
*Transportation Advisory Board
Of the Metropolitan Council*

**Minutes of a Meeting of the
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, March 4, 2015
9:00 A.M.**

Members Present: Andrew Witter, Brian Sorenson, Chris Sagsveen, Tim Mayasich, Lisa Freese, Jan Lucke, Rhonda Lewis, Elaine Koutsoukos, Mark Filipi, Patrick Boylan, Adam Harrington, Pat Bursaw, Amanda Smith, Bridget Rief, Beverley Miller, Dave Christianson, Danny McCullough, Karl Keel, Jean Keely, Steve Albrecht, Paul Oehme, Michael Thompson, Duane Schwartz, Kim Lindquist, Bruce Loney, Jenifer Hager, Jack Byers, Paul Kurtz (Members Excused: Michelle Beaulieu)

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of Agenda

Mark Filipi moved and Pat Bursaw seconded. No discussion. Motion passed.

3. Approval of March Minutes

The February 4, 2015 meeting minutes were approved as written. Karl Keel moved and Mark Filipi seconded. No discussion. Motion passed.

4. TAB Report

Elaine Koutsoukos reported on the February 18, 2015 TAB meeting.

Reports:

TAB Chair: Chair Hargis reported that the TAB Executive Committee met prior to the TAB meeting. The Executive Committee reviewed the February and March agendas and discussed informational items for future TAB meetings. Elaine Koutsoukos provided an update of the Regional Solicitation process. The Scoring Committees completed scoring on February 6. The scores were sent to the members of Funding & Programming Committee and TAC and the applicants on February 13. Elaine will send the preliminary scores to the TAB members. The scoring appeals deadline is February 27. Met Council staff will begin preparing funding options across modal categories by application types, functional classification, scored point distribution, and geographical balance.

Hargis stated that the bylaws adopted by TAB now include 9 TAB Executive Committee members and it is time to establish the Executive Committee. Members should let Koutsoukos know by March 2 if they are interested in serving, with the goal to vote on members at the March TAB meeting. The next Executive Committee is scheduled for April.

MnDOT: Scott McBride reported on the Governor's funding plan. The Governor released a list of potential projects that would be included in his plan. The plan is preservation intensive, with some expansion in metro area and outstate as well.

Met Council: Katie Rodriguez was appointed by Adam Duinick as acting Council representative to the TAB. She reported that Council appointed TAB member interviews will be held on Wednesday, February 25, with Council approval March 11 or 25. A new TAB chair will be appointed before the March TAB meeting.

MAC: Carl Crimmins reported that MAC received two awards:

- diverging diamond interchange on I-494 with LRT going through the middle
- restroom renovations – including electronic upgrades that monitor restroom usage to assist in scheduling cleaning.

Action Items:

- Approved Program Extension for CSAH 10/TH10 Ramsey County.
- Approved Program Extension for North Creek Regional Greenway Trail in Lakeville.

Information Items:

- Legislative Report by Judd Schetnan, Director of Governmental Affairs
- Crude-by-Rail Grade Crossing Safety & Improvement Study by Dave Christianson, MnDOT.

5. Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee (Steve Albrecht, Chair)

Steve Albrecht requested that those with Action Items in front of TAC today prepare to attend TAB this month since Steve Albrecht, Paul Oehme, and Tim Mayasich will not be able to attend TAB to present their requests. MTS staff will present the reports but may need additional information from local staff. The Executive Committee also discussed likely changes needed to the next Regional Solicitation due to snags that have been discovered.

Elaine Koutsoukos summarized the progress on the current Regional Solicitation. Nine appeals have been received. Mapping is underway, to be referred to in case of a tiebreaker need. Two surveys are being developed for feedback on this process, including one for applicants and one for scorers. Funding and Programming will receive a review of funding options at their March meeting and recommend a final version in April; TAC will receive a review of funding options at their April meeting and recommend a final version in May. Steve Albrecht noted that TAB wants the scenarios to maximize the modes, and are hoping to see natural break points to help make decisions. TAB will also be looking for geographic balance. Adam Harrington asked if these scenarios are available for review; Elaine Koutsoukos said that they are still under development.

Steve Albrecht said that future agendas will be light on information items because of the big discussions ahead for the Regional Solicitation. Michael Thompson asked if nine appeals is a high number. Elaine Koutsoukos said that usually three or four are received.

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

2015-07: Funding Reallocation Process

Tim Mayasich provided an introduction to the issue and thanked Pat Bursaw for her work in leading this group. Pat Bursaw provided a presentation on the issue. Project withdrawals continue to be an issue and lead to last-minute scrambles. A list of priorities and principles were created, highlighting

the importance of not letting portions of the region's funding go unspent and be reallocated to other regions. Complicating matters, the FTA does not allow "advance construction" payback in the same way that FHWA does, which is typically the preferred method of delivering and paying for projects. A recommendation includes authorizing staff to allocate funds on behalf of TAB, with appropriate reporting mechanisms.

Dave Christianson agreed that the priority should be to keep funds in the region, above the modal needs, but will we be prioritizing each mode? Pat Bursaw stated that State Aid and staff are sensitive to this issue, but it hasn't come up in the past. Project readiness is the biggest issue. Adam Harrington stated that this flexibility is important, and comes from the excellent principles. Bruce Loney asked if these policies could be made available in a handbook of some kind. Staff will investigate this. Karl Keel asked if there could be incentives for advance constructing a project. Pat Bursaw noted that some agencies (Anoka County and Scott County) do this quite often. Steve Albrecht thanked the committee for their work, and noted that TAB feels more comfortable with written policies.

Tim Mayasich moved and Mark Filipi seconded. Motion passed.

2015-08: Scope Change Consultation Process

Tim Mayasich introduced this item and Pat Bursaw summarized the results from the work group. This provides guidance and a tiered approach. Brian Sorenson stated that tiering projects is a good idea, and asked if differentiation is defined by State Aid. Elaine Koutsoukos said yes, as well as herself and Joe Barbeau.

Tim Mayasich moved and Karl Keel seconded. Motion passed.

2015-13: City of Minneapolis Scope Change

Tim Mayasich presented the item. This change would allow the project to line up with other Hennepin County and City of Minneapolis projects. The scope is consistent and the new project would actually score higher than the original scope. Funding amounts have not changed.

Tim Mayasich moved and Jenifer Hager seconded. Motion passed.

2015-14: Anoka County TIP Amendment

Tim Mayasich presented the item. The project costs have increased but the county is paying all of the increase. Karl Keel asked if this item could have been streamlined instead of going through the whole process. Pat Bursaw said that HSIP is a grey area which includes cost-effectiveness criteria. Elaine Koutsoukos said that if there is a question, it is usually brought through the full process.

Tim Mayasich moved and Michael Thompson seconded. Motion passed.

2015-15: Regional Solicitation Funding Level Adjustments

Tim Mayasich introduced Steve Peterson for this item. Steve Peterson referenced page four of the packet for the majority of the relevant information. Adam Harrington asked why buses are not eligible for inflation. Mark Filipi indicated that on page two buses are asked to inflate costs in the initial application, so receiving double the inflation allowance would not make sense. Beverley Miller added that this should be clarified in future solicitations. Karl Keel asked why bike/ped has such a wide range. Steve Peterson referred to page two, and mentioned that the dollar amounts are much smaller in bike/ped projects.

Tim Mayasich moved and Paul Oehme seconded. Motion passed.

2015-16: City of Minneapolis TIP Amendment for HSIP Project

Tim Mayasich explained that this project is being advanced because Washington County was not able to use the funds that came to them. It is similar in cost and shovel-ready. Karl Keel asked if this followed the new policy. Pat Bursaw said yes, but HSIP is a little different because TAB does not have final authority over these dollars.

Tim Mayasich moved and Jenifer Hager seconded. Motion passed.

C. Planning Committee (Lisa Freese, Chair)

The Planning committee did not meet in February and will not meet in March, but will meet in April. The Non-Freeway Principal Arterial Intersection Conversion Study and the Streetcar Policy Study will be on that agenda.

6. Special Agenda Items

There were no special agenda items.

7. Agency Reports

Adam Harrington reminded the group that road construction planning season is underway, and that Metro Transit should be notified to help with detour planning. Nicollet Mall will be rebuilt this year, which will have a huge impact.

Bridget Rief said that the hotel study is underway for the airport. They are looking to experts to answer certain questions, such as if there is enough demand for weekend guests at a hotel. Connectivity to the airport is also a big concern for travelers and their luggage.

8. Other Business and Adjournment

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 10:17AM.

Prepared by:

Katie White