
*Transportation Advisory Board
Of the Metropolitan Council*

**Minutes of a Meeting of the
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, May 6, 2015
9:00 A.M.**

Members Present: Andrew Witter, Lyndon Robjant, Brian Sorenson, Chris Sagsveen, Tim Mayasich, Lisa Freese, Cory Slagle, Steve Bot, Elaine Koutsoukos, Mark Filipi, Michael Larson, Adam Harrington, Pat Bursaw, Innocent Eyoh, Beverley Miller, Jim Gromberg, Danny McCullough, Karl Keel, Steve Albrecht, Paul Oehme, Kim Lindquist, Steve Love, Bruce Loney, Jenifer Hager, Jack Byers, Paul Kurtz, Michelle Beaulieu (Members Excused: Bridget Rief, Jean Keely)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Steve Albrecht recommended that the Information Items for Streetcar Policy and Model and Forecasting be switched. Tim Mayasich moved and Mark Filipi seconded. No discussion. Motion passed.

3. Approval of March Minutes

The April 1, 2015 meeting minutes were approved as written. Tim Mayasich moved and Mark Filipi seconded. No discussion. Motion passed.

4. TAB Report

Elaine Koutsoukos reported on the May 15, 2015 TAB meeting.

Reports:

TAB Chair: James Hovland reported that the TAB Executive Committee met prior to today's TAB meeting. There was complex discussion regarding the Regional Solicitation funding and final scores, which will be part of the TAB discussions and recommendations at this TAB meeting.

The TAB Executive Committee also briefly discussed 2016 money, the discussion will continue at future meetings.

Met Council: Katie Rodriguez reported that the Metropolitan Council approved the draft amendment to the 2040 Housing Policy Plan on March 25. The plan has three main components including an update of the allocation of affordable housing need and update of the criteria to develop the housing performance scores. The plan is out for public comment until May 15. On Thursday 4/09 updated local forecasts of population, employment and households went out to local governments. The forecasts will be out for public comment until May.

Action Items:

1. 2015-21 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement (TIP) Schedule was approved.

Information Items:

- Regional Solicitation Final Scores and Funding Discussion
 - The TAB Executive Committee looked at the 8 scenarios, and came to the conclusion that they would like the Funding & Programming Committee to look at: a) Mid-Level Base b) Expansion-Heavy and c) Modernization/Reconstruction-Heavy Scenarios.
 - Provide additional information on funding distribution over time.
 - Provide information on total transportation funding that is available outside of the funding available through the Regional Solicitation.
- Travel Demand Management (TDM) Project Update
- Transit On-Board Survey

5. Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee (Steve Albrecht, Chair)

Steve Albrecht reported that Dave Christianson has moved to MnDOT-Commercial Vehicles and will no longer be the MnDOT-Freight representative on TAC. Duane Schwartz's (Roseville) position has not yet been filled by Metro Cities. The Executive Committee discussed how changes to the agenda will be made, and spent a significant amount of time discussing Action Item 2015-28.

B. Funding and Programming Committee (Tim Mayasich, Chair)

2015-23: Hennepin County Scope Change

Tim Mayasich presented this item. There have been many changes to this project, most noticeably a price increase from \$19M to \$40M, the increase of which is being shouldered entirely by the county. \$4M in utility costs are included now as well. A TIP amendment is not needed because it fits into the timeline for the next TIP. These kinds of changes are typical of such large projects. It passed out of Funding & Programming unanimously.

Adam Harrington asked if there was no change in the federal dollars received, and Tim Mayasich confirmed that this is the case. Adam Harrington said that it is a giant scope expansion, but is the right thing to do for this project. Chris Sagsveen stated that it is a large project that includes significant property acquisition and utility work which impacts the scoring. Safety improvements are now included in the scope as a result of public input. Karl Keel said that the staff report accurately said construction costs are increasing across the board due to the recovery after the recession.

Tim Mayasich moved and Karl Keel seconded. Motion passed.

2015-24: TDM Solicitation

Katie White introduced this item. The format and scoring criteria for the TDM solicitation comes from the complete Solicitation packet that was approved last September by TAB. For timing reasons, it made sense to not release this solicitation with the other nine and to wait until this fall to release. Under this schedule, the solicitation will open on August 1, 2015.

Tim Mayasich moved and Paul Oehme seconded. Motion passed.

2015-22: Solicitation Funding Scenarios

Steve Peterson introduced this item. Originally TAB was presented with eight funding scenarios but they requested three for this month. Scenario A is the midpoint scenario, Scenario B is the expansion-heavy scenario, and Scenario C is the modernization/reconstruction-heavy scenario.

Lyndon Robjent believes that some system management projects in Carver County are missing from the maps. Karl Keel believes the report and tables are very clear and thanked staff for their work.

Tim Mayasich moved and Mark Filipi seconded the recommended motion.

Karl Keel said that the mid-point Scenario A is already tilted heavily in favor of reconstruction. Tim Mayasich said that these are the three scenarios that TAB wanted to see. Carl Ohrn said that over the past three or four solicitations, TAB was more involved in the development of the options. Pat Bursaw said that TAB is not requesting a recommendation on the Scenarios from TAC, just the options laid out with analysis.

Lyndon Robjent said that Scenario C is way outside what we have done in the past and should not be advanced to the TAB. Scenario C is 30% expansion, as opposed to the 60% expansion that previous solicitations have seen. Elaine Koutsoukos said that TAC could change each of the scenarios if they wanted to. Steve Albrecht said that TAB Executive Committee is open to guidance. Adam Harrington added that Scenario C has a good bridge program included, and Lyndon Robjent pointed out that those bridges are all in one county. Tim Mayasich said that TAB will have that conversation about geographic balance. Tim Mayasich added that the tables and analysis are excellent quality and TAB will use it to come to a final decision.

Karl Keel moved to amend the original motion to state that TAC prefers Scenario A or B. Lyndon Robjent seconded the motion.

Jack Byers said that the TAC should support all three scenarios. Geographic balance and social equity are included across the options. Karl Keel said that Scenario A and Scenario B reflect two approaches well, and both are better than Scenario C. Steve Albrecht said that this conversation would have been better suited to Funding & Programming.

Vote on Karl Keel's amendment: 9 aye, 14 nay, with Steve Bot (Region 7W) abstaining.

Vote on original motion passes unanimously.

2015-28: Options for 2016 CMAQ Funding

Steve Peterson introduced this item. This is an urgent issue for TAB and must be addressed by their June meeting in order to meet the TIP schedule. Steve Albrecht said that TAC Executive Committee would like to see this go back to Funding & Programming in May for a fuller discussion. A policy discussion cannot happen until the funding considerations have been made on the larger solicitation package.

Lyndon Robjent said that the Transit On Board Survey should be funded through this shift in CMAQ availability. Adam Harrington and Beverley Miller agreed.

Tim Mayasich moved and Pat Bursaw seconded a motion to send the item to Funding & Programming. Motion passed.

Information Item: HSIP Funding

Joe Barbeau outlined MnDOT's HSIP procedures.

Information Item: Quarterly Streamlined Amendment Summary

Joe Barbeau summarized the streamlined TIP amendments that have not been brought to TAC. Karl Keel said that this process has been a huge improvement for the committees. Steve Albrecht added that this process has continued to evolve, and that not all amendments recommended for streamlining actually are approved.

C. Planning Committee (Lisa Freese, Chair)

The Planning committee met in April for information items. The May meeting will include information items and a summary of how the seven county meetings have been going.

6. Special Agenda Items**Orange Line Update** (Christina Morrison and Charles Carlson, Metro Transit)

Christina Morrison and Charles Carlson provided an update of project activities and funding to date. It is expected that in mid-2016 a federal rating will become available which will release federal dollars. Construction will occur in 2017 in conjunction with the I-35W Lake Street Access project. Construction will wrap in 2019 and service will begin in 2019.

Model Development and Forecasting (Jonathan Ehrlich, MTS)

Jonathan Ehrlich provided an overview of how the new activity-based model is developed.

Lyndon Robjent asked if the software is new or built on the old model. Jonathan Ehrlich responded that it is partially built on the old Cube software but has a custom written code called Tourcast. Lyndon Robjent asked if the new model will be any faster; counties need to set aside several hours for the model to run. Jonathan Ehrlich responded that it will take about the same amount of time, but will accomplish much more over the duration that it runs.

Jack Byers asked if there is a change in the sample size that has created a change in the unit of analysis. Jonathan Ehrlich responded that since the Council has been anticipating this model change for several years now, all previous work and studies have been modified to make this change across the board. The 2010 TBI was built to feed into this model accurately.

Lyndon Robjent asked if the 2010 TBI is already out of date. Jonathan Ehrlich responded that there is a TBI Evaluation underway right now to determine if a different TBI program is necessary. Recommendations are expected this summer.

Innocent Eyoh asked if the new model will interface with the air quality model Moves. Jonathan Ehrlich responded that it will interface better, and that Moves is used in the Council.

Karl Keel asked how Google is changing modeling activities. Jonathan Ehrlich responded that they would like to use Google's data but we won't get it. Google has changed the expectations of what is privacy and what is possible.

Streetcar Policy (Cole Hiniker, MTS)

Cole Hiniker presented the summary of streetcar policies from across the country. A request was made that the entire TAC receive the final report from the consultant.

7. Agency Reports

There were no agency reports.

8. Other Business and Adjournment

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 10:42AM.

Prepared by:

Katie White