

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
 390 North Robert St., St. Paul MN 55101
REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD
 Wednesday, February 15, 2012

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Hargis, William, Chair	Hegberg, Dennis	Butcher, Gerry
Stark, Russ	Westerberg, Andy	Van Hattum, David	Isaacs, Aaron
Hovland, James	Gallagher, Steven	Lilligren, Robert	Maluchnik, Randy
Ulrich, Jon	McBride, Scott	Heffelfinger, Thomas	Thornton, David
Drotning, Karl	Sanger, Sue	McKnight, Kenya	Siddiqui, AJ
Donahoe, Margaret	Swanson, Dick	Fawley, Ethan	Rossbach, Will
Whalen, Julia	Callison, Jan (Mark Stenglein – alt.)	Have, Ron	
ABSENT:	Bennett, Tony	Krause, Paul	Duininck, Adam
	Janovy, Jennifer	Tjornhom, Bethany	Peilen, Lisa
	Petryk, Becky		
LIAISON/STAFF PRESENT:	Kevin Roggenbuck, TAB Coordinator		

I. CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Chair Hargis called the February 15, 2012 TAB meeting to order at 1:50 pm, Metropolitan Council Chambers, 390 North Robert St., St. Paul.

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Hargis suggested amending the agenda to move the information item on the Guideway status report to the end of the agenda. Motion by Hovland, seconded by Hegberg, to adopt the amended agenda for the February 15, 2012 TAB meeting.

Motion carried.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Gallagher, seconded by Stark, to approve the minutes from January 18, 2012 TAB meeting.

Motion carried.

IV. PUBLIC FORUM

Invitation to the public to address the Board about any issue not on the agenda. Public comment on the agenda items has occurred at the respective TAB subcommittee meetings.

There were no members of the public present to address the TAB at today's meeting.

V. TAB CHAIR REPORT

a. Report on TAB Executive Committee meeting of February 9.

Hargis reported he will miss the March TAB meeting, Hovland will chair the meeting. Notes from the February 9 meeting are included in the meeting packet. Hargis and Roggenbuck will continue to schedule individual meetings with TAB members. Annual reporting on the Regional Solicitation projects is needed; the last report was done in 2007. This is a work project for TAB and committees. Also, the Executive Committee is looking into forming a task force to review the Regional Solicitation process. A memo outlining the current process will be prepared and members will be invited to volunteer for the task force. The preliminary timeline for the report is September 2012. Robert Lilligren has been appointed the full-time TAB liaison to the Metro Council Transportation Committee and will give periodic reports.

VI. SPECIAL AGENDA

1. Governance of Transit in the Twin Cities Region

Judy Randall, Office of the Legislative Auditor, presented the results of the OLA report. The OLA has been criticized for their recommendation because the Metro Council is larger than just transit, but they felt the recommendation still had to be made. In their report, the OLA did not consider or study what to do about the Council's other functions (wastewater, parks, housing, etc.). Randall responded to Heffelfinger's question about the status of the recommendation in the legislature. She stated that last fall there was discussion and Rep. Beard is interested in the report. Ulrich stated that there is a bill in the legislature to remove eight citizen members and make the TAB the MPO for the region, and that Rep. Hornstein favors changing the Metro Council governance. Lilligren noted that the TAB was not given a chance to respond to the report, even though the recommendation reflects the TAB. He feels that lack of resources is the main problem, secondary to governance (example: expand the Transit Taxing District). Van Hattum asked why, if the region is doing well overall, then why the recommendations given by the OLA. Randall answered that there could be economic improvements and the situation will continue to get more difficult as resources become more strained. Isaacs stated that there is duplicative infrastructure and administrative staff now, and this was found to be an impediment, but the recommendation by the OLA still leaves many layers (opt-outs) and the results appear to be political.

2. Guideway Status Report

This item was moved to the end of the meeting. Due to lack of adequate time at the end of the meeting, it was decided that this item will appear at the March TAB meeting.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Technical Advisory Committee

Pat Bursaw reported on the February 1 TAC meeting. The TAC heard an overview of the report on the State Aviation System Plan, including the nine airports that the MAC is responsible for. The report will come out after the State Multimodal Plan in April. The TAC is reviewing its bylaws including the membership, and also looking at the Planning & Programming Guidebook, sunset date policy, and TIP balancing. A TAC workgroup will come to the TAB with recommendations on the sunset date policy.

B. Policy Committee

Russ Stark reported that the Policy Committee heard reports on the following:

a. Arterial Transitway Study presentation by Charles Carlson, Metro Transit
Staff looked at eleven corridors to identify opportunities to move toward a more BRT model, or other modes appropriate to the corridor. Snelling Corridor and West 7th Street rose to the top for more analysis.

b. Regional 2030 Transportation Policy Plan

The new transportation bill may include performance-based planning.

C. Programming Committee

Hovland reported that the Programming Committee met and discussed the following items:

a. Information: Update on the 2011 Regional Solicitation

Roggenbuck reported that the draft scoring is complete; the Funding and Programming Committee will post the outcomes and then recommend two options per category. Because there no transportation bill yet, the amount of funding is not known. The process will pause after project recommendations are given, until there is a transportation bill.

c. Information: Additional FFY 2012 Federal Funds

The Programming Committee heard from Greg Coughlin, MnDOT, about additional FFY 2012 federal funds coming to the state. Staff is discussing standards to help decide on allocating funds, possibly focusing on: existing projects, 2012 deliverability, low cost/high impact projects, all modes, job creation.

Recommendations should come from the TAC in April.

Hovland made a motion, and Westerberg seconded, to approve Items d through h and Items j and k, leaving items b and i as separate actions. Motion carried and the following were approved unanimously:

d. 2011-03: Scope Change Request: Carver County SP#010-090-004 (TE), Southwest Regional Trail connection.

That the TAB approve a scope change for Carver County SP#101-090-004: Southwest Regional Trail Connection to Change the Project Termini shifting the paved trail portion 800 feet to the east.

e. 2012-04: Sunset Date Extension Request: St. Paul SP#91-090-56 (TE), Cherokee Regional Trail

That the TAB approve a one year sunset date extension from March 31, 2012 to March 31, 2013 for Saint Paul SP#91-090-056, Cherokee Regional Trail.

f. 2012-05: Sunset Date Extension Request: Anoka County SP#002-607-019 (HSIP), CSAH 7/CSAH 14 intersection improvement.

That the TAB approve a one year sunset date extension from March 31, 2012 to March 31, 2013 for Anoka County SP#002-607-019, CSAH 7/CSAH 14 Intersection.

g. 2012-06: Sunset Date Extension Request: Ramsey County SP#164-020-01 (BIR), reconstruction of Bridge No. 5950, eastbound Warner Road over Childs Road and Eastbound Warner and SP#062-636-005 (TE), Warner Bridge bike & pedestrian improvements.

That the TAB approve a one year sunset date extension from March 31, 2012 to March 31, 2013 for Ramsey County SP#164-020-10; Reconstruct Bridge #5960-Eastbound Warner Road Bridge over Childs Road and railroads and SP#062-636-005: Warner Bridge bike and pedestrian improvements.

h. 2012-07: Sunset Date Extension Request: Saint Louis Park SP#2706-226 (STP), TH 7 and Louisiana Avenue interchanges.

That the TAB approve a one year sunset date extension from March 31, 2012 to March 31, 2013 for St. Louis Park for SP#2706-226: TH 7 and Louisiana Avenue Interchange.

j. 2012-09: 2012-2015 TIP Amendment Request, Metro Transit: Include Section 5307 funds for I-35E and CR 14 Park and Ride in Lino Lakes.

That the TAB adopt an amendment to the 2012-2015 TIP that adds Metro Transit SP#TRF-TCMT-11A: Section 5307 funds for I-35E and CR 14 Park & Ride in Lino Lakes.

k. 2012-10: 2012-2015 TIP Amendment Request for MnDOT SP#2785-364, I-494 from I-35W to TH 100 in Bloomington and Richfield to add westbound auxiliary lane, noise wall, including replacement of existing bridge and approaches.

That the TAB adopt an amendment to the 2012-2015 TIP to combine SP#2785-378, replacement of the Xerxes Avenue bridge over I-494 with the project scope of SP#2785-364, add Auxiliary lane on I-494 from I-35W to TH 100 and reflect increased total cost.

Items b and i were discussed separately:

b. 2011-60: MPCA Request for CMAQ Funds for Electric Vehicle Recharging Infrastructure

The Programming Committee discussed the proposal to re-affirm motion in Action Transmittal 2011-60. The motion passed at the Programming Committee by 7-6 vote. Heffelfinger stated (as last time) that he will refrain from voting due to a possible conflict of interest.

Motion by Lilligren, seconded by Whalen:

That the TAB funds the MPCA request and program federal funds in 2012 from the regional fund balance in 2012.

Also note that the approval will include approval of a TIP amendment, if approved

Discussion from TAB members:

Stark, Lilligren and Fawley: This is a window of opportunity; California car dealers are hearing the need for charging stations from potential EV buyers; 2015 construction is later than desired; the policies need to be flexible to keep up with the market and address non-attainment issues.

Rossbach: There is funding for all modes of transit, this should be considered as another mode.

Whalen: Not opposed to EVs, but questions whether it is the government's place to incentivize the market.

These stations should perhaps be funded by the private sector. Does not see the reduction in range anxiety, as the stations could be tied up all day by a single vehicle.

Hegberg: agreed with Whalen and added that this money could be used for transit projects.

Westerberg: supports the technology but perhaps should wait, added that the money could be better spent on projects that move more people.

Sanger opposed the action for the following reasons: EV buyers are eligible for 10% tax credit and should use the savings to upgrade their own plug-ins; businesses should consider charging stations as a part of the cost of doing business; no strong data exists about range anxiety – it may not be a reason deterring EV purchases; this could set a precedent for the role of government; the emissions calculations do not include the emissions used to produce electricity to charge EVs; this project circumvents the processes in place.

Drotning stated that we are ahead of the curve on this, there aren't that many EVs in use at this time and there are other options for which to use this funding.

Hargis called the question and asked for a hand vote.

Motion passed with 14 yes votes and 11 no votes.

Ulrich stated that this item has appeared before the TAB many times, and the full TAB membership should be given the chance to vote.

i. 2012-08: Sunset Date Extension Request: City of Anoka SP#0103-080-02 (CMAQ), structured parking facility for the Northstar Commuter Rail Transit Village.

Hovland reported that this item was discussed at the Programming Committee. A motion was made at the programming Committee by Westerberg, seconded by Stenglein and passed unanimously to change the motion from "deny" to "approve" the sunset date extension. The action comes to the full TAB to approve the sunset date extension.

Motion by Hovland, seconded by Westerberg:

That the TAB approve a one year sunset extension from March 31, 2012 to March 31, 2013 for City of Anoka SP#103-080-02: Structured Parking Facility for the Northstar Commuter Rail Transit Village.

Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. ITEMS OF TAB MEMBERS

McKnight asked if the TAB would get involved in the OLA recommendation debate. Hovland replied that the TAB traditionally would not, the Metro Council will respond, and individual TAB members from cities, counties, etc. might respond.

Isaacs asked for information to be presented on the Dial-a-Ride effectiveness and the trip handoff to fixed route service.

Heffelfinger suggested scheduling some future TAB meetings in other locations other than Metro Council, perhaps 2-3 times a year. Sanger suggested these locations be accessible by transit. Roggenbuck is working on this.

IX. AGENCY REPORTS

None.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Hargis adjourned the regular meeting of TAB at 3:20 pm on Wednesday, February 15, 2012.

Respectfully submitted: LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary