

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD (TAB)

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Metropolitan Council Chambers, 390 Robert Street North, Saint Paul

Committee Members Present:

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Hovland, James, Chair	McBride, Scott	Hamann-Roland, Mary
Parsons, Rolf	Goins, William	Crimmins, Carl	Sandahl, Suzanne
Villella, Sam	Ulrich, Jon	Reich, Kevin	Tolbert, Chris
Hansen, Gary	Look, Matt	Swanson, Dick	Staples, Jamez
Dugan, Peter	Hollinshead, Mathews	Giuliani Stephens, Mary	Foster, Amity
Gorecki, Bruce	Fawley, Ethan	Gaylord, Kathleen	McGuire, Mary Jo
Karwoski, Stan	Rodriguez, Katie	Laufenburger, Denny	Anderson, Doug
Christensen, Carrie (Johnson, Conor)	Thornton, David (Biewen, Todd)	Callison, Jan (Goettel, Debbie)	
ABSENT:	Wosje, Jeff	Tabke, Brad	Petryk, Becky
	Maluchnik, Randy		
Liaison/Staff Present:	Koutsoukos, Elaine TAB Coordinator	Freese, Lisa TAC Chair	Thompson, Nick MTS Director

I. CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Hovland called the regular meeting of the Transportation Advisory Board to order at 12:40 p.m. on Wednesday, April 18, 2018.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Hamann-Roland, seconded by McGuire, to approve the agenda of the April 18, 2018, regular meeting of the Transportation Advisory Board. **Motion carried.**

III. PUBLIC FORUM

Invitation to the public to address the Board about any issue not on the agenda. There was no one in the audience who wished to speak on items not on the agenda.

Staples addressed the Board regarding his potential conflict of interest in the D Line transit corridor because of his property investments along it. Rodriguez added that so far this has not been an issue with Staples thus far, but agreed with Chair Hovland that Staples should recuse himself if an item comes before TAB that would present a conflict of interest. Ulrich and Giuliani Stephens commented on the passing of former TAB Chair, Bill Hargis.

IV. REPORTS

1. TAB Chair's Report

Hovland reported that in the Executive Committee meeting McBride shared that in June MnDOT's Philip Schaffner will be at TAB to talk about the project selection model used at MnDOT. Schaffner is systematically working to bring transparency to the MnDOT project selection process by analyzing and quantifying the data involved. Hovland also reported that the Scope Change Policy Task Force led by Paul Oehme will be brought before the TAB in late summer of this year.

2. Agency Reports MnDOT, MPCA, MAC, and Metropolitan Council

MnDOT, Scott McBride:

McBride reported that as of the end of February they had already spent 35% more on snow and ice in the metro district than they had the year before, so with March and April's snow their budget will be hit hard. McBride provided an update on the Corridors of Commerce: scoring of projects has been completed, lists have been made, lists are in the Commissioner's office, and soon the lists will be sent to the Governor's office. McGuire asked how often the Minnesota Legislature has followed the MnDOT recommendations for projects. McBride said that this is the first time the Corridors of Commerce has had this criteria with which to rank projects, so there is no history to refer to regarding Legislative recommendations aligning with MnDOT's. Sandahl asked if an explanation of criteria and ranking process is given to the Legislature, McBride answered in the affirmative.

MPCA, Todd Biewen on behalf of David Thornton:

Biewen reported that the Volkswagen Settlement Beneficiary Mitigation Plan implementation is starting now that the settlement is final. The changes made as a result of the last round of listening sessions are: an increased amount available for school bus replacement, clarification that third parties may aggregate and apply on behalf of several or many separate entities, and changes to the minimum requirement for electric vehicle charging stations along highway corridors in order to get more stations into phase one. McGuire asked if the Minnesota Legislature has to ratify any of the decisions, Biewen answered that the Legislature does not ratify these decisions.

MAC, Carl Crimmins:

Crimmins reported that construction is ongoing, the hotel building is on schedule, and the snow removal budget was maxed out in the middle of March. Chair Hovland asked about Delta phasing out the MD-90s. Crimmins answered that all the MDs will be phased out in the near future since the larger planes are more fuel efficient, have quieter engines, and the additional capacity equates to fewer flights.

Metropolitan Council, Katie Rodriguez:

Rodriguez reported that the Metropolitan Council received a national achievement award for planning. Rodriguez shared that in the last few years the Metropolitan Council has received national awards for its transit system, its wastewater system, and now for planning. Rodriguez stated that Chair Tchourumoff has announced the membership for the Gold Line Corridor Management Committee, she added that Karwoski is on the committee. Karwoski said that the Gateway Corridor Commission was renamed to the Gold Line Partners to reflect the many partnerships involved.

3. Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Report

Freese reported that she had nothing to add other than the items on the TAB agenda today.

V. CONSENT ITEMS

1. Approval of Minutes from March 21, 2018

It was moved by Anderson, seconded by Reich, to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2018, regular meeting of the Transportation Advisory Board. **Motion carried.**

VI. ACTION ITEMS

1. 2018-24 Release Draft TPP for Public Comment

TAC Chair Lisa Freese and Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning & Finance Deputy Director Amy Vennewitz presented this item. Goins said that the TAB Executive Committee discussed the map and clarified layout, and brought up the responsibility and opportunity to educate the public on the long-term importance for the movement of both commuters and commerce for the area.

It was moved by Hamann-Roland, seconded by Crimmins, that:
The Transportation Advisory Board recommend that the Metropolitan Council release the draft update of the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan for public review and comment. **Motion carried.**

2. 2018-28 Streamlined TIP Amendment: 5310, MnDOT

TAC Chair Lisa Freese presented this item. There were no questions or comments from TAB members.

It was moved by Ulrich, seconded by Parsons, that:
The Transportation Advisory Board recommend adoption of an amendment into the 2018-2021 TIP to include funding for three “Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities” projects. **Motion carried.**

3. 2018-29 Streamlined TIP Amendment: Railroad Signal Equipment, MnDOT

TAC Chair Lisa Freese presented this item. McGuire asked if there would be more incentive for saving if the money saved stayed in a geographic area versus being redistributed. Freese answered that the money is often administered by MnDOT, not a regional program. Chair Hovland commented that federal money going directly to MnDOT still requires a TIP amendment.

It was moved by Hansen, seconded by Anderson, that:
The Transportation Advisory Board adopt an amendment into the 2018-2021 TIP to add two railroad crossing signal replacement projects. **Motion carried.**

4. 2018-30 Streamlined TIP Amendment: Traffic Management System, MnDOT

TAC Chair Lisa Freese presented this item. There were no questions or comments from TAB members.

It was moved by Look, seconded by Hamann-Roland, that:
The Transportation Advisory Board adopt the amendment into the 2018-2021 TIP to add a MnDOT traffic management project (SP # 8825-658). **Motion carried.**

5. 2018-27 TIP Amendment: Safety Performance Measure Language

TAC Chair Lisa Freese and Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner David Burns presented this item. There were no questions or comments from TAB members.

It was moved by Rodriguez, seconded by Hamann-Roland, that:
The Transportation Advisory Board approve an amendment to the 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to incorporate safety performance measure language inclusive of a statement that the long-term goal is zero deaths and that the targets represent a reduction relative to existing safety data. **Motion carried.**

6. 2018-25 Scope Change: Expo Area Safe Routes to School, St. Paul

TAC Chair Lisa Freese presented this item. Tolbert suggested an amendment to this motion to include language to maintain the federal funding award at 80% since it has not gone out to bid yet and this is in line with other scope changes approved. Giuliani Stephens asked for clarification on the calculation. TAB Coordinator Elaine Koutsoukos said that similar to the next action item (2018-26) a new cost estimate has been given; if the project comes under budget the money will come back. McGuire asked why TAC treated the two items differently. Freese answered that this action item came before the question was raised by 2018-26. Rodriguez expressed concern about projects keeping extra money when coming for a scope change when another project without a scope change doesn't get the same benefit and must fund additional costs from higher bids.

It was moved by Tolbert, seconded by McGuire, that:
The Transportation Advisory Board approve the scope change request to eliminate some of the sidewalks from the City of St. Paul's Expo Area Schools Safe Routes to School project (SP # 164-591-002) and maintain the federal funding award at 80% but not to exceed the original federal award of \$498,400. **Motion carried.**

7. 2018-26 Scope Change: TH 212, HSIP, MnDOT

TAC Chair Lisa Freese presented this item. There were no questions or comments from TAB members.

It was moved by McBride, seconded by Reich that:
The Transportation Advisory Board approve a scope change request for MnDOT's TH 212 Reduced Conflict Intersection project (SP # 1013-90S) to replace the reduced conflict intersection at CSAH 36 with other safety and access solutions and to provide federal funding at 90%, but not to exceed the original federal award of \$972,000. **Motion carried.**

VII. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)

Metropolitan Transportation Services Highway Planning & TAB/TAC Process Manger Steve Peterson and MnDOT North Metro Traffic Engineer Gayle Gedstad presented this item. Chair Hovland asked when the applications open, and if a notice will be sent out to the governmental bodies that may apply. Gedstad answered that the applications will open on June 1, 2018 and that a notice will be sent out. McGuire asked if the criteria for getting the money is based solely on crash data and if there a geographic balance to it. Gedstad said that 70% of the funding goes to reactive projects (which means a crash has already happened), and 30% of the funding goes to proactive projects. Proactive funding is an engineering judgement category versus the benefit-cost ratio assessment that is used to determine reactive funding. TAB Coordinator Elaine Koutsoukos said that the application is attached for TAB members to read through. McGuire asked how the

judgement is made when there are more applications than funding. Peterson answered that on page 5 the criteria is detailed regarding what the committee is looking at as they score projects. Goins asked about roundabout standards to ensure that freight is handled effectively. Gedstad answered that all roundabouts should be designed to handle the standard 62-foot-long semis but that the first roundabouts weren't built with the inside truck apron to accommodate the back end of semis so have had to be redone. Karwoski asked when the funding is available, and Peterson answered that 2022 is the earliest that projects can be reimbursed with funding. Karwoski asked about the maximum federal amount of \$1.8 million listed. Koutsoukos answered that the maximum that can be requested is \$1.8 million out of a \$2 million project; HSIP has a project costs maximum of \$2 million and it is a 90/10 funding. Gedstad said the intent of HSIP funding is to have high value for smaller stand-alone projects. Hollinshead asked if Metro Transit or other providers review the proximity of bus stops to roundabouts. Gedstad said that most everyone who applies hires a consultant who would hopefully be looking for such issues. Peterson added that there are a lot of pedestrian and trail projects submitted as well. Hovland invited McBride to give an example of operating within a constrained budget by sharing the overall dollar volume request for the Corridors of Commerce projects versus the money available. McBride stated that for Corridors of Commerce, around 172 projects were submitted totaling \$5.6 billion; the amount available to be awarded is \$.4 billion.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS AND ITEMS OF TAB MEMBERS

Chair Hovland shared the query brought up in the Executive Committee regarding the powers of the TAB relative to advocacy for transportation-related matters.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Jenna Ernst
Recording Secretary