

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

Minutes of a Meeting of the  
FUNDING AND PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE  
March 21, 2013

MEMBERS PRESENT: Karl Keel (Chair), Eriks Ludins, Craig Jenson, Joe Lux, Colleen Van Wagner, Jon Olson, Mary Karlsson, Lyndon Robjent, Chuck Ahl, Ann Pung-Terwedo, John Sass, Jenifer Hager, Innocent Eyoh, Kevin Roggenbuck, 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 February 21, 2013, Meeting**

Minutes from the February meeting were approved without change.

**4. TAB Report**

Kevin Roggenbuck said Ted Schoenecker from MnDOT State Aid presented about the 2013 local federal program, which has \$28 million that remains for 2013. TAB approved the TIP amendment and public comment report for the 2015-2016 allocations of STP, CMAQ, TE, and Railroad-Highway Safety funding. Presentations were given about the Transportation Policy Plan update. The plan update will include committee members on work groups during the plan's development, not just staff providing updates at meetings.

**5. 2014-2017 TIP Schedule**

The schedule for the 2014-2017 TIP is similar to those from previous years. The draft is expected to be available for committees beginning in April and should be released for public comment in May, with adoption scheduled by September.

MOTION: Joe Lux made a motion to recommend the TAB approve the TIP schedule, Chuck Ahl seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

**6. Project Status Report**

Ted Schoenecker from MnDOT State Aid provided two handouts with an overview of the program status, projects with changes, and a list of existing projects that could use additional federal funds. TAB and TAC discussed two recommendations to address the \$28 million remaining for 2013: distribute funding to existing projects in 2013 that could use more federal funds, and reallocate remaining funds to the seven counties in the region based on the state aid allocation formula. Additional funding to existing projects was capped at \$2.5 million or 75% federal funds, whichever was lower, to help manage risk by not having few projects with large amounts of federal funds near the end of the fiscal year. The committee discussed concerns about this approach benefitting project sponsors who wait until later in the year with their projects. It is not typically possible to add federal funds to a project that has already been authorized. The committee was interested in finding a way to give more federal funds to projects advancing. The second part of the reallocation discussion was on allocating funds to each county. Adding funds to existing projects is the first part of the solution for the available 2013 funding; reallocating remaining funds to each county is the second part and the focus of the TIP amendment discussed below.

**7. TIP Amendments**

*a) 2013 Funding Reallocation*

T. Schoenecker said counties are still determining project specifics for their portions of the reallocated funding. The draft amendment includes placeholders for this meeting but will include project specifics by the April TAB meeting. The projects should be as clean as possible without right of way or railroad issues to ensure the funds are able to be obligated by this year. The committee discussed the intent of having counties provide new projects beyond what they would have otherwise been able to do. Counties do not have much time to ready and complete projects for this funding. The committee would like a report after the process is complete about what projects the counties did with this funding.

MOTION: C. Ahl made a motion to recommend the TAB approve the TIP amendment with the provision that project sponsors provide details for the air quality process, Mary Karlsson seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

*b) Transit Section 5310 Projects*

The federal Transportation for Elderly Persons and Persons with Disabilities Section 5310 program is administered through MnDOT's Office of Transit. This amendment to the 2013-2016 TIP would add 18 projects with \$979,200 in federal funding in 2013 using federal Section 5310 funding.

MOTION: C. Ahl made a motion to recommend the TAB approve the TIP amendment, Mary Karlsson seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

**8. Program Year Policy Changes**

K. Roggenbuck said that TAB requested that an appeals process be developed for extension requests under the newly-adopted Program Year Policy. TAB and TAC executive leadership recommended a revision to the policy that would shift approvals of extension requests from TAC to TAB. The extension requests will be placed on TAB's consent list for agendas.

MOTION: J. Lux made a motion to recommend the TAB approve the Program Year Policy changes, C. Ahl seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

**9. Adjournment**

With no other business, the meeting adjourned.