
*Transportation Advisory Board
Of the Metropolitan Council*

**Minutes of a Meeting of the
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, July 6, 2016
9:00 A.M.**

Members Present: Doug Fisher, Lyndon Robjent, Brian Sorenson, Jim Grube, Tim Mayasich, Lisa Freese, Jan Lucke, Elaine Koutsoukos, Mark Filipi, Michael Larson, Adam Harrington, Pat Bursaw, Amanda Smith, Bridget Rief, Kris Riesenber, Dave Jacobson, John Tompkins, Danny McCullough, Karl Keel, Jean Keely, Steve Albrecht, Paul Oehme, Michael Thompson, Kim Lindquist, Bruce Loney, Jim Kosluchar, Jen Hager, Paul Kurtz (Excused: Steve Bot)

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of Agenda

Mark Filipi moved and Dave Jacobson seconded. No discussion. Motion passed.

3. Approval of May Minutes

Pat Bursaw moved and Tim Mayasich seconded. Motion passed.

4. TAB Report

Elaine Koutsoukos reported on the June 15, 2016 TAB meeting.

REPORTS

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TAB Chair's Report

Hovland reported that the TAB Executive Committee met prior to this TAB meeting. The Executive Committee discussed upcoming items for the July TAB meeting. The Executive Committee also discussed holding a TAB meeting off-site in September including MAC and the FedEx facility at the airport.

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

MnDOT: Scott McBride reported that under 2 weeks ago, MnDOT, Ramsey County, St. Paul, Hennepin County and Minneapolis submitted an application to the FHWA for a grant for "Every Place Counts". The grant is for placemaking workshops. The application is in conjunction with a larger study of I-94 between the downtowns. Two locations that MnDOT is focusing on are: the Rondo area, and Franklin & 27th area in Minneapolis.

Metropolitan Council: Katie Rodriguez reported on the A Line opening held on Saturday June 11.

TAC Report

TAC Chair Steve Albrecht shared information on the Federal Fund Exchange (Defederalization) Update. This will be going back to the Funding & Programming Committee. They will begin work at their June meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

1. 2016-34: Approved Administrative Amendment to the 2016 UPWP
2. 2016-35: Approved the release of the Draft 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for a public comment period.

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Principle Arterial Intersection Conversion Study – Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Analyst Steve Peterson, Paul Czech – MnDOT, and Doug Abere - Bolton Menk presented this item.
2. I-35W North MnPASS Project – Jerome Adams, MnDOT, presented the item.

5. Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee (Steve Albrecht, Chair)

Steve Albrecht said that the Executive Committee met before the meeting to discuss the day's agenda.

B. Planning Committee (Lisa Freese, Chair)

The Planning committee met in May with another information item on the regional model and how the comprehensive plan process will work.

2016-37 Lake Elmo Long Term Comprehensive Plan. Lisa Freese introduced this item. Russ Owen from MTS and Neil Ralston from MAC presented an overview of the issues involved in this item. Doug Fisher asked about a discrepancy between the narrative in the attachment and the action transmittal. Russ Owen will make a correction regarding the modest runway length extension.

Steve Albrecht opened the floor to testimony from the public. Vince Anderson and Dave Schultz spoke against the motion. John Renwick spoke in favor.

Karl Keel asked what the purview of the TAC was on this item; specifically would the group vote on consistency instead of design? Russ Owen affirmed that description of the action. Jan Lucke spoke from a letter signed by the Washington County Commission on a 3-1 vote, stating that the process to develop the Lake Elmo LTCP has been inclusive of the community, it accommodates the Manning Avenue expansion, and recommends that MAC continue to evaluate the impacts of the LTCP on the neighbors of the airport. Bridget Rief said that MAC is committed to continuing to work with the neighbors, especially on the environmental issues involved.

Bridget Rief moved and Jan Lucke seconded. There were no questions. Motion passes.

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

2016-38 Brooklyn Center Scope Change. Tim Mayasich introduced this item. There were no questions. Tim Mayasich moved the recommended motion and Jim Grube seconded. Motion passes.

2016-39 Brooklyn Center TIP Amendment. Tim Mayasich introduced this item. Doug Fisher asked why there is a TIP amendment if there is no change in the dollar value. Elaine Koutsoukos responded that the description changed, which requires a TIP amendment. Tim Mayasich moved the recommended motion and Michael Thompson seconded. Motion passes.

2016-36 2017 Funding Reallocation. Tim Mayasich introduced this item. Steve Peterson presented the options available to the committee.

Adam Harrington asked how the TBI would be funded without the dollar value requested. Jonathan Ehrlich responded that the project had no other alternate source of funding. Michael Thompson asked how the TBI had been funded previously. Jonathan Ehrlich responded that STP funds were swapped for State Planning & Research dollars in 2010, in 2000 it was MnDOT, and in 1990 it was through the TAB.

Mark Filipi asked Amanda Smith to explain the eligibility issues involved in the MPCA application for diesel retrofit projects. Amanda Smith responded that the EPA has instances of CMAQ funding being used on these projects in other regions across the country, specifically in Ohio and Chicago for port cranes. Kris Riesenbergh added that there is a balance between funding flexibility and eligibility nationwide. The FAST Act may permit freight equipment tied to port facilities to be included, however boats can move outside the designated maintenance area that is meant to be improved with this funding. It is difficult to know now whether or not it is eligible.

Lyndon Robjant asked if there was a request to local governments to submit these unique projects. Steve Peterson responded that there was, when the most recent regional solicitation was released a few weeks ago to a mailing list of 4,000-5,000. Pat Bursaw said that the process the TAB established for how best to expend these excess funds took a long time to develop but is reasonable, fair, and flexible.

Amanda Smith and Pat Bursaw expressed support for funding more projects with the extra available funding instead of adding more money to already funded projects. Adam Harrington agreed and said that the TBI should be funded.

Kim Lindquist, Dave Jacobson, and Michael Thompson expressed frustration that the TBI is a need beyond these unique projects. Karl Keel expressed a preference for freeing up future year dollars. Dave Jacobson stated that projects which have already gone through the vigorous scoring process should be funded with this available money. Jim Grube asked how the new Dakota County project is included per the TAB process. Steve Peterson responded that the TAB process allows unfunded projects to receiving funding.

Upon comments and questions from Kim Lindquist, Karl Keel, and Lyndon Robjant, Mark Filipi again explained the reformatted TBI and the funding needs associated with it. Tim Mayasich said that an 'off the top' arrangement, similar to the TMOs, would be preferable for the TBI instead of going through the 'unique projects' process. Lisa Freese was on the TBI project management team and agrees with Tim Mayasich's comments. Doug Fisher said that the TBI is only part of the model and it is not a priority to update. Pat Bursaw said that MnDOT is exploring options to be able to provide the local match needed for federal funds.

Michael Thompson and Amanda Smith expressed concern that the unique project process lacks technical detail and should be modified to allow technical analysis.

Doug Fisher moved that funding of the Minneapolis Bicycle Coalition project to 80% federal, advancement of the Penn Avenue project, funding of the Dakota County CSAH 28 Connector, advancement of the Scott and Carver County HSIP projects, deferral of \$763,424 in transit funds to a future year, and distribution of remaining 2017 funds to projects in Option 3 restoring modal balance to the extent possible be included in a recommendation to TAB.

Brian Sorenson asked if the funding levels were available. Steve Peterson said that Joe Barbeau just ran the numbers and they look good. Pat Bursaw and Amanda Smith said that they would not support giving already funded projects additional funds when there are other regional needs that could use the funding.

Mark Filipi moved an amendment to add the TBI to the funding recommendation for TAB. The motion failed.

The original motion passed as written.

6. Special Agenda Items

I-35W North Managed Lane Project. Jerome Adams from MnDOT presented on the project. Doug Fisher asked how this project is interfacing with the pavement project underway today. Jerome Adams responded that there is just a 2" mill and overlay underway right now in order for the roadway to be sufficient until the 2019/2020 construction year for the bigger project. John Tompkins said that a FAST Lane grant application was submitted because of the bridge work needed to accommodate oversize and overweight vehicles. Jean Keeley thanked Jerome Adams for his work on the project, and said that the community is very excited about the project.

7. Agency Reports

Bridget Rief said that MAC will hold special meetings on July 20, 2016 at 5:00pm and 6:30pm for public hearings on taxis and taxi-like operations at MSP.

Adam Harrington said that the A Line opened on June 11 and ridership along the corridor is 30% higher than before service began.

8. Other Business and Adjournment

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 11:18AM.

Prepared by:

Katie White