

Minutes

TAC Funding and Programming Committee



Meeting Date: April 21, 2022

Time: 1:30 PM

Location: Virtual

Members Present:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bloomington – Karl Keel | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TAB Coordinator – Elaine Koutsoukos | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anoka Co – Jerry Auge |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lakeville – Paul Oehme | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MnDOT – Molly McCartney | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carver Co – Angie Stenson |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eden Prairie – Robert Ellis | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MnDOT Metro District State Aid – Colleen Brown | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dakota Co – Jenna Fabish |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fridley – Jim Kosluchar | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MnDOT Bike/Ped – Mike Samuelson | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hennepin Co – Jason Pieper |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maple Grove – Ken Ashfeld | <input type="checkbox"/> MPCA – Innocent Eyoh | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ramsey Co – Scott Mareck |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plymouth – Michael Thompson (Chair) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DNR – Nancy Spooner | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Co – Craig Jenson |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minneapolis – Nathan Koster | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Suburban Transit Assoc – Aaron Bartling | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wash Co – Joe Ayers-Johnson |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> St. Paul – Anne Weber | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> = present, E = excused |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Met Council – Cole Hiniker | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Metro Transit – Scott Janowiak | | |

Call to Order

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Thompson called the regular meeting of the TAC Funding and Programming Committee to order at 1:31 p.m.

Agenda Approved

The agenda was approved without a vote. A vote is only needed if changes are made to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Ashfeld, seconded by Auge to approve the minutes of the March 22, 2022 regular meeting of the TAC Funding and Programming Committee. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Public Comment on Committee Business

There were no public comments.

TAB Report

Koutsoukos reported on the April 20, 2022 TAB meeting.

Business

1. **2022-19:** [St. Paul Vento Elementary Safe Routes to School Scope Change.](#)

It was moved by Mareck, seconded by Keel, that the Funding & Programming Committee recommend that TAB approve the City of Saint Paul's scope change request to remove the connection from the Gateway State Trail to Arkwright Street on its Bruce Vento Elementary School Safe Routes to School project (SP # 164-591-004).

Barbeau presented the TIP amendment to remove a connection between the Gateway State Trail to Arkwright Street. This connection was originally to be completed by the City, but now will be completed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources one year earlier.

Motion carried unanimously.

Information

1. IIJA Funding and Regional Solicitation (Molly McCartney, MnDOT and Steve Peterson, MTS)

McCartney discussed the IIJA, the authorization, and the appropriation process. MnDOT is awaiting approved formula fund numbers and new program funding levels. MnDOT's programming update workgroup will be reviewing the funding. Peterson discussed the HSIP competitive funding opened and that HSIP has received a large increase in funding. McCartney also noted that the Fiscal Year 2022 funds will be used by MnDOT to fund the Twin Ports interchange project in Duluth, but that the funding will be returned to the Twin Cities Metro the next year. Peterson added that the Met Council will be receiving additional money, including \$6.5 million for carbon reduction.

Pieper asked about local match funding in the state legislature. McCartney replied that there is an increase in money to Minnesota, but MnDOT requires authorization from the state and that both house and senate bills include increased spending ability.

Keel asked about how this new money can be used. McCartney replied that the bulk of this money will remain as formula funds but there are going to be new avenues for access to this money. There will be an increase in formula targets, new programs for bridges and carbon but that the details of the flow of this money are still being determined. There is a carbon reduction workgroup which will focus on the new carbon reduction funding. MnDOT will also work with local units that will aid local partners in accessing the 18 discretionary grant programs, some of which are new. Peterson added that the EV charging will likely be one program and that there are Metro representatives on all these MnDOT work groups. In future meetings, there will be more reporting on these details. McCartney did note that the senate omnibus bill includes language to prevent trunk highway funds from going to electrification, of which there is \$68 million in the IIJA.

Samuelson noted that one of the new grant programs, [Safe Streets and Roads for All](#), has not released their notification of funding opportunity (NOFO) but that there are upcoming webinars. Chair Thompson also discussed the [Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant](#) and the available NOFO. McCartney reminded local units that MnDOT has a process to request letters of support through Brad Utecht and that people may contact her to provide contact information.

Koster asked whether the new focus on safety and mobility options in the IIJA will influence the Met Council's funding level allocations within Regional Solicitation. Peterson responded that one of the most direct ways will be the addition of the carbon reduction program with \$6.5 million coming in 2022 that could be used for Regional Solicitation projects that meet the eligibility criteria. Chair Thompson encouraged committee members to stay involved in TAB conversations.



This item will have a formal presentation at the May Funding & Programming Committee meeting.

2. 2022 Regional Solicitation Scoring Committees (Joe Barbeau, MTS)

Barbeau presented the scoring process for Regional Solicitation (RS), including the list of project chairs and the scoring committee selection process. Barbeau requested the Funding & Programming committee members suggest staff for scoring committees and noted there will be 60 to 70 scorers required. Equity and housing committee scorers are also needed and encouraged to have relevant experience in these areas and will need to commit to more time to scoring due to the complexity of these measures.

Chair Thompson asked how the committees will be staffed. Barbeau responded that Technical Advisory Committee and Funding & Programming committee members will be encouraged to volunteer and then MTS staff will look outside these groups to fill any vacant positions. Barbeau will also prepare draft rosters, allow the committee chairs to provide feedback, and then finalize. Koutsoukos added that there will be a very quick turnaround between staffing these committees and beginning scoring. Staff is now reviewing applications for qualification and will soon notify any applicants which have been disqualified. Any disqualified applicants will be able to appeal at the May Funding & Programming meeting and then committees will meet in May for completion in mid-July. In August, the scores will be brought to Funding & Programming and applicants can then appeal their scores.

3. Virtual Meetings, Live Streaming, and Potential Schedule Change.

Brandt-Sargent discussed the Metropolitan Council's return to office and in-person meetings. Due to TAC and its committees' by-laws, Funding & Programming is allowed to continue virtual meetings. Staff determined Funding & Programming will continue virtually through August and then reevaluate the need and desire to return to in-person meetings or remain virtual. Brandt-Sargent also noted that the Funding & Programming committee meetings will begin live streaming in May, which will create a few logistical changes, including removing the current calendar invite, replacing with a calendar hold, and then a monthly invite with the Webex link to participate.

Koster noted that a large amount of time would have to be dedicated to travel with a return to in-person meetings and asked whether hybrid options would be available. Koutsoukos replied that TAC and its committees can either be in-person or virtual, but that under current law, no hybrid option would be available. Jenson requested a vote on in-person/virtual meetings in August. Chair Thompson said he will include discussions with the TAC Executive Committee to ensure Funding & Programming is consistent with the Planning Committee.

Brandt-Sargent also discussed a potential schedule conflict with the Information Services people who will be live streaming the meeting and requested feedback on moving the meetings to 1 PM from 1:30 PM. **Chair Thompson directed staff to move the meeting time to 1 PM.**

Other Business

Hiniker discussed the upcoming Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) technical working group, which will meet regularly over the next few years during the TPP update process. This working group will generally meet in place of the Planning Committee, unless there are business items that require action. Every agency with representatives on Planning if they want that member or to assign another member to the committee to serve on this working group. Hiniker added that there will be follow up emails on these changes and there will be a formal presentation at the Technical Advisory Committee and the Transportation Advisory Board next month.



Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 2:23 p.m.

Council Contact:

Bethany Brandt-Sargent, Senior Planner
Bethany.Brandt-Sargent@metc.state.mn.us
651-602-1725

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