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*Transportation Advisory Board  
Of the Metropolitan Council*

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

**Members Present:** Doug Fischer, Carla Stueve, Tim Mayasich, Lisa Freese, Steve Bot, Elaine Koutsoukos, Steve Peterson, Michael Larson, Adam Harrington, Lynne Bly, Amanda Smith, Dave Jacobson, John Shoffner, Peter Dahlberg, Danny McCullough, Jean Keely, Steve Albrecht, Paul Oehme, Michael Thompson, Bruce Loney, Jack Byers, Bill Dermody, Paul Kurtz (Excused: Brian Sorenson, Bridget Rief, Kris Riesenberger, Kim Lindquist, Jim Kosluchar, Jen Hager)

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Steve Albrecht at 9:07 a.m.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

A motion to approve the agenda was moved by Tim Mayasich and seconded by Doug Fischer. No discussion. Motion passed.

**3. Approval of July Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes was moved by Tim Mayasich and seconded by Michael Thompson. No discussion. Motion passed.

**4. TAB Report**

Elaine Koutsoukos reported on the February 15, 2017 TAB meeting.

**REPORTS**

**TAB Chair's Report:** TAB Executive Committee selected Vice-Chair Mary Hamann-Roland, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair Denny Laufenburger.

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

**MnDOT:** Scott McBride reported Highwayman play is playing at the History Center. It is a historical view of the I-94 project.

**MPCA:** David Thornton reported the public meetings will be held throughout the state on Volkswagon settlement. Additional information on the public meetings can be found by searching VW on the MPCA website.

**CTIB:** Karla Bigham reported that CTIB is having discussions to dissolve CTIB. They are going through the process to "unpack" the group.

**ACTION ITEMS**

1. **2017-06:** Approved Program Year Extension request from St. Paul Parks and Recreation

2. 2017-07: Approved Streamlined TIP Amendment for 5307 funds for construction of Metro Transit Police Facility

#### INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Principal Arterial Intersection Conversion Study
2. Regional Highway Spending Study
3. The Air We Breathe, Amanda Smith, MPCA

#### Committee Reports

##### A. Executive Committee (Steve Albrecht, Chair)

Steve Albrecht reported that the Executive Committee met to discuss the meeting's agenda.

##### B. Planning Committee (Lisa Freese, Chair)

Lisa Freese reported that there were no action items at TAC-Planning in February. There were information items on the work for the 2040 TPP Update and from Hennepin and Scott counties on their use of performance measures.

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

**2017-03 Overprogramming Regional Solicitation Projects.** Tim Mayasich could not attend the February Funding & Programming meeting so Paul Oehme chaired and presented this item. Steve Peterson provided background on this item. Dan Ruiz from Brooklyn Park and Will Manchester from Minnetonka expressed their support for the projects that could qualify for funding under the proposal.

Michael Thompson said that the decision today is a technical question which requires using an existing process. Carla Stueve spoke in favor of the staff analysis instead of the Funding & Programming recommendation. Elaine Koutsoukos said that TAB directed TAC to pick three projects. Michael Thompson said that once an overprogramming decision was made, this recommendation is the best outcome.

Doug Fischer suggested that this item be broken into two actions. Michael Thompson made the following **motion**: TAC recommends to TAB that the 2016 solicitation be overprogrammed to 8% of the total target value of the entire solicitation program. Tim Mayasich seconded the motion.

Bruce Loney asked if this motion would set new policy. Michael Thompson clarified that this is a case by case basis situation and TAB could disregard this recommendation in the future. Motion passes.

Doug Fischer said that there was no intent to change the projects, but TAB gave direction that an extra project from each mode should be chosen. Elaine Koutsoukos said that this would preserve modal balance with expected project withdrawals. Michael Thompson said that the process should determine that, if the region knew about this when the process started, how the money would have been distributed. Lynne Bly said that the circled option is closer to addressing the questions that Funding & Programming had at its last meeting. Since two bike/ped projects scored the same this altered and drove the discussion.

Dave Jacobson said that geographic balance is important as well, and will vote for a "one per mode" option. Jack Byers said that "one per mode" shouldn't be ignored because of the tie. Carla Stueve said

that the “one per mode” option was thrown out because of the overprogramming decision. TAB’s goal is to get to the midpoint which the circled option provides.

Lynne Bly moved that the option on page 4 of the Action Transmittal that was circled, and Michael Thompson seconded. Adam Harrington asked for clarification on which projects would be funded under the program. Jack Byers asked if the expansion projects are consistent with the TPP since the TPP emphasizes the need to invest in the existing system. Michael Thompson responded that Funding & Programming had the same discussion, and modernization already has more money for the solicitation. Tim Mayasich said that providing more than one recommendation for TAB would be challenging.

Motion passes.

**2017-08 Scott County Scope Change.** Paul Oehme presented this item. Lisa Freese added that the USDOT has requested that these projects turn into one project. Paul Oehme moved and Tim Mayasich seconded the recommended motion. Motion passes.

**2017-09 Scott County TIP Amendment.** Paul Oehme presented this item. Lisa Freese said that this action needs to happen in advance of environmental work. As part of the size of this project there is a 21 day public notice period. Paul Oehme moved and Michael Thompson seconded. Motion passes.

## **6. Special Agenda Items**

### **Regional Highway Spending Study.** (Tony Fischer, MTS)

Tony Fischer presented on the intent for this study. There were no questions.

### **2040 Transportation Policy Plan Update.** (Katie White, MTS)

Katie White presented on the expectations for the process for updating the TPP this year. There were no questions.

### **MnDOT Freight Investment Plan.** (David Tomporowski, MnDOT)

David Tomporowski presented the upcoming process for allocating freight improvement funds. Doug Fischer asked for clarification that the roadway segments do not need to be identified before the project solicitation is conducted. David Tomporowski said that is true. Michael Thompson asked if MnDOT is conducting outreach to cities. David Tomporowski responded that State Aid is conducting outreach regarding the three investment scenarios to cities. Michael Thompson asked if only State Aid eligible cities are eligible for these funds. David Tomporowski responded that all local roads are eligible. Amanda Smith asked if MnDOT has worked with MPCA on including environmental impacts in the evaluation of the submitted projects. David Tomporowski said that they would be open to that. Doug Fischer commented that interstates have 80,000 load limits but thanks to the legislature local roads now have a 99,000 load limit, which means bigger trucks are doing more damage to local roads today and into the future.

## **7. Agency Reports**

Amanda Smith said that public outreach is underway for how best to spend the \$47 million in VW settlement money. The next meeting is on Monday March 6 in Minneapolis from 6pm-8:30pm. A technical group is being pulled together and interested person should speak to her.

Adam Harrington said that route adjustments are coming Saturday due in part to softer ridership.

Elaine Koutsoukos said that surveys for those that worked on the Solicitation in any capacity are due today. Also, the TIP schedule went to Funding & Programming; the TIP will come to TAC on June 7.

#### **8. Other Business and Adjournment**

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 10:40am.

**Prepared by:**

Katie White