

Minutes of the REGULAR MEETING OF THE TAC FUNDING & PROGRAMING COMMITTEE

Thursday, May 16, 2019

Committee Members Present: Paul Oehme (Chair, Chanhassen), Joe MacPherson (Anoka County), Lyndon Robjent (Carver County), John Sass (Dakota County), Jason Pieper (Hennepin County), Joe Lux (Ramsey County), Craig Jenson (Scott County), Emily Jorgensen (Washington County), Elaine Koutsoukos (TAB), Cole Hiniker (Metropolitan Council), Anna Flintoft (Metro Transit), Molly McCartney (MnDOT Metro District), Colleen Brown (MnDOT Metro District State Aid), Mehjabeen Rahman (MPCA), Mackenzie Turner Bargaen (MnDOT Bike & Ped), Nancy Spooner-Mueller (DNR), Aaron Bartling (MVTA), Jim Kosluchar (Fridley), Ken Ashfeld (Maple Grove), Michael Thompson (Plymouth), Anne Weber (St. Paul)

Committee Members Absent: Karl Keel (Bloomington), Robert Ellis (Eden Prairie), Nathan Koster (Minneapolis)

I. CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Oehme called the regular meeting of the Funding & Programming Committee to order at 1:32 p.m. on Thursday, May 16, 2019.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Ashfeld and seconded by Koutsoukos to approve the agenda. **Motion carried unanimously.**

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Spooner-Mueller and seconded by Pieper to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2019, regular meeting of the Funding & Programming Committee. **Motion carried unanimously.**

IV. TAB REPORT

Koutsoukos reported on the May 15, 2019, TAB meeting.

V. BUSINESS

1. 2019-26 Draft 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program

Barbeau said the draft 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a \$5 billion program. Oehme asked whether that is higher than usual. McCartney replied that it is higher because 2017 bond-funded projects are included. Barbeau added that a Corridors of Commerce project makes the Wright and Sherburne counties' funding significantly larger than ever.

It was moved by Spooner-Mueller and seconded by MacPherson, to recommend adoption of the draft 2020-2023 TIP for release for a public comment period. **Motion carried unanimously.**

VI. INFORMATION

1. Regional Bicycle Barrier Study

Steve Elmer, Metropolitan Council, provided an update on the recently completed Regional Bicycle Barrier Study (RBBS).

2. Regional Solicitation; Technical Changes on Roadway Applications

Steve Peterson, Metropolitan Council, and Barbeau shared potential changes for the 2020 Regional Solicitation. One such change included adding a Spot Mobility funding category and eliminating the Bridge funding category, allowing bridge projects to compete in the Roadway Reconstruction/Modernization category. Lux suggested that bridge applications may not compete well in that category. Peterson said that some measures would separate scoring for bridge and roadway projects. Robjert asked why the combination of categories is being considered, to which Peterson replied that this would keep the number of funding categories in check.

MacPherson said that the Spot Mobility category could provide for high-value, low cost projects while contributing geographic balance. Oehme asked how that category would differ from MnDOT's Local Partnership Program (LPP). McCartney said that the LPP is only about \$3 million, annually and funds six-to-10 low-cost projects per year.

Barbeau said that the scorer for the winter maintenance measure in the Multiuse Trails and Bicycle Facilities category had difficulty drawing a line between full credit and no credit. MacPherson said that the measure should remain all-or-none. Brown said that a decision needs to be made on specifically what is being asked for of the applicants. Robjert suggested a resolution that the specific trail is going to be plowed should be required. Kosluchar suggested that snow removal could be a qualifying requirement.

Barbeau said that a Safe Routes to School measure reads "Student population within one mile of the elementary school, middle school, or high school served by the project." In 2018, applicants interpreted this in various ways, including population in certain age groups and students enrolled the school. The inconsistency was not correctable, and the measure was nullified. Kosluchar said that schools keep statistics on where students live.

Regarding awarding points in the Roadway categories for leveraging local funds, Pieper said that state policy favors funding bridge projects that obtain federal funding, which could impact this score.

Peterson said that the measure on project location relative to jobs, manufacturing, and education could be eliminated from roadway categories because the distance traveled to such locations is further by automobile than other modes. Robjert expressed agreement, though Lux said this can be a valuable measure.

Peterson asked whether anyone had ideas on elements that can be removed from the risk assessment. Robjert suggested that public involvement should be added.

Robjert said that interchange applications should not get credit for traffic on the cross streets.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by McCartney and seconded by MacPherson, to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried unanimously** and the meeting adjourned.

Joe Barbeau
Recording Secretary