
*Transportation Advisory Board
Of the Metropolitan Council*

**Minutes of a Meeting of the
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, November 1, 2017
9:00 A.M.**

Members Present: Doug Fischer, Lyndon Robjont, Brian Sorenson, Carla Stueve, Tim Mayasich, Lisa Freese, Jan Lucke, Steve Bot, Elaine Koutsoukos, Steve Peterson, Michael Larson, Adam Harrington, Brian Isaacson, Bridget Rief, Andrew Emanuele, Dave Jacobson, Peter Dahlberg, Danny McCullough, Jean Keely, Steve Albrecht, Paul Oehme, Michael Thompson, Kim Lindquist, Robert Ellis, Jen Hager, Jack Byers, Bill Dermody, Paul Kurtz (Excused: Innocent Eyoh, Jim Kosluchar)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Steve Albrecht at 9:00 a.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was moved by Paul Oehme and seconded by Bridget Rief. No discussion. Motion passed.

3. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes was moved by Brian Isaacson and seconded by Tim Mayasich. Motion passed.

4. TAB Report

TAB Chair's Report: Jim Hovland reported from the Executive Board that TAB members interested in serving on the Executive Committee next year, send Elaine Koutsoukos an email or letter indicating interest by the end of December. TAB will select the Executive Committee members in January.

Agency Reports (MnDOT, MPCA, MAC and Metropolitan Council)

MPCA: David Thornton reported that the effective date for the trust for the Volkswagen settlement started October 3. There is a 60-day period to file to be a beneficiary. The state is working on the submission. Recommendations on how to use funds received will be announced in fall or early winter.

Met Council: Katie Rodriguez reported that on October 30, the Council will begin the application process for appointments of the citizen representatives and modal representatives on TAB. Applications will be due on November 27.

ACTION ITEMS –

Approved the following action item:

- 2017-25 Streamlined TIP Amendment: MnDOT projects, I-35W traffic management system project on I-35W and concrete median barrier on I-494.

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Additional Regional Solicitation Roadway information was presented. TAB discussed the following items:
 - Requirement for snow removal on trails funded by Regional Solicitation. Include in the qualifying criteria or change the measure to or have more than a yes/no response (consider tiers, attach maintenance plan, attach maintenance agreement if with other entities, show on a plowing map, letter, written commitment, other). Have something that shows commitment to plow, versus just saying they will.
 - In Transit Modernization application, Customer Improvement Criteria – Travel time improvement/reliability should have higher priority. Move up to the top in the bullets and allocate points for this or keep as a separate measure.
 - In the Transit Modernization application – Keep maintenance facilities and garages as eligible projects.
 - There was discussion on whether to set aside funding for demonstration/suburban transit projects. TAB requested a list of projects funded in previous solicitations before they made a decision on this. TAB wants a recommendation from the technical committees.
2. MnPASS III Study – presentation by MnDOT
3. Update on revisions to the 2018 Unified Planning Work Program
4. TPP Update – Transit presentation

Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee (Steve Albrecht, Chair)

The Executive Committee reviewed today's agenda. Steve Albrecht reminded the group that there is a big agenda today and we hope to get through all of it.

The agency groups caucused for five minutes to pick their representative to the Nominating Committee. Robert Ellis will represent the cities, Tim Mayasich the counties, and Adam Harrington the agencies.

B. Planning Committee (Lisa Freese, Chair)

Lisa Freese reported the results of the Planning Committee.

2017-27 Metropolitan Planning Organization Memorandum of Understanding. Lisa Freese introduced Katie White who presented this item. There were no questions. Lisa Freese moved and Paul Oehme seconded the recommended motion. Motion passed.

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

Tim Mayasich reported on the committee's work at the previous meeting.

2017-28 I-394 and MN 62 TIP Amendment. Joe Barbeau presented this item. Bridget Rief asked when the work will take place. Brian Isaacson responded that it will likely be spring of 2018, before the summer 2018 work on I-35W. Tim Mayasich moved and Doug Fischer seconded the recommended motion. Motion passed.

2017-29 Regional Solicitation: Measures and Scoring Guidance. Bill Dermody asked what the impact of the archeology requirements would be. Joe Barbeau said that the language on the requirement hasn't changed from the last solicitation. Brian Isaacson said that Colleen Brown scores this area and uses discretion.

A discussion regarding winter maintenance of trails followed. Doug Fischer asked if year-round maintenance would meet the requirement. Steve Albrecht said that TAC Exec discussed this and "maintenance" can be however the agency defines it. Lyndon Robjent said that the federal regulations say trails need to be "accessible for all users" and that this should be qualifying criteria, not scoring criteria. Doug Fischer and Danny McCullough said that the language does not differentiate between recreation trips and transportation trips; the language is too broad. Lyndon Robjent said that there are many types of trails and they vary between geographic areas. The current language is too restrictive. Tim Mayasich said that TAC Exec interprets this to mean any kind of maintenance is acceptable. Elaine Koutsoukos said that TAB wants to see something more than yes/no on the applications.

Doug Fischer proposed a motion for the snow removal issue to read: *Provide for a 50-point snow and ice control scoring measure for agencies that provide (through an attachment to the application) a year-round maintenance plan.* Robert Ellis seconded. Motion passed.

Motion for the original recommendation except for the snow removal was made by Doug Fischer, second by Paul Oehme. Motion passed.

2017-30 Regional Solicitation: Weighting of Criteria and Measures. Joe Barbeau presented this item. Tim Mayasich moved and Adam Harrington seconded. Motion passed.

2017-31 Regional Solicitation: Awarding One Roadway Project per Functional Classification. Joe Barbeau presented this item. Michael Thompson moved and Lyndon Robjent seconded. Motion passed.

2017-32 Regional Solicitation: Modal Funding Ranges. Joe Barbeau presented this item. Tim Mayasich moved and Lyndon Robjent seconded. Motion passed.

2017-33 Regional Solicitation: Qualifying Criteria and Eligibility. Joe Barbeau presented this item.

A discussion of the 3.5 mile spacing language followed. Jan Lucke asked if the spacing issue had a time element attached. Steve Peterson responded that it was per solicitation cycle/2 years. Bill Dermody advocated for a 1 mile spacing between projects, since urban corridors are tighter and serve different markets. Dave Jacobson asked if the spacing requirement was applied to transit too. Steve Peterson responded that it only applies to transitway capital projects. Doug Fischer asked if the spacing requirement applies to a trail project that might be on the same corridor as a roadway project. Elaine Koutsoukos referenced page 13, which says it does not produce a conflict. Jen Hager asked if the language referred to just the roadway, as opposed to a buffer around the roadway. Joe Barbeau responded in the affirmative.

A discussion of the ADA language followed. Andrew Emanuele clarified that the USDOT can only enforce the transportation system and right-of-way elements of the ADA law. Andrew Emanuele also said that he supports the language being added to the solicitation. Michael Thompson said that Funding & Programming wanted to know what "substantial work" on a transition plan is. Andrew Emanuele said

that there is no definition because USDOT does not want to see a minimal level of effort. Steve Albrecht said that legal opinions vary on the transition plan requirements are, but progress should be made. Elaine Koutsoukos said that when the solicitation goes out for public comment local agencies will have time to start their transition plan before applying for projects.

Adam Harrington moved to include the ADA language and Tim Mayasich seconded. Motion passed.

A discussion of signal retiming followed. Brian Sorenson asked for a definition of evaluating retiming needs; sometimes it can be easy to evaluate without a large, formal process. The group did not agree on the importance of including signal retiming in the solicitation.

A discussion of the local match issue followed. Bill Dermody expressed concern for large projects, like bridges, that need to cobble together several funding sources, many of which may not be in place before an application deadline. He suggested to use points instead of qualifying criteria for this area. Lyndon Robjent said that TED and similar programs require similar documentation of support for a match. Lisa Freese said that her county understands that they are on the hook for the project if other sources do not come through. Adam Harrington said that the risk should be on the applicant, not the region.

Tim Mayasich moved the recommended motion, excluding the ADA piece previously voted on, excluding the signal retiming language, and keeping the 3.5-mile spacing provision. Lyndon Robjent seconded. Motion passed.

2017-34 Regional Solicitation: Funding Category Minimum and Maximum Funding Amounts. Tim Mayasich moved and Doug Fischer seconded. Motion passed.

2017-35 Regional Solicitation: Inflation Rate and Year of Cost Estimate. Tim Mayasich moved and Michael Thompson seconded. Motion passed.

2017-36 Regional Solicitation: Recommend Approval of Regional Solicitation Packet for Release for Public Comment. Tim Mayasich moved and Bill Dermody seconded. Motion passed.

6. Special Agenda Items

TPP Update: Documents Available. Steve Peterson recommended that TAC members review the redlined chapters available at the TAC agenda website. Three chapters are currently available and comments will be accepted through the end of the year.

TPP Update: MnPASS III. (Brad Larsen, MnDOT) Brad Larsen presented an overview of the MnPASS III study and its outcomes. Jen Hager asked if lane conversions are only being considered for the portions appearing in boxes on the handout; Brad Larsen said yes. Jan Lucke asked about the project limits for an I-94 MnPASS lane. Brad Larsen says it will depend on the results from the I-94 project, likely coming spring 2018.

TPP Update: Regional Bicycle Transportation Network. (Steve Elmer, MTS) Steve Elmer presented on the likely RBTN changes that will appear in the next TPP. Lyndon Robjent and Steve Albrecht thanked Steve Elmer for his outreach. Steve Bot requested outreach to 7W communities.

TPP Update: Transit Investment. (Cole Hiniker, MTS) Cole Hiniker presented on the investment changes to the transit section of the TPP. Jan Lucke asked why the Red Rock corridor won't be shown in the new

plan even though the county's new sales tax will be used to support the corridor. Cole Hiniker responded that the Council needs to understand the level of commitment from the county. Dave Jacobson asked about the potential transit service allocation project. Cole Hiniker responded that a meeting was held with the suburban providers and they voiced support for such a project. Robert Ellis pointed out that the Green Line Extension terminus is out of date.

7. Agency Reports

8. Other Business and Adjournment

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 11:27am.

Prepared by:

Katie White