
*Transportation Advisory Board
of the Metropolitan Council*

**Minutes of a Meeting of the
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, September 2, 2020
9:00 A.M.**

Members Present: Lisa Freese, Joe MacPherson, Lyndon Robjent, Gina Mitteco, Chad Ellos, Brian Isaacson, Emily Jorgensen, Steve Bot, Elaine Koutsoukos, Steve Peterson, Patrick Boylan, Adam Harrington, Jon Solberg, Mehjabeen Rahman, Andrew Emanuele, Matt Fyten, Peter Dahlberg, Danny McCullough, Karl Keel, Ken Ashfeld, Paul Oehme, Kim Lindquist, Jenifer Hager, Paul Mogush, Bill Dermody, Paul Kurtz, Kevin Roggenbuck

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Freese at 9:02 a.m. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was held via video conference.

2. Approval of Agenda

The Committee approved the agenda via roll call.

3. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the June 3, 2020 TAC minutes was made by Mr. Solberg and seconded by Mr. Isaacson. Motion carried.

(Meeting minutes for the March 4, 2020 minutes will be presented for approval at a future committee meeting.)

4. TAB Report

TAB Coordinator Ms. Koutsoukos provided a summary of the August 19, 2020 TAB meeting.

5. Committee Reports

1. Executive Committee (Lisa Freese, Chair)

Chair Freese noted that the Executive Committee met in the morning and discussed items on the agenda. The Committee also discussed the Regional Solicitation scoring appeal process that will be undertaken by the Funding and Programming Committee at its upcoming meeting.

2. Planning Committee (Kevin Roggenbuck, Chair)

a) 2020-29: 2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

This item was presented by Mr. Roggenbuck. The UPWP serves as an application to the USDOT for transportation planning funds for the upcoming year. It documents all the work activities undertaken by the MPO for the year. It also includes a breakdown and budget of staff time and consultant studies

planned for the upcoming year. In 2021 the total UPWP budget is just over \$6.1 million, of which \$4.5 million is funded using federal Consolidated Planning Grant funds.

Chair Freese noted that there were some regional studies not mentioned in the UPWP and requested that these be included. Mr. Burns stated that the change will be made to the draft UPWP prior to approval by the TAB.

Mr. Peterson made a motion to amend the recommend motion to include the incorporation of the Travel Demand Management study, inclusion of comments received by MnDOT and MPCA after the TAC Planning draft, and changes as recommended by Chair Freese. The new study would be funded in 2021 by shifting \$20,000 from the Model Network Rebuild project and continue into 2022. Mr. Peterson's motion was seconded by Mr. Solberg. Motion carried.

3. Funding and Programming Committee (Paul Oehme, Chair)

a) 2020-30: Program Year Extension Request: City of St. Paul Bridge Reconstruction

This item was presented by Mr. Oehme. He explained that the City of St. Paul received \$7 million in 2016 Regional Solicitation funds to assist in the reconstruction of Kellogg Boulevard from East 7th Street to Market Street. The city is requesting a program year extension from 2021 to 2022 due to a request for state funds from the 2020 legislative session for which the city is still awaiting to hear an outcome. There was some discussion from the Committee on program year extensions and the associated budget by year.

A motion to approve the request was made by Mr. Boylan and seconded by Mr. Isaacson. Motion carried.

b) 2020-31: Program Year Extension Request: City of St. Paul Minnehaha Avenue Safety Improvements

Mr. Oehme explained that the City of St. Paul is requesting a program year extension for its Minnehaha Avenue Signal Safety Improvements project from fiscal year 2022 to 2023. The project was funded in part with \$1,080,000 in 2018 Regional Solicitation funds and the city is requesting the extension in order to be on schedule with a programmed MnDOT mill and overlay project.

A motion to approve the request was made by Mr. Keel and seconded by Mr. MacPherson. Motion carried.

c) 2020-32: 2020 Regional Solicitation: Arterial Bus Rapid Transit Project Selection Timeline Revision

Mr. Oehme presented this item, explaining that Metro Transit is requesting the committee recommend approval of a timeline revision of the project selection process for the F Line from December 2020 to April 2021. Metro Transit is also requesting approval to direct its staff to include \$25 million for the F Line ABRT project in all 2020 Regional Solicitation funding options brought forward for TAB consideration. The revised timeline will allow Metro Transit to better engage with communities in the fall of 2020 and help ensure the F Line will be funded under all potential 2020 Regional Solicitation funding scenarios.

Charles Carlson of Metro Transit provided a presentation and update on the item and detailed the project timeline. The Committee posed questions to Mr. Carlson on the potential corridor alignments and the public outreach strategies.

A motion to recommend the TAB to both allow the timeline extension for the F line from December 2020 to April 2021 and to direct staff to include \$25 million for the F Line in all Regional Solicitation funding scenarios was made by Mr. Boylan and seconded by Mr. Harrington. Motion carried.

d) 2019-33: Streamlined TIP Amendment for MnDOT's I-94 Frontage Road Pedestrian Improvements

This item, presented by Joe Barbeau, is a request by MnDOT to amend both the 2020-2023 and 2021-2024 TIPs in order to increase the cost of the I-94 frontage road pedestrian project to \$1,846,146. The project is funded using National Highway Preservation Programs funds. Both TIPs are included in the request due to uncertainty as to which one will be in effect when the project is let.

A motion to recommend TAB approval of the item was made by Mr. Solberg and seconded by Mr. MacPherson. Motion carried.

6. Special Agenda Items

1. Draft Regional Solicitation Scores (Steve Peterson, MTS)

Mr. Peterson presented this item, which includes all projects submitted for 2020 Regional Solicitation funding, their location, and the total amount requested by application type. It also shows the preliminary scores and ranking of projects in each application category. Mr. Peterson noted that the Council had received approximately 15 scoring appeals, which will be heard at the forthcoming Funding and Programming Committee meeting. After the appeal process, the scores will be finalized and provided to TAC.

Ms. Mitteco requested clarification on the transit categories and whether BRT funds were the same as ABRT funds. Mr. Peterson explained that TAB has authorized up to \$25 million for ABRT projects and an additional amount of up to \$7 million could be supplied to other BRT projects. There were two submittals for BRT projects, both on the Gold Line. The Committee requested information on the funding levels for each category. Mr. Peterson responded he will send the funding ranges out to the group and it will be presented in future presentations to the Committee.

2. Freeway System Interchange Study (Tony Fischer, MTS and Michael Corbett, MnDOT)

This item was presented by Tony Fischer of MTS Planning and Michael Corbett of MnDOT. The presentation was an overview of the findings and outcomes of the recently completed Free System Interchange Study. The study seeks to prioritize investments on the highest priority interchanges along the freeway system. The aim is to reduce delay, increase safety, and ensure "right-size" investments. The study was jointly led by both MnDOT and the Council and engaged stakeholders from throughout the region.

Overall, 56 interchanges were examined. Through the process, these were scored based on several performance measures and criteria, resulting in 37 interchanges meriting increased consideration. This

study is intended to direct investments in lower cost, higher benefit projects and will be used in project scoping in the future.

7. Agency Reports

Mr. Solberg of MnDOT updated the Committee on the de-federalization of projects in Anoka County. Anoka County has agreed to utilize MnDOT's equity program to advance smaller projects that match the sum of the de-federalized projects. Mr. Solberg announced the firms that will be utilized as consultants on these studies, noting that they are all TGB or DBE firms.

Mr. Peterson reported that the Council will be providing letters of support for applicants to the Minnesota Highway Freight Program and urged interested parties to contact Council staff quickly in order to allow time to process the letters of support. He also announced that the Governor would be forming a Blue-Ribbon Committee to explore aspects of the Council as an MPO.

8. Other Business and Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:49 a.m.

Prepared by:

David Burns