

Minutes

TAB Technical Advisory Committee



Meeting Date: October 4, 2023

Time: 9:00 AM

Location: Virtual

Members Present:

- Jenifer Hager, Chair, Minneapolis
- Joe MacPherson, Anoka Co
- Lyndon Robjent, Carver Co
- Erin Laberee, Dakota Co
- Scott Mareck, Ramsey Co
- Carla Stueve, Hennepin Co
- Craig Jenson, Scott Co
- Lyssa Leitner, Washington Co
- Andrew Witter, 7W

- Karl Keel, Bloomington
- Charlie Howley, Chanhassen
- Robert Ellis, Eden Prairie
- Brandon Brodhag, Fridley
- Paul Oehme, Lakeville
- Vacant, Metro Cities
- Ross Beckwith, West Saint Paul
- Michael Thompson, Plymouth
- Kathleen Mayell, Minneapolis
- Nick Peterson, Saint Paul
- Bill Dermody, Saint Paul

- Lindsey Bruer, MnDOT
- Steve Peterson, Council MTS
- Michael Larson, Council CD
- Elaine Koutsoukos, TAB
- Innocent Eyoh, MPCA
- Bridget Rief, MAC
- Matt Fyten, STA
- Adam Harrington, Metro Transit
- Shelly Meyer, Freight
- Colleen Eddy, DEED
- Vacant, MN DNR
- Kyle Sobota, Bicycle
- Mackenzie Turner Bargaen, Pedestrian
- Josh Pearson, FHWA (ex-officio)
- = present

Call to Order

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Hager called the regular meeting of the TAB Technical Advisory Committee to order just after 9:00 a.m.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved with no changes. Therefore, no vote was needed.

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by MacPherson and seconded by Leitner to approve the minutes of the September 6, 2023, regular meeting of the TAB Technical Advisory Committee. **Motion carried.**

Public Comment on Committee Business

None.

TAB Report

Koutsoukos reported on the September 21, 2023, Transportation Advisory Board meeting.

Business – Committee Reports

Executive Committee (Jenifer Hager, Chair)

1. [2023-49: Four Streamlined TIP Amendment Requests](#)

Barbeau said that four projects are included in the request for amendment. The proposed

changes are: expand project length and add mill & overlay to Woodbury's Lake Road 4-to-3-lane conversion; remove an intersection from, and decrease the cost of, Minneapolis's traffic signal replacement project, which would reflect a recent scope change and would have undergone a TIP amendment process at the time except that the TIP was still in process; increase cost of, and add mill & overlay to, Dakota County's CSAH 63 multiuse trail; and add an additional bridge to MnDOT's MN 65 bridge replacement project.

Motion by MacPherson and seconded by Oehme to recommended adoption of an amendment to 2024-2027 TIP to amend four projects:

- Expand length and add mill & overpay to Woodbury's Lake Road 4-to-3-lane conversion;
- Remove an intersection from and decrease the cost of Minneapolis's traffic signal replacement project;
- Increase cost of and add mill & overlay to Dakota County's CSAH 63 multiuse trail; and
- Add an additional bridge to MnDOT's MN 65 bridge replacement project.

Motion carried.

2. [2023-50: Streamlined TIP Amendment - St. Michael Multiuse Trail](#)

Barbeau said that St. Michael requests an amendment to the 2024-2027 TIP to add construction of a multiuse trail to Wright CSAH 35 in St. Michael.

Motion by Robjent and seconded by Rief to recommended adoption of an amendment to the 2024-2027 TIP to add construction of a multiuse trail to Wright CSAH 35 in St. Michael. **Motion carried.**

Chair Hager reported that the TAC Executive Committee is considering cancelling the November meeting and coordinating the timing of TPP workshops with the meeting schedule. If the meeting is held it could be held with the ability to access it remotely or within the Council headquarters.

Planning Committee/TPP Technical Working Group (Scott Mareck, Chair)

Mareck said that the September TAC Planning Committee meeting was cancelled. He said that the TPP working group last met on September 14 and that staff is proposing not including an increased revenue scenario, though a list of projects to be used for unforeseen funding could be developed.

Funding & Programming (Michael Thompson, Chair)

1. [2023-45: TIP Amendment for new TPP Projects](#)

Thompson said that two projects are proposed to be added to the TIP: MnDOT's I-94 lane expansion and from Albertville to Monticello and Scott County's US 169 interchange at CSAH 59.

Jenson suggested that having a locally funded project go through the TIP amendment process seemed precedent setting.

Motion by Thompson and seconded by Oehme to recommend the addition of two TPP projects:

- Corridors of Commerce-funded I-94 lane expansion from Albertville to Monticello in Wright County
- Construction of US 169 interchange at CSAH 59 in Scott County (SP# 070-659-001) adoption of the 2024 Unified Planning Work Program.

and that the amendment be released for public comment.

Steve Peterson said that action this reflects two projects that were recently amended into the TPP. He added that while it is rare to place a locally funded project in the TPP and the TIP, it is federally required that projects of regional significance must be in the TPP and TIP regardless of funding source.

Motion carried.

2. [2023-46: Scope Change Request - SW Transit](#)

Thompson said that SouthWest Transit requests a scope change to remove procurement, operation, and maintenance of carshare vehicles from its Transit Mobility Hub project at SouthWest Station and that the Funding & Programming Committee recommended approval with no reduction in federal funding. Barbeau said that it would be difficult to determine that the project would not have been funded as requested and that discussion around funding retention included acknowledgement that the project is providing rides differently from carshare, which, along with the reduced viability of carshare and the lack of direct scoring to the carshare element, justifies keeping all federal funding with the project. He added that because of the upcoming review of the Scope Change Policy, precedence is not a great concern.

MacPherson expressed concern about moving funds to other projects. Nicole Clapp, MTS Acting Grants Manager, said that the carshare was deemed as not viable while supply chain issues lead to an increased cost for the SouthWest Prime service. Barbeau asked for clarification that the funding was moving within the same project, which Clapp confirmed.

Hager asked whether the Prime vehicles will provide trips that the vehicles being removed would have. Clapp said she was not sure.

Motion by Robjent and seconded by Koutsoukos to recommended approval of SouthWest Transit's scope change request to remove procurement, operation, and maintenance of carshare vehicles from its Transit Mobility Hub at SouthWest Station with no reduction in federal funds.

Motion carried with one vote against.

3. [2023-47: TIP Amendment Request - SW Transit](#)

Thompson said SouthWest Transit requests an amendment to the 2024-2027 TIP to add its Transit Mobility Hub at SouthWest Station the project addressed in 2023-46.

Motion by Robjent and seconded by Koutsoukos to recommend approval of SouthWest Transit's request to add its Transit Mobility Hub project at SouthWest Station to the 2024-2027 TIP. **Motion carried** with one vote against.

4. [2023-48: Program Year Extension Request - City of Blaine](#)

Thompson said Blaine is requesting a program year shift for its Trunk Highway 65 and 99th Avenue interchange project to move Regional Solicitation grant funding from 2024 to 2026 adding that this project is for an interchange that will be added into a larger project.

Hager asked whether the federal program would balance out. Steve Peterson confirmed that it will.

Motion by Oehme and seconded by Beckwith to recommend approval of Blaine's request to move the Regional Solicitation funding for its TH 65 at 99th Avenue grade separation from 2024 to 2026.

Steve Peterson said that while the policy pushes projects back to the end of the line, this one is likely to get funding earlier. Robjent suggested that moving federal payback to the end of the queue be examined as the Program Year Policy is updated.

Motion carried.

Information

1. Regional Solicitation Survey Kickoff (Bethany Brandt-Sargent, MTS Planning and Dani Hans, Zan and Associates)

Dani Hans, Zan Associates, provided the presentation and asked members to provide input on whether to use this engagement effort to collect feedback on prioritizing Active Transportation funds.

MacPherson asked whether the survey will be closed before the applications are available to review. Hans replied that the intention is to close the survey before the applications are shown on the website to avoid bias. Brandt-Sargent added that the survey will be active after the due date but not after the applications are posted.

Hager asked whether the project team has promotional language to provide to government agencies. Hans said that language can be created.

Leitner suggested that listing all the application categories could overcomplicate the process as the differences between them do not resonate with a lot of people and asked whether the budget exercise is too much or could be combined with the prioritization exercise. Hans replied that this could be considered for the next cycle. Brandt-Sargent replied that people completed the survey in the last cycle, which might indicate understanding. She added that while technical committees were given detailed results, TAB was given less granular results. Leitner said that her concern was not with the public, but with how the survey can best help TAB.

Regarding the question on prioritizing Active Transportation, Leitner said that it is not clear what to ask about it and Hager agreed given that it has already been decided not to use it. Mayell said any questions asked around this would be nuanced and technical and insights on non-motorized transportation can be gained through questions in the existing Regional Solicitation categories. Robjent expressed agreement and said there is an overwhelming consensus not to federalize the funding. Steve Peterson said that a work group to examine Active Transportation is going to be assembled, which is why the question of whether to reach out to the public was asked. Thompson asked what group will explore how the Active Transportation funding will be awarded. Steve Peterson said that this will be decided in the next few weeks. Hinker suggested that once the work group is formed, some degree of public input would be of value.

2. [Intersection Mobility and Safety Study](#) (Steve Peterson, MTS Planning and Michael Corbett, MnDOT)

Steve Peterson, MTS Planning; Michael Corbett, MnDOT; and Paul Morris, SRF presented on this topic.

Robjent asked whether the study recommends projects that should be grade separated. Steve Peterson replied that the study avoids recommending solutions, favoring local processes being used to generate such decisions.

Mayell asked whether the results will be able to be reviewed, to which Morris replied that input is still being accepted. Mayell suggested using the phrase “intersection solution” because “interchange” indicates a highway context. She asked whether the study will impact near-term Regional Solicitation efforts, as opposed to only the evaluation. Steve Peterson said that this will not impact the 2024 Regional Solicitation and may or may not impact future Regional Solicitations. Hager said that the study is looking at current needs and data points and expressed hope that it considered local transportation plans, including modal needs.

Other Business

Steve Peterson said that after the October TAB meeting concludes, there will be a public hearing for the draft MnSHIP.

Koutsoukos reported that the Regional Solicitation has been released and that an application training session is scheduled for Friday, October 6 but since there is just one person registered, another session may be scheduled.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned.

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