

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 21, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tim Mayasich (Chair, Ramsey County), Lynne Bly (MnDOT Metro District), Colleen Brown (MnDOT State Aid), Bob Byers (Hennepin County), Innocent Eyoh (MPCA), Anna Flintoft (Metro Transit), Jenifer Hager (Minneapolis), Craig Jenson (Scott County), Emily Jorgensen (Washington County), Jim Kosluchar (Fridley), Elaine Koutsoukos (TAB), Jen Lehmann (MVTA), Joe MacPherson (Anoka County), Gina Mitteco (MnDOT Bike & Ped), Paul Oehme (Chanhassen), Ryan Peterson (Burnsville), Steve Peterson (Metropolitan Council), Lyndon Robjert (Carver County), John Sass (Dakota County), Anne Weber (St. Paul), and Joe Barbeau (staff)

OTHERS PRESENT: Ross Beckwith (City of West St. Paul), Charles Carlson (Metro Transit), Michael Fairbanks (MnDOT), and Eric Fosmo (Kimley Horn)

1. Call to Order

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

2. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION: Bly moved to adopt the agenda with item 13, 2018 Funding & Programming Committee Meeting Schedule, moved up to just after item 10. Seconded by Ryan Peterson. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Approval of the Minutes from the November 16, 2017, Meeting

MOTION: Ryan Peterson moved to approve the minutes with a correction to include himself as in attendance. Seconded by Oehme. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. TAB Report – Information Item

Koutsoukos reported on the December 20, 2017, TAB meeting. TAB Chair Jim Hovland reported that the TAB Executive Committee discussed the possibility of TAB submitting comments on the Corridors of Commerce Solicitation. TAB discussed the declining percent of funding share to the metro area. With the limited timeline, TAB passed a resolution of support to the letter that the Metropolitan Council submitted to MnDOT. Chair Hovland recognized outgoing committee chairs, Tim Mayasich, Lisa Freese, and Steve Albrecht and thanked them for their service. Tim Mayasich was congratulated on his upcoming retirement. TAB approved three TIP amendments, approved an update to the Regional Bicycle Transportation Network, accepted staff analysis of the Metropolitan Airports Commission Capital Improvements Program, and adopted safety performance measures and short-term targets.

5. Scope Change: Metro Transit C-Line Vehicle Upgrade – Action Item (2018-05)

Barbeau said that that Metro Transit was awarded funds that it wishes to use for the purchase of eight electric 60-foot buses and related charging equipment for use on the C-Line, which was funded through the 2014 Regional Solicitation. Because this improves the project, there is no significant decrease in benefits and because the extra cost is paid via non-Regional Solicitation funds, there is no reason to discuss reducing the federal award. Charles Carlson, Metro Transit, provided background information.

MOTION: Flintoft moved to recommend approval of the scope change request. Seconded by Eyoh. The motion was approved unanimously.

6. TIP Amendment: Metro Transit C-Line Vehicle Upgrade – Action Item (2018-06)

Barbeau said that this TIP amendment request accompanies the previous scope change request.

MOTION: Brown moved to recommend approval of the TIP amendment request. Seconded by Oehme. The motion was approved unanimously.

7. **Scope Change: MnDOT TH 41 ATMS Installation and Signal Optimization – Action Item (2018-07)**
Barbeau said that MnDOT was awarded funding in the Roadway System Management category of the 2014 Regional Solicitation. He added that the agency is asking for 80 percent of the reduced project cost, with which staff has no basis for disagreement. Michael Fairbanks, MnDOT, said that project elements being eliminated are occurring in other projects. He added that some fiber is no longer needed due to the construction of a roundabout.

MOTION: Oehme moved to recommend approval of the scope change request. Seconded by Byers. The motion was approved unanimously.

8. **Scope Change: West St. Paul CR 73 Multiuse Trail – Action Item (2018-09)**
Barbeau said that the City of West St. Paul was awarded \$1,195,360 in Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program funds in the Multiuse Trails and Bicycle Facilities category of the 2016 Regional Solicitation to construct:
1. Bituminous trail along the east side of CSAH 73 (Oakdale Avenue) from Mendota Rd to CSAH 8 (Wentworth Ave).
 2. Bituminous trail along the south side of Marie Avenue from MN 3 (Robert St) to CSAH 73 (Oakdale Ave).
 3. Sidewalk along the north side of Marie Avenue from MN 3 (Robert St) to CSAH 73 (Oakdale Ave).

The City of West St. Paul proposes elimination of the sidewalk. Increased project costs related to retaining walls and right-of-way acquisition have caused the cost of the sidewalk, along with the entire project, to increase.

This project was funded in the Multiuse Trails and Bicycle Facilities category in the 2016 Regional Solicitation. The project scored 815 points out of a possible 1,100, 46 better than the lowest funded project and 52 better than the top-scoring unfunded project in the category. Staff review, which included sharing the proposed update with scorers from the funding category, examined whether the proposed updated project would have scored well enough to be funded. The removal of the sidewalk impacts access, particularly for pedestrians, and this is reflected in the scorer reviews in the Deficiencies & Safety, Multimodal Facilities, and Equity criteria. The changes to this score, along with changes in total project funding, impact the total score. Note, however, that \$643,000 in right-of-way was needed but not acknowledged in the original application. In the Multiuse Trails and Bikeways category, right-of-way cost is eligible and is a part of the bicycle and pedestrian budget. Had this been acknowledged the cost effectiveness score would have been 40, leaving a total of 798, still enough to be funded. Further, during the analysis process, it came to staff attention that \$966,000 in right-of-way is now needed for the project. Factoring in the right-of-way cost would bring the project total to \$2,460,200, which has a significant impact on the Cost Effectiveness score. Regarding the amount of federal funding to be taken away, the applicant requests 80% of the new project total, a slight reduction from the original. Barbeau presented options that reflect the loss of the sidewalk.

Ross Beckwith, City of West St. Paul, and Eric Fosmo, Kimley Horn represented the applicant. Fosmo said that the project does not ask TAB to fund right-of-way and that the sidewalk is being removed because of the cost and sensitivity associated with right-of-way acquisition on the north side of Marie Avenue.

Bly asked whether there had been consideration of keeping the path on the north side rather than the south side of Marie Avenue. Fosmo replied that this would have had more impacts, including the removal of parking spaces from private lots.

Robgent asked whether right-of-way cost is required to be a part of the cost. Barbeau replied that the application does not spell that out but that it is a line in the bicycle and pedestrian budget and it is eligible. He added that nine applicants included right-of-way cost in their budgets. Brown said it is unclear whether inclusion is required. Robgent said that if an applicant wants right-of-way to be funded than it is subject to the cost, but if not, inclusion should not be required.

Mayasich asked whether TAB allowing removal of the sidewalk is simply helping the City balance its budget. Brown said that that is a part of the rationale for the request, though impacts to the north side of Marie Avenue are important as well.

Robjent said points should be taken away for the sidewalk and nothing else. Steve Peterson said that the lack of clarity on right-of-way should lead to approval of the request and that the Committee should consider funding options. Brown said that the funding options dig too deep and in the past funding has been pro-rated. Barbeau said that there was no way to determine the proportionate cost of the sidewalk.

MOTION: Robjent moved to recommend approval of the scope change request with removal of federal funds at 80% of the sidewalk cost. Seconded by Oehme. The motion was approved unanimously. The applicant was directed to determine that cost.

9. 2018 Regional Solicitation Public Comment Report – Action Item (2018-03)

Barbeau said that four comments were made during the public comment period for the draft 2018 Regional Solicitation.

MOTION: Robjent moved to accept the public comments for the 2018 Regional Solicitation for Transpiration Projects. Seconded by Eyoh.

Steve Peterson cited the staff response to the City of Maple Grove comment related to roadway project scoring: “The technical committees may want to consider whether a new roadway should be awarded points based on the freight tier of the roadway on which it will connect to once built.” This would enable points to be awarded for a new roadway connecting to a corridor cited in the Regional Truck Corridor Study. Hager asked how other changes, such as land use changes would apply as these kinds of changes would turn over more frequently than studies are produced.

Barbeau added that the previous month’s discussion on using Synchro’s signal timing optimization setting was included in this topic, as this discussion occurred during the public review period. Hager had also shared information that Synchro’s defaults include saturation flow rates but not phases.

The motion was approved unanimously.

10. Draft Regional Solicitation – Action Item (2018-04)

Barbeau said that the draft Regional Solicitation does not include any potential changes discussed thus far at the meeting.

In light of the discussion on the West St. Paul Scope Change request, Brown asked whether right-of-way should be ineligible for bicycle and pedestrian projects. She said that timing makes right-of-way difficult. Mitteco suggested that if TAB wants to keep right-of-way eligible that the cost effectiveness not include right-of-way cost for those not interested in using federal funds for right-of-way.

MOTION 1: Robjent moved to make right-of-way ineligible for bicycle and pedestrian projects. Seconded by Byers. MOTION 1 was approved unanimously.

MOTION 2: Robjent moved to recommend release of the 2018 Regional Solicitation for Transportation Projects inclusive of MOTION 1 and inclusive of the change to the Synchro settings discussed in the Public Comment report action item. Seconded by Eyoh. MOTION 2 was approved unanimously.

11. 2018 Funding & Programming Committee Meeting Schedule – Information Item

Barbeau said that TAC Funding & Programming Committee meetings are usually scheduled for the third Thursday of each month. This sets the Committee to meet the day after TAB (third Wednesday of the month), kicking off the F&P-TAC-TAB meeting cycle. However, sometimes the third Thursday falls six days before the third Wednesday, leaving F&P before TAC. There was one such occurrence—in June—in

2017. That meeting was moved back one week to June 22. In 2018, this occurs three times: February, March, and November. The Committee can consider whether to move any of those meetings back one week to the 22nd. Note, however, that the 22nd of November is Thanksgiving. Therefore, it likely only makes sense to consider this option for February and March.

Mayasich said that sometimes TAB makes requests of the Committee and there is value to rescheduling. Members generally agreed that rescheduling the February and March meetings to the 22nd makes sense. Barbeau said he would remind members of the rescheduled meetings in advance.

- 12. TPP Update – Highway/Freight Investments and Revenue Summary – Information Item**
Steve Peterson provided an update on the Highway and Freight Investment Direction in the ongoing Transportation Policy Plan Update.
- 13. TPP Update – Transit Investment – Information Item**
Due to time constraints, this item was not discussed.
- 14. Other Business**
None.
- 15. Adjournment**
The meeting was adjourned.