
*Transportation Advisory Board
Of the Metropolitan Council*

**Minutes of a Meeting of the
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, February 4, 2015
9:00 A.M.**

Members Present: Doug Fischer, Lyndon Robjent, Brian Sorenson, Chris Sagsveen, Tim Mayasich, Lisa Freese, Steve Bot, Steve Peterson, Michael Larson, Adam Harrington, Pat Bursaw, Amanda Smith, Bridget Rief, Beverley Miller, Dave Christianson, Danny McCullough, Karl Keel, Steve Albrecht, Paul Oehme, Michael Thompson, Duane Schwartz, Kim Lindquist, Jenifer Hager, Jack Byers, Michelle Beaulieu (Members Excused: Jean Keely, Bruce Loney, Paul Kurtz)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Duane Schwartz moved and Pat Bursaw seconded. No discussion. Motion passed.

3. Approval of March Minutes

The January 7, 2015 meeting minutes were approved as written. Tim Mayasich moved and Dave Christianson seconded. No discussion. Motion passed.

4. TAB Report

Steve Albrecht read from Elaine Koutsoukos' report on TAB's January 21 meeting:

Reports:

TAB Chair: Bill Hargis welcomed new TAB members Denny Laufenburger from Chanhassen. Bill thanked Adam Duinick for his work on the TAB and congratulated him on his appointment to Chair of the Met Council. Elaine Koutsoukos provided an update of the Regional Solicitation process. Five of the 121 projects submitted were disqualified for not meeting federal or regional qualifications. The Scoring Committees are reviewing the qualified projects and scoring is scheduled to be completed by February 6.

Met Council: Adam Duinick reported that the committee that was formed to vet candidates and advise the Governor regarding Metro Council appointments is in the process of screening councilmember applications and will set up 2-3 interviews from each district. New appointments should be made early to mid-February. The Governor appoints Metro Council members and the Senate confirms appointments. All current Metro Council members have re-applied. Three candidates will also be interviewed for Adam Duinick's vacant position on the Council.

TAC: TAC Chair Albrecht reported on the January TAC meeting.

Action Items:

- Approved TIP Public Involvement Policy.
- 2015-2018 TIP Amendment: CSAH 24 Bridge, Anoka County, to advance construction and increase cost for CSAH 24 reconstruction and intersection improvement project.
- 2015-2018 Streamlined TIP Amendment: US TH 61, MnDOT, to include funding for reconstruction of bituminous outside shoulders on US Highway 61 just south of CSAH 9 in White Bear Lake.
- Reallocation of 2015 CMAQ Funds \$5,307,855 of turned back FY 2015 CMAQ funds to advance Metro Transit's East 7th Street bus purchase and service demonstration projects from 2016 to 2015.
- 2015-2018 Streamlined TIP Amendment: I-394, MnDOT, to extend the project length for mill and overlay project on I-394 in Golden Valley and Minneapolis
- 2015-2018 Streamlined TIP Amendment: SRTS, Jordan, to increase the cost and scope of the City of Jordan Safe Routes to School project to improve bicycle and pedestrian access on Sunset Drive

Information Items:

- TBI Program Evaluation Study - MTS Planning Analyst Jonathan Ehrlich, presented this item and asked members for suggestions of what information they would like to see in the next TBI.

5. Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee (Steve Albrecht, Chair)

Steve Albrecht welcomed Chris Sagsveen from Hennepin County, who is replacing Tom Johnson after his retirement. The Federal Funding Reallocation Work Group is meeting again on Friday. Steve Peterson will report on the Regional Solicitation during Agency Reports. Streamlined amendment summaries will be presented quarterly by MTS staff.

B. Funding and Programming Committee (Tim Mayasich, Chair)

2015-10: Ramsey County Program Year Extension

Ramsey County is requesting this extension to allow for more favorable bidding conditions. State Aid also recommends approval. Tim Mayasich moved and Pat Bursaw seconded. Motion passed.

2015-11: Anoka County CSAH 24 Funding Increase

Lakeville is requesting this extension to allow for more time to resolve terms with a property owner to avoid condemnation. Tim Mayasich moved and Michael Thompson seconded. Motion passed.

C. Planning Committee (Lisa Freese, Chair)

The Planning committee did not meet in January. They are anticipating items from Minneapolis and MTS informational items.

6. Special Agenda Items

TBI Evaluation (Jonathan Ehrlich, MTS)

Jonathan Ehrlich presented on the TBI Evaluation which is going on now. The consultant will provide feedback on alternative structures for collecting data typically gathered during the once per decade TBI, and will also discuss potential funding sources. Karl Keel asked how much the TBI cost last

time; Jonathan Ehrlich responded that it was \$4 million. Karl Keel asked if it was paid with federal funds. Jonathan Ehrlich responded that the funding came from many sources, including federal funds available through MnDOT Research division. The 2000 TBI was paid entirely by MnDOT Metro District.

Legislative Presentation (Scott Peterson, MnDOT)

Scott Peterson presented the governor's proposed transportation package at the statewide level. There is a \$6 billion gap in transportation needs vs. available resources. The proposed tax on wholesale gasoline would be for use just towards roads and bridges (not transit). This would address the lack of predictability in addressing transportation needs. A \$.01 gas tax provides \$33 million per year. Registration fees would also go up under the proposal. The proposal includes \$2 billion in bonding over ten years, \$1.6 billion in Corridors of Commerce funding, \$120 million in greater Minnesota transit investments, and \$25 million for Safe Routes to School. The House of Representatives is working to validate the \$6 billion number. Dave Christianson asked if there were exemptions for ethanol or other alternative fuels. Scott Peterson responded that there is not a recommended change in this proposal. Alternative fuels are taxed based on their energy produced. Karl Keel asked if the \$6 billion gap would be covered by the governor's proposal. Scott Peterson replied that MnDOT would be tasked with coming up with efficiencies in their budget, which would be attainable. Dave Christianson asked about provisions for rail in the bill. Scott Peterson responded that the results from Dave's rail study are included in a separate bill.

Legislative Presentation (Judd Schetnan, Metropolitan Council)

Judd Schetnan presented the governor's metro area transit proposal. It included an overview of how bus operations have been minimally funded on a near annual basis in order to cover existing operations with no opportunities for expansion. This was due in part to the decline in MVST revenues during the recession. Bus ridership is up 14% over the last several years and there is likely latent demand as well that is currently not being served. Beverley Miller asked if the new sales tax would be levied in which counties. Judd Schetnan replied just the seven counties. CTIB does not participate in regular route bus operations funding. Tim Mayasich asked if the sales tax bill would force Scott and Carver counties to join CTIB. Judd Schetnan replied that it would not. There is, however, a Senate bill that would co-mingle the sales taxes. Tim Mayasich asked how the Council and CTIB would work together on their Program of Projects. Judd Schetnan responded that it works together very well, since this additional revenue would count towards the local share that CTIB has been waiting for. Judd Schetnan stated that the committee deadline is April 24, and after that date we will know more information.

Metro Transit Winter Operations (Adam Harrington, Mark Benedict, Michael Maddio, Lisa Johnson)

Metro Transit staff presented on pre-, during, and post-winter weather activities of Metro Transit. Pat Bursaw asked about the bus-only shoulders on freeways; MnDOT tries to clear these first. Lisa Johnson responded that there is excellent ongoing communication between MnDOT and Metro Transit. Bus operators are provided with information about how best to utilize shoulders during winter weather. Overall, express service suffers more than local service in winter weather. Chris Sagsveen asked about the relationships involved in removing snow from shelters. Staff responded that the first priority is ADA customer concentrations. Minneapolis has agreed to clear some key intersections. Metro Transit facilities staff have a route with clearing priorities after an event. The 2013-2014 winter season involved a lot of overtime.

7. Agency Reports

Steve Peterson updated the group on the Regional Solicitation scoring process. Five projects have been disqualified at Funding & Programming. Thank you to all who participated in scoring. February's Funding

& Programming will see the full complement of scores. There is a February 27 appeal deadline. Kim Lindquist requested that the final scores be made available to all members of TAC. Brian Sorenson asked if TAC will forward options to TAB for funding. Steve Peterson agreed. Steve Albrecht said that “preferred” options may be forwarded. The Chair and MTS staff will engage TAB soon to begin thinking about what allocation percentages they would like to see.

8. Other Business and Adjournment

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 10:42AM.

Prepared by:

Katie White