

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

Thursday, February 20, 2020

Committee Members Present: Paul Oehme (Chair, Lakeville), Jerry Auge (Anoka County), Angie Stenson (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), Steve Peterson (Metropolitan Council), Anna Flintoft (Metro Transit), Shaker Rabban (MnDOT Metro District), Colleen Brown (MnDOT Metro District State Aid), Innocent Eyoh (MPCA), Mackenzie Turner Bargaen (MnDOT Bike & Ped), Aaron Bartling (MVTA), Robert Ellis (Eden Prairie), Jim Kosluchar (Fridley), Ken Ashfeld (Maple Grove), Michael Thompson (Plymouth), Nathan Koster (Minneapolis), Anne Weber (St. Paul)

Committee Members Absent: Nancy Spooner-Mueller (DNR), Karl Keel (Bloomington)

I. CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Chair Oehme called the regular meeting of the Funding & Programming Committee to order at 1:32 p.m. on Thursday, February 20, 2020.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: It was moved by Koutsoukos and seconded by Lux to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2020, regular meeting of the Funding & Programming Committee. **Motion carried unanimously.**

IV. TAB REPORT

Koutsoukos reported on the February 19, 2020, TAB meeting.

V. BUSINESS

1. 2020-11: Scope Change Request: Metro Transit Route 63 Service Improvement

Barbeau said that Metro Transit was awarded \$6,122,444 to improve frequency on Route 63 as part of the 2016 Regional Solicitation. In response to local interest to extend service, Metro Transit requests a scope change to reflect the following changes:

- End Route 63 at Sun Ray Transit Center, removing the eastern end of the route.
- Establish a suburban-local route, Route 323, from Sun Ray Transit Center, along the removed portion of Route 63, and into Maplewood and Woodbury. This would run every 30 minutes.
- Reduce the number of buses purchased from five to three because new buses are only needed for Route 323.

Five projects were funded in the Transit Expansion category. This project outscored the highest un-funded project by 130 points. Therefore, it is probable that the project would have been funded if originally proposed as being proposed now. Service on the small portion miles being shifted from route 63 to 323` will be reduced from 20- to 30-minute service and will require a transfer to get to the remaining Route 63. Staff recommends reducing the original federal award of \$6,122,444 to \$5,345,600, which reflects 80% of the new, lower total project cost of \$6,682,000.

Mike Mechtenberg from Metro Transit said that customers have expressed interest in serving markets to the east of the current route terminus, adding that Woodbury Village and Woodwinds Hospital do not have service at this time.

Oehme asked whether ridership will increase. Mechtenberg said that improved service will increase ridership on the part of Route 63 that remains intact, maintain service on the piece of Route 63 being replaced by Route 323, and add service to the new coverage being provided by Route 323.

Oehme asked whether the original application included a spare bus. Mechtenberg replied that all applications do, usually at 20 percent of the buses needed and at least one bus.

MOTION: It was moved by Lux and seconded by Jorgensen to recommend approval of the scope change request. **Motion carried unanimously.**

2. 2020-12: TIP Amendment Request: Metro Transit Route 63 Service Improvement

Barbeau said that the scope change request reflects the action recommended in Metro Transit's scope change request. He added that some of the funding is moved to 2020, as some funding became available.

MOTION: It was moved by Ellis and Seconded by Jorgensen to recommend approval of this TIP amendment request. **Motion carried unanimously.**

VI. INFORMATION

1. Regional Studies Update Cycle

Steve Elmer from the Metropolitan Council discussed updates of the Regional Bicycle Transportation Network (RBTN), Regional Bicycle Barrier Crossing Improvement Areas, and the Regional Truck Freight Corridors Study. Peterson discussed updates for the Principal Arterial Intersection Conversion Study, Congestion Management Safety Plan (CMSP) opportunity areas, and Congestion Management Process (CMP) speed data.

Koster suggested that CMP speed data efforts include context sensitivity related to balancing speed and mobility with safety. Kosluchar asked whether the five-year timeframe for CMSP indicates that the plan is static, to which Peterson replied that it is, as projects are scoped out five years in advance. Lux asked whether the bicycle and freight studies will be brought through TAC Planning Committee to which Elmer replied that the bicycle projects will, and the Regional Truck Freight Corridors Study will go through TAC Planning and/or Funding & Programming.

Koster asked whether other studies will be considered before the 2022 Regional Solicitation. Peterson said that the Pedestrian Safety Action Plan might.

2. TPP Work Program.

Peterson, Elmer, Heidi Schallberg, and Daniel Pena, all of the Metropolitan Council, discussed various studies coming up in the near future.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Barbeau said that room reservations have been fluid at the Metropolitan Council and asked whether members have a preference among Room LLA, Room 1A, and the Council Chambers. Some members expressed preference toward Room 1A. Barbeau said that the meetings will be held there.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: It was moved by Eyoh and seconded by Lux to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried unanimously** and the meeting was adjourned.

Joe Barbeau
Recording Secretary