Committee** (Tim Mayasich, Chair)

Tim Mayasich reported that the committee met in September and its information items are later on today's agenda.

## 6. Special Agenda Items

**TPP Update: Overview.** (Michelle Fure, Communications) Michelle Fure spoke to the development of the content in the new Overview section of the TPP. Doug Fischer took exception with the statement that the highway system is complete; expansion needs still exist. Jack Byers asked for clarification if preservation is a priority or if highways are a priority. Michelle Fure responded that the former is true. Kim Lindquist commented that the expanding population in the rural areas requires expansion, but a preservation focus does not advance those needs. Doug Fischer said that it is fine to look towards future issues but there are longstanding issues to address, such as growth in the rural and suburban areas.

Steve Bot asked if changing freight volumes is being addressed. Michelle Fure said that it will likely be addressed in the Freight chapter. Steve Peterson said that a presentation was given to MFAC and their interests were especially in the area of Amazon and other small handlers. Jan Lucke said it was useful to have cited sources in the Overview in their conversations with policymakers. Tim Mayasich asked who the Council partners are on autonomous vehicles. Nick Thompson responded that there is a consultant under contract to do modeling in tandem with the I-94 project. There is a state council looking at this too.

**TPP Update: MnPASS III.** (Brad Larsen, MnDOT) Brad Larsen presented an overview of the MnPASS III study and its outcomes. Jen Hager asked if lane conversions are only being considered for the portions appearing in boxes on the handout; Brad Larsen said yes. Jan Lucke asked about the project limits for an I-94 MnPASS lane. Brad Larsen says it will depend on the results from the I-94 project, likely coming spring 2018.

**Regional Solicitation: Transit, Trails, Equity, Risk Assessment.** (Joe Barbeau, MTS) Joe Barbeau covered several areas of potential change to the various applications.

*Trails.* Danny McCullough said that local governments should not need to plow trails in the winter. Andrew Emanuele said that FHWA defers to the locals on whether or not this is necessary. Doug Fischer said that if a trail is the standalone project it should be plowed in the winter, but not if it is part of a roadway project. Lisa Freese said that trails in the winter are used for snowmobiling. The group agreed that this is a complicated issue because plowing of the trail is something that the county usually delegates to the city in a JPA after construction is underway; making this determination or promise at the time of application may be onerous. Karl Keel suggested giving more points to jurisdictions that intend to plow. Danny McCullough suggested that pavement management plans are more important than plowing.

Doug Fischer moved and Karl Keel seconded that 25 points out of each 100 points (50 points total) will be awarded if the jurisdiction intends to plow in the winter. Motion passed.

*Transit.* Jan Lucke said it was good to focus on transit market areas, as opposed to "suburban" or "rural" designations. Doug Fischer tentatively suggested allowing TAB to pick projects after rankings have been released, but the group rejected that option. Lisa Freese suggested permitting a system similar to how a Connector is funded despite falling lower on the list. Doug Fischer suggested presenting this to TAB as written.

*Risk Assessment.* Innocent Eyoh asked why the environmental requirement was removed. Steve Peterson said that the scoring did not differentiate projects on this measure, and also USDOT does not look at the environmental documentation until after the project is in the STIP. A discussion involving Section 106 was held. Jack Byers moved and Lisa Freese seconded removing the historic resources letter from scoring. Motion failed.

Michael Thompson moved the committee's recommendation and Tim Mayasich seconded. Motion passed.

*Equity.* Doug Fischer said that the 0-7 point spread for equity is not significant enough to include. Joe Barbeau responded that the score goes through a geographic multiplier and ends up being in the 70 point range. Adam Harrington asked for clarification that the equity pieces would be applied to all application categories; Joe Barbeau said that that would be true. Jan Lucke said that the committee spent a lot of time focusing on "connections to" areas, as opposed to "located in" areas.

**Regional Solicitation: Regional Signal Timing Program.** (Steve Misgen, MnDOT) Steve Misgen took questions on the proposal to take funding off the top for signal timing improvements. Doug Fischer said he opposed the off the top plan; regional solicitation dollars should be used only for infrastructure. Michael Thompson said that it is a good low cost, high benefit project that should be piloted. Karl Keel agreed that regional solicitation funding is not appropriate. Steve Albrecht said that this can be discussed further in January 2018.

**Revised 2018 UPWP.** (Katie White, MTS) Katie White reported that since the TAC action in August, FHWA has recommended several changes to the 2018 UPWP. Steve Peterson thanked FHWA for their comments. FHWA said that the new document will meet their needs, and that more changes are likely to the 2019 document.

## **7. Agency Reports**

**MPCA:** Amanda Smith spoke about the engagement currently underway for the VW settlement. A draft plan will be available later this fall.

**Anoka County:** A Fridley shuttle for Northstar riders to get to major employers (such as Medtronic) began its one year pilot program using CMAQ funds.

**MTS:** Steve Peterson said that CMP committee meetings start next week.

## **8. Other Business and Adjournment**

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 11:35am.

**Prepared by:**

Katie White