
*Transportation Advisory Board
Of the Metropolitan Council*

**Minutes of a Meeting of the
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, July 2, 2013
9:00 A.M.**

Members Present: Doug Fischer, Lyndon Robjent, Brian Sorenson, Tom Johnson, Joe Lux, Lisa Freese, Jan Lucke, Elaine Koutsoukos, Mark Filipi, Patrick Boylan, Adam Harrington, Pat Bursaw, Innocent Eyoh, Bridget Rief, Jim Gromberg, Jean Keely, Paul Oehme, Michael Thompson, Steve Albrecht, Duane Schwartz, Kim Lindquist, Bruce Loney, Jenifer Hager, Jack Byers, Michelle Beaulieu (Members Excused: Steve Bot)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved after changing item 2014-45 to 2014-47. Jim Gromberg made the motion, Mark Filipi seconded. No discussion. Unanimous.

3. Approval of March Minutes

The June 4, 2014 meeting minutes were approved as written. Motion made by Doug Fischer and seconded by Mark Filipi. No discussion. Unanimous.

4. TAB Report

Elaine Koutsoukos reported on TAB's June 18 meeting:

Reports:

Chair: Bill Hargis reported TAB Executive Committee meeting. The TAB Executive Committee reviewed the TAB agenda, the Corridors of Commerce letter from MnDOT which will be discussed at the July and August TAB meeting, and introduced Commissioner Carl Crimmins, the new TAB representative for the Metropolitan Airports Commission. TAB Executive discussed holding the October TAB meeting at an alternate site. Pat Bursaw will look into the availability of the MnDOT Regional Traffic Management Center. Elaine Koutsoukos presented a list of items that the TAB Bylaws Task Force will be reviewing at an upcoming meeting: whether a bylaws change is needed for an alternate for a designee of the MPCA and MnDOT Commissioners, open meeting rules and communications, number of elected officials as membership on TAB Executive Committee, and review the recently adopted TAC bylaws changes for consistency with the TAB bylaws.

MnDOT, MPCA, and Met Council did not have reports.

MAC – Commissioner Crimmins reported that the G concourse has been remodeled. There is new food service and food can be ordered and delivered to the gate. Rental car facilities have been added at the Humphrey Terminal. Future MAC meetings will be televised to allow public access without having to go through security. The number of flights is down, but the number of passengers is up.

TAC – TAC Chair Bursaw reported on the June TAC meeting. Seven action items were approved and were on the TAB agenda. There was one information item on the Regional Solicitation. Susan Moe announced she is retiring at the end of June.

Regional Solicitation Monthly Update – Steve Peterson, SRF, reported on the June 13 Steering Committee meeting. Steve presented the modal category funding options for TAB members review. Heidi Schallberg presented the measures drafted for the Equity criteria. TAB will review the draft applications at the July TAB meeting and then receive a full packet of applications for final review at the August TAB meeting, with approval of the applications in September.

Legislative Update – Judd Schetnan, Met Council Intergovernmental Affairs; Erik Rudeen, MnDOT Government Affairs

Consent List: The May TAB minutes were approved.

Scope change – Two scope changes approved (Hwy 61/Hwy 97 Reconstruction and Roundabout, Hopkins Mainstreet Improvements)

TIP Amendments – One TIP Amendment Streamlined – TH 169

Action Items:

Six action items were presented to TAB and approved:

1. 2017 STP and CMAQ TSM Recommendation
2. Adoption of Draft 2015-2018 TIP for Public Comment
3. 2014-2017 TIP Amendment – I-94 westbound exit ramps to 5th St S in Minneapolis
4. 2014-2017 TIP Amendment – I-494 between I-394 and I-94 in Plymouth
5. 2030 TPP Amendment for I-694 and I-494 Improvement Projects
6. Recommend Draft 2040 Transportation Policy Plan for Public Comment – forward comments with consensus from TAC Planning Committee

5. Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee (Pat Bursaw, Chair)

A new TAC member orientation was held on June 9. Two streamlined amendments went through the Executive Committee and on to TAB.

B. Funding and Programming Committee (MTS staff for Karl Keel, Chair)

Action item 2014-47: Carver County CSAH 10 Reconstruction and Trail: Heidi Schallberg presented this item. There was no discussion. Lyndon Robjent moved and Joe Lux seconded. **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

Action item 2014-46: Maple Grove Weaver Lake Road Roundabout: Heidi Schallberg presented this item. Doug Fischer asked if this project may be applying again for federal funds. Carl Ohrn specified that the project is moving ahead under a different funding source so they will not be coming back. Additionally, the project should not have been awarded these federal funds originally since it also utilized HSIP, which is not consistent with policy. Michael Thompson moved and Innocent Eyoh seconded. **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

C. Planning Committee (Lisa Freese, Chair)

Action item 2014-44: City of Oakdale Roadway Functional Classification Changes: Lisa Freese presented this item. There was no discussion. Lisa Freese moved and Joe Lux seconded. **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

6. Special Agenda Items

A. Regional Solicitation Evaluation, Marie Cote and Steve Peterson, SRF Consulting (handout)
Marie Cote and Steve Peterson reviewed the packet materials.

The first question related to the last page of the handout, specifically the funding weights. In general the TAC members agreed that Option 2 was preferable, and it also includes transit and bicycle/pedestrian infrastructure. Lyndon Robjent said that since MAP-21 effectively decreased the amount of funding available for STP projects, the roadways funding is also decreased as a result. Pat Bursaw added that this structure intentionally does not look at funding pots but rather modes, and projects will be funded across the modes from various funding pots in this solicitation. Tom Johnson indicated that it is hard to analyze these numbers because it is a partial picture of all funding sources used through all modes in the region. Doug Fischer asked whether roadway management projects may receive CMAQ funds, and the answer was yes. The group believed that the current visual representation of this information at the end of the last page of the packet was difficult to understanding and urged the consultant team to find a new method. Jan Lucke noted that this chart only shows historically awarded funds, not requested. Staff indicated that this information is available as well. Michelle Beaulieu and Lyndon Robjent would like to address future needs, not just present needs.

Next the group discussed the equity measures. The language will be consistent across the modes, but not the weighting. Measure A will need to have clear scoring language attached since Council staff will be calculating this, which is yet to be determined. Doug Fischer, Joe Lux, and Lisa Freese questioned the value of using an equity measure in roadway funding applications. Steve Peterson said that the equity measure gets at the positive and negative impacts of transportation projects in specified communities.

The consultant team then lead the group through the rest of the packet. Lyndon Robjent asked why connectors cannot be funded through expansion. Carl Ohrn described that "expansion" refers to the metropolitan area being expanded, not a roadway. Left turn lanes and roundabouts are still eligible. Doug Fischer questioned the traffic counts required, citing concern about tubes on roadways during plow season. The solicitation will be released in late September, to avoid this problem. Lisa Freese, Doug Fischer, and Jan Lucke expressed concern about Synchro modeling costs associated with the application. Marie Cote explained a few options that are being explored to assist locals with this need, but overall the application will take significantly less time, effort, and consultant dollars than previous solicitation, so any modeling costs may still be easier to absorb. Additionally there is no longer a need for letters of support. The multi-modal elements section has changed a lot and will continue to be modified. Bicycle counts are not included in this solicitation but hopefully will be in the future. Emissions rates will be automatically generated in the online application once an applicant provides an initial number. Jan Lucke and Lyndon Robjent would like to test a previous successful project against this new system.

The solicitation will come back to TAC in August for a shorter conversation, and again in September for recommended approval to TAB.

7. Agency Reports

There were no agency reports.

8. Other Business and Adjournment

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 10:52AM.

Prepared by:

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