

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

Wednesday, March 14, 2016
Metropolitan Council Chambers, 390 North Robert St., St. Paul

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Hamann-Roland, Mary	McGuire, Mary Jo	Tabke, Brad
Bigham, Karla	Staples, Jamez	Callison, Jan	Reich, Kevin
Van Hattum, David	Look, Matt	Maluchnik, Randy	Sandahl, Suzanne
Sanger, Sue	Goins, William	Ulrich, Jon	Rodriguez, Katie
Dugan, Peter	Anderson, Doug	Petryk, Becky	Wosje, Jeff
Thornton, David	McBride, Scott	Gaylord, Kathleen	Laufenburger, Denny
Parsons, Rolf	Swanson, Dick	McKnight, Kenya	Crimmins, Carl
Tolbert, Chris			
ABSENT:			
Hovland, James, Chair	Hansen, Gary	d’Almeida, Anani	Miranda, Suyapa
Fawley, Ethan			
LIAISON/STAFF PRESENT:	Elaine Koutsoukos, TAB Coordinator		

I. CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Vice Chair Hamann-Roland called the regular meeting of the Transportation Advisory Board to order at 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 16, 2016.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Motion by Callison, seconded by Bigham to adopt the 3/16/16 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

Hamann-Roland reported that there will be a new member to the TAB, replacing Nora Slawik. His name is Jeff Lunde from Brooklyn Park. The TAB Bylaws Task Force (Hamann-Roland, Maluchnik, Rodriguez, Anderson, Miranda, Koutsoukos) met on February 1 in Apple Valley to continue to discuss parity and equity and the importance of including more people, giving the opportunity for a one-to-one ratio for alternates on the TAB. That was an aspirational goal when talking to the Metro Cities representatives. If we proceed this way, Metro Cities will do their part to help to fill those seats as alternates. The Task Force also discussed alternates for the citizen representation. With discussion from the citizen representatives that are on the Bylaws Task Force, they indicated that they thought a maximum of two alternates was appropriate. Discussion continues regarding the cities and citizen representations. There was also discussion about the desire to have the TAB Executive Committee reach out to members to strive for diversity. At the next TAB Bylaws Task Force meeting there will be discussion about the TAB Chair’s roll in seeking diversity on the TAB Executive Committee. Rodriguez added that there was also discussion about having up to one-to-one alternates for appointing organizations. The organizations could discuss whether that is practical for their organizations.

A forum regarding the FAST Act (Fixing America’s Surface Transportation) hosted by the Transportation Alliance and MnDOT was held at the Doubletree Hotel downtown St. Paul on 2/29; roughly 200 people attended. Serge Phillips from MnDOT is scheduled to present on the FAST Act later in the TAB meeting today.



A workshop on the 2016 Regional Solicitation was held on 3/04 at the League of Metro Cities. A second workshop will be held late April/early May. Technical training sessions for 2016 Regional Solicitation applicants will be held at Metro Council and the training will also be available in video form on the Metropolitan Council website.

A roster of the TAB members and a list of acronyms was shared with the members.

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

MnDOT: McBride – On Monday 3/14 the Legislative Auditor released a report on MnDOT's highway selection process. The report is a culmination of 8+ months of collecting data, interviewing MnDOT staff and local partners. Most of the criticisms from the Legislative Auditor about the lack of transparency and subjective decision making in MnDOT's process for making decisions about projects to fund, pertained to a small percentage of projects programmed by MnDOT through special projects, i.e. TED, Corridors of Commerce. The Legislative Auditor's report, and MnDOT's first responses to the audit are available on the Legislative Auditor's website. McBride offered that MnDOT could present further details on this topic at an upcoming TAB meeting.

MPCA: Thornton – nothing to report.

MAC: Carl Crimmins – reported that the Governor and Metro Area Senators met with the head of TSA to discuss traveler wait time. The TSA reported that they are 60 employees down from last year and that overtime was not authorized. The TSA has agreed to increase staffing and is authorizing overtime, so wait times are improving. The TSA is down 2,000 employees across the country, they train 145 employees each month.

Staff at MAC is proceeding with a pilot program to institute transportation network companies (Uber/Lyft, etc.) at the airport.

Crimmins answered questions from Maluchnik regarding: 1) concern about a proposal to privatize Air Traffic Control – a complex issue, this may be difficult and short-sided and discussion is ongoing, and 2) Congress reluctance to allow airports to decide what passenger fees are needed at the local airports – Congress already stipulates some things (seat size), MAC has some flexibility on passenger rates when they negotiate with the individual airlines. The goal is to be in line with other airports of the same size.

Metropolitan Council: Katie Rodriguez – Nothing to report.

3. Technical Advisory Committee

TAB Coordinator Elaine Koutsoukos reported that the TAC discussed defederalization process and policy and decided to send the item back to the Funding & Programming Committee for further discussion. Metropolitan Transportation Services staff are working with cities and counties to get additional information on the DBE requirements, environmental review requirements, and public involvement process. Staff and committees are reviewing details of the DBE requirements and also looking at a variety of local programs in place such as Small Business Enterprise Program, affirmative action preference, and local hiring preference. The TAB will be able to review the defederalization process and policy again, and each project request for defederalization will come to the TAB for approval at the time of the request.

TAC Bylaws Revisions:

Koutsoukos reported that the TAC Bylaws were reviewed by TAC and one change was made: to add one Suburban Transit Association representative to TAC Planning Committee. This item comes to the TAB as an information item, no action is necessary.

V. CONSENT ITEMS

Motion by Laufenburger, seconded by Reich and carried to approve the consent items below.

Approval of the Minutes from February 17, 2016.

March 16, 2016 TAB minutes

VI. ACTION ITEMS

1. 2015-23: 2016 Regional Solicitation Public Comment Report
Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Analyst Steve Peterson presented this item, Look requested an explanation of the justification of tying housing scores to transportation dollars. Metro Council Manager Regional Policy & Research Libby Starling explained further. TAB members expressed concern that a small, fully developed community with existing affordable housing and no way to add more housing might not score well to qualify for transportation dollars. Thornton expressed concern that using a mile buffer around large projects, and using the housing scores in that buffer to score projects, may cause unintended consequences of the project not scoring well to receive funding.

Motion by Maluchnik, seconded by Gaylord
That the TAB accept a change to the Safe Routes to School eligibility, and that the TAB accept the recommendation from the TAC concerning housing performance scores, and that The TAB accept the public comment report for the 2016 Regional Solicitation for Transportation Projects with the two noted changes.
Motion passed.

2. 2016-24: Regional Solicitation Release
Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Analyst Steve Peterson presented this item. And explained to the committee the ways in which the release of the solicitation will be communicated to applicants.

Anderson requested an Executive Summary sheet of the information contained in the Regional Solicitation to help all members (citizen reps. and elected reps.) share the information with their constituents. Dugan mentioned that the Executive Summary was discussed at a meeting of council- appointed TAB members on Monday 3/14 and is being worked on.

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Sandahl:
That the TAB release the 2016 Regional Solicitation for Transportation Projects, with recommended changes.
Motion passed.

Motion by Sandahl, seconded by Look to add the word “underpasses” to Page 4 of the 2016 Regional Solicitation under “Examples of Roadway Expansion Projects”.
Motion passed.

VII. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. FAST Act
This item was deferred to a later TAB meeting.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS AND ITEMS OF TAB MEMBERS

None

IX. ADJOURNMENT - Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.