

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD
Metropolitan Council
Minutes of a Meeting of the
FUNDING AND PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE
April 19, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT: Paul Oehme (Chair, Chanhassen), Ken Ashfeld (City of Maple Grove), Lynne Bly (MnDOT Metro District), Colleen Brown (MnDOT State Aid), Robert Ellis (City of Eden Prairie), Innocent Eyoh (MPCA), Anna Flintoft (Metro Transit), Jenifer Hager (Minneapolis), Craig Jenson (Scott County), Emily Jorgensen (Washington County), Elaine Koutsoukos (TAB), Jen Lehmann (MVTA), Joe Lux (Ramsey County), Joe MacPherson (Anoka County), Gina Mitteco (MnDOT Bike & Ped), Steve Peterson (Metropolitan Council), Jason Pieper (Hennepin County), Lyndon Robjent (Carver County), Michael Thompson (Plymouth), Anne Weber (St. Paul), and Joe Barbeau (staff)

OTHERS PRESENT: David Burns (Metropolitan Council), Charles Carlson (Metro Transit), Gayle Gedstad (MnDOT)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order just after 1:30 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION: Lux moved to adopt the agenda. Seconded by Lehmann. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Approval of the Minutes from the March 22, 2018, Meeting

MOTION: Eyoh moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by MacPherson. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. TAB Report – Information Item

Koutsoukos reported on the April 18, 2018, TAB meeting, which included the approval of seven action items:

- Release of the draft Transportation Performance Plan for public comment.
- Streamlined TIP amendment for MnDOT-sponsored “Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities” projects.
- Streamlined TIP amendment to add railroad crossing signal equipment.
- Streamlined TIP amendment for a traffic management system project.
- TIP amendment to incorporate safety performance measure language.
- Scope change for MnDOT-sponsored Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) project on US 212 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 \$498,400.
- Scope change for St. Paul’s Expo Area Safe Routes to School project to eliminate sidewalks and maintain the federal funding amount award at 80%, not to exceed the original federal award of \$972,000.

5. 2022-2023 Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Solicitation – Action Item 2018-31

Gedstad and Peterson provided a brief presentation on the purpose of funds, funding availability, project types, program history, and schedule for the Highways Safety Improvement Program (HSIP).

Robjent asked whether funds can be used on collectors, to which Peterson replied in the affirmative. Robjent asked whether a project funded through this program can be combined with other projects. Koutsoukos replied that two projects can be built at the same time. Barbeau said that the maximum project cost is \$2 million. Gedstad suggested asking about specific scenarios via email to MnDOT. Brown suggested addressing the total project maximum cost.

Jenson asked whether the scoring committee has been formed, to which Gedstad replied there are openings.

MOTION: Lux moved to recommend approval of the 2022-2023 HSIP Solicitation program criteria for the Metro District and the release of the solicitation. Seconded by Jorgensen. The motion was approved unanimously.

6. Update on the Arterial Bus Rapid Transit Network – Information Item

Carlson provided an update on arterial bus rapid transit (ABRT). He discussed the future rapid transit network, causes of delay, and features of four different lines at various stages of planning and development.

Lux asked how much less frequent stops will be versus local service. Carlson replied that local routes tend to have six-to-eight stops per mile versus about one stop every half-mile for rapid transit.

Peterson asked how the corridors are prioritized. Carlson replied that project readiness is a key element.

Koutsoukos asked whether the West 7th Street corridor, which had been removed from the priority list at the request of Ramsey County, would be implemented in the future. Carlson said that the Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority is focused on streetcars along that corridor.

Barbeau asked how to determine where stations are placed and whether there is public outreach on that topic. Carlson replied that stations are almost always placed at connecting routes and that other station selection is based on spacing and ridership. He added that station site selection is an iterative process. Bly added that accessibility is generally assured at stations, to which Carlson replied that the reduced number of stations, versus local stops enables greater attention to maintenance.

Eyoh asked what the frequency is for ABRT and local routes, to which Carlson replied 10 minutes for the former and 30 minutes for the latter.

7. Regional Solicitation Congestion Measure – Information Item

Burns provided information on the use of congestion data in the Regional Solicitation.

Robjent asked what measures include this, to which Peterson said it is included in the Roadway Expansion and Roadway Reconstruction peak hour congestion on an adjacent parallel route measure along with the peak hour congestion within the project area measure in the Traffic Management Technologies category. Robjent asked whether a freeway can be used as the parallel route, to which Peterson replied in the affirmative. Robjent asked whether the applicant can receive points for the proposed route. Peterson replied that this is the case in Traffic Management Technologies.

Lehmann asked whether this data will be coordinated with MnDOT congestion maps, to which Burns replied in the affirmative.

8. Scope Change Work Group Update – Information Item

Oehme said that the Scope Change Work Group was created because of inconsistent decision-making from the various committees, the existence of two policies, the lack of consideration for Federal Transit Administration-sponsored projects in the policies, and uncertainty of when projects should be re-scored. He said that he discussed the issues with the TAB Executive Committee and that members are very interested in justification for any minimum amount for taking funds from a project.

9. Other Business

Robjent asked when the scoring committees will be selected. Koutsoukos said that would occur in the summer.

Koutsoukos said that the Regional Solicitation will be released on the on-line program in mid-May.

10. Adjournment

MOTION: MacPherson moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Brown. The motion was approved unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.