

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD
Metropolitan Council
390 N. Robert St., St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-1805

Minutes of a Meeting of the
FUNDING AND PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE
December 19, 2013

MEMBERS PRESENT: Karl Keel (Chair), Joe Lux, Brian Isaacson, Colleen Brown, Cynthia Wheeler, Innocent Eyoh, Greta Alquist, Craig Jenson, Tom Johnson, Steve Albrecht, Eriks Ludins, Andrew Witter, Cory Slagle, Mary Karlsson, Lyndon Robjent, and Heidi Schallberg (staff)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented.

3. Approval of the Minutes from the November 21, 2013, Meeting

Minutes from the November meeting were approved unanimously.

4. TAB Report

Heidi Schallberg reported on the November TAB meeting. TAB approved the scope change and related TIP amendment for Scott County CSAH 17 in Shakopee, as well as two other TIP amendments for Section 5310 funded projects and the St. Croix Boom Site Recreation Area. TAB also recommended adoption of the following items that will be forwarded to the Council for approval: a TPP administrative modification for streetcars including the Nicollet-Central Corridor in Minneapolis; the adjusted 2010 Census Smoothed Urbanized Area Boundary; a memorandum of understanding to conduct federally-required metropolitan transportation planning activities in Sherburne and Wright counties; and analysis and comments on the 2014-2020 Metropolitan Airports Commission Capital Improvement Program. An update was provided on the regional solicitation evaluation, and TAB heard a presentation about the Highway Transitway Corridors Study.

5. 2014-2017 TIP Amendments

St. Paul – Western Ave & Concordia Streetscaping

Karl Keel summarized the request from the City of Saint Paul, which increases the local budget amount and corrects the project number. The total project cost increased due to greater than anticipated sidewalk deterioration and storm water management requirements. **MOTION:** Tom Johnson motioned to recommend the approval of the amendment. Innocent Eyoh seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Metro Transit – Interchange/Target Field Station, 5307 Funds

The TIP amendment would add the Interchange/Target Field Station project in 2014 with \$10,000,000 in federal Section 5307 funds and \$2,500,000 in local Hennepin County funds. **MOTION:** Johnson motioned to recommend the approval of the TIP amendment. Eriks Ludins seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

I-94

The TIP amendment would add a project in 2015 for auxiliary lane construction on I-94 from TH 241 in St. Michael to TH 101 in Rogers using \$40,000,000 in state bonds through the Corridors of Commerce program. The project is also being amended into the Transportation Policy Plan (TPP), so approval of this TIP amendment at TAB will be contingent on approval of the TPP amendment. The MPCA letter regarding air quality conformity will be provided before the TAC meeting. There will be a 30-day public comment

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period for this TIP amendment since the project is regionally significant. **MOTION:** Johnson motioned to recommend the approval of the TIP amendment contingent on receiving the MPCA letter for TAC. Mary Karlsson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

TH 610

The TIP amendment would add TH 610 from Hennepin County Rd 81 to I-94 in 2015 to complete TH 610 as part of the state Corridors of Commerce program. The MPCA letter regarding air quality conformity will be provided before the TAC meeting. There will be a 30-day public comment period for this TIP amendment since the project is regionally significant. The project schedule includes authorization in late April and an August letting. **MOTION:** Steve Albrecht motioned to recommend the approval of the TIP amendment. Eyoh seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

6. **TIP/STIP Amendment Process Discussion**

Heidi Schallberg provided a handout of a potential approach to streamlining TIP amendments based on earlier discussions the committee had in 2008. The committee discussed which amendments should go through the full committee process beginning with Funding and Programming, and those included projects funded through the regional solicitation or projects that are determined to be regionally significant. If a streamlined process is used for other amendments, TAB could always send back any amendments for which it wants further technical input. The draft document will be distributed to the committee for review.

7. **Defederalization Discussion**

Dan Erickson from MnDOT State Aid said that to follow up on previous discussions at this committee about defederalizing projects, MnDOT State Aid would establish a short-term committee with representatives from cities, counties, Council staff, and the related MnDOT departments. FHWA could be invited as a resource. The committee would help answer what could be done with the program and develop any processes and reporting that might be required. Discussion included that the region will need to define what it wants to do, such as cutting processing costs to local communities or speed implementation. It would be helpful to know before applying for federal funds if the project could possibly be defederalized or not. The question was asked if we are trading one type and level of reporting for another with swapping funds. The committee could start in late January or early February.

8. **Regional Solicitation Evaluation Update**

Schallberg provided a brief update on the evaluation study status. The steering committee met on December 16th and heard a report from Mariia Zimmerman on the peer MPO survey. The committee reconsidered the eligibility of B Minors and Collectors for bridge funding and reaffirmed their original decision to only include A Minors and Non-Freeway Principal Arterials as eligible for bridges in the solicitation. Reasoning included reduced funding overall and the elimination of the specific bridge program, alignment with the roadway eligibility, and historical data showing functional class competitiveness in previous solicitations. The steering committee also recommended a separate bridge subcategory and application. The committee also recommended a roadway evaluation and reporting process. TAB will be asked to approve these recommendations in January.

9. **Other Business**

Schallberg said that the Transportation Alternatives Program solicitation is out for 2017. MnDOT is also conducting a Safe Routes to School solicitation for infrastructure projects in 2015-2016.

10. **Adjournment** With no other business, the meeting adjourned.