

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD

Metropolitan Council Building, 390 Robert Street No., Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101

TAB PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes: February 15, 2012
Metropolitan Council Chambers.

Members Present: Jim Hovland, Co-Chair, Robert Lilligren, Co-Chair, Mark Stenglein (for Jan Callison), Gerry Butcher, Margaret Donahoe, Karl Drotning, Adam Duininck, Dennis Hegberg, Aaron Isaacs, Paul Krause, Scott McBride, AJ Siddiqui, Dick Swanson, David Thornton, Jon Ulrich, Dave Van Hattum, Julia Whalen, Andy Westerberg.

Guests and Staff: Pat Bursaw, Chair, Technical Advisory Committee
Tim Cruikshank, City of Anoka
Kevin Roggenbuck, TAB Coordinator

I. Call to order.

Co-Chair Hovland called the meeting to order at 12:10 PM.

II. Adoption of the Agenda.

Mr. Lilligren moved, seconded by Mr. Swanson, to adopt the agenda. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

III. Approval of the Programming Committee minutes from January 18, 2012.

Mr. Swanson moved, seconded by Mr. Lilligren, to approve the minutes from the January 18, 2012 TAB Programming Committee meeting. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

IV. Information Items and Action Transmittals.

(a). Information: Update on the 2011 regional solicitation.

Mr. Roggenbuck reported that the project scoring groups have completed their work and have provided their ranked lists of projects to the TAC Funding & Programming Committee. The TAC Funding & Programming Committee will meet on Thursday, February 16 to discuss the scores reported out of each scoring group and to make them public. Mr. Roggenbuck explained the scoring re-evaluation process and the remaining schedule to complete the scoring. Mr. Roggenbuck said the scores will be posted on the regional solicitation webpage no later than Tuesday, February 21. Mr. Ulrich asked if the TAB could go ahead and award some funding from the final ranked list. Mr. Roggenbuck said we could but funding amounts and project eligibility could be affected by re-authorization. Mr. Hovland asked staff to provide the TAB with a summary of both the House and Senate reauthorization bills.

(b). Information: MPCA Request for CMAQ Funds for Electric Vehicle Recharging Infrastructure. (2011-60 pending)

Ms. Bursaw introduced the item and Mr. Roggenbuck described the additional information provided to the committee; executive summary of emissions calculations; explanation of why the proposal could not be scored with other CMAQ projects and the

TIP amendment. The committee discussed the proposal and commented in favor and in opposition.

Motion by Mr. Lilligren, seconded by Mr. Swanson, that the TAB fund the electric vehicle recharging stations and program the project in 2012 with federal funds from the regional balance.

Discussion continued. Members commented on the potential health benefits, concerns about circumventing the solicitation process, and whether other innovative projects had an opportunity to request funding.

Mr. Swanson called the question, seconded by Mr. Westerberg. The motion to call the question passed by voice vote.

The committee then voted on the original motion, but the voice vote was not clear. Through a show of hands, the motion passed with 7 voting yes and 6 voting no.

(c). Information: Additional FY 2012 Federal Funds.

Mr. Coughlin presented this item to the committee and distributed a spreadsheet titled "Federal Fiscal Year 2012 Additional Funding Analysis". Mr. Coughlin said an estimated \$5.6 million will be made available to the region (TAB) and the funds must be authorized by September 30. Mr. Coughlin said additional funds were also made available to the region in 2011 under the same conditions and described the process chosen by the TAB to allocate those funds.

Mr. Coughlin reviewed the status of the regionally selected projects programmed in 2012, noting that up to \$40 million (federal) in local project may need to be deferred from 2012 to 2013. Mr. Coughlin then described options for the TAB to allocate the additional \$5.6 million federal funds. When asked, Mr. Coughlin said his preference is to add the additional 2012 funds to local projects will be authorized before the end of the federal fiscal year, that are also funded at less than 80% federal and 20% local match. Mr. Coughlin pointed out projects on the spreadsheet that could absorb most of the additional federal money.

Mr. Isaacs asked if adding federal fund to programmed projects would create jobs faster. Mr. Coughlin said no, but said if these additional federal funds are allocated to projects in the TIP, it will lower the amount of local money used as a match and project sponsor could use the savings for other projects that create jobs. Ms. Bursaw said the TAB could give policy direction to the development of options. Mr. Swanson suggested local governments could identify additional projects they would construct with the savings, as a condition. Mr. Coughlin will develop allocation options for TAC and TAB consideration.

(d). 2012-03: Scope Change Request: Carver County.

Ms. Bursaw presented this item to the committee and described the scope change as shifting the entire project about 800 feet eastward to better align with the entrance to a park. Although this is a scope change, a TIP amendment is not necessary because the project cost and the description in the TIP are unchanged.

Mr. Thornton moved, seconded by Mr. Ulrich, to recommend approval of the scope change as described in action transmittal 2012-03. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

(e). 2012-04: Sunset Date Extension Request: St. Paul.

Ms. Bursaw presented this item to the committee and explained that the pending sale of a property has delayed the purchase of right-of-way, making it difficult for the project sponsor to meet the sunset date.

Ms. Bursaw explained the TAB's sunset date policy and the formation of an ad hoc technical group to look at the problem of local project delivery.

Mr. Thornton moved, seconded by Mr. Hegberg, to recommend approval of all the sunset date extension requests in agenda items (e), (f), (g) and (h). Mr. Hovland asked if there were any objections among the committee to a motion including four items. There were no objections. Mr. Lilligren asked if the recommendations from the TAC were unanimous. Ms. Bursaw said yes, the motions were unanimous.

(f). 2012-05: Sunset Date Extension Request: Anoka County.

Approved under the motion for 2012-04.

(g). 2012-06: Sunset Date Extension Request: Ramsey County.

Approved under the motion for 2012-04.

(h). 2012-07: Sunset Date Extension Request: St. Louis Park.

Approved under the motion for 2012-04.

(i). 2012-08: Sunset Date Extension Request: City of Anoka.

Ms. Bursaw presented this item to the committee. Ms. Bursaw said this project was awarded CMAQ funds in the 2005 regional solicitation and originally programmed in 2010. The project was moved to 2012 voluntarily for TIP financial balancing. Ms. Bursaw explained that the project sponsor is requesting a sunset date extension because the recent economic downturn has resulted in no new development in the TIF district that was supposed to generate money for the local match. Ms. Bursaw said the TAC discussed whether the project sponsor could assemble the local match and get the project ready for authorization in one year. The vote was 13 to 10 to recommend denying the sunset date extension request.

Mr. Cruikshank addressed the committee. Mr. Cruikshank said the city did tie the local matching funds to the TIF district, but said the city would pursue other sources of funding and distributed a proposal to the members. The committee discussed the city's financing proposal and ability to deliver the project within one year. The committee discussed ridership demand, safety issues and the lack of progress in project development shown by Anoka. The committee also discussed whether the current economy was an unforeseen circumstance that warrants a sunset date extension.

Mr. Westerberg moved, seconded by Mr. Stenglein, to recommend granting a one year sunset date extension to the city of Anoka structured parking facility at the Northstar Commuter rail Transit Village. The motion passed unanimously.

(j). 2012-09: 2012-2015 TIP Amendment Request: Metro Transit.

Ms. Bursaw presented this item to the committee and explained that the project was programmed in 2011 of the TIP, but the project was delayed and the funding was used on another project. The I-35E and CR 14 park and ride project is now ready, and Metro Transit has requested a TIP amendment to fund the project again with Section 5307 funds.

Mr. Hegberg moved, seconded by Mr. Swanson, to recommend adoption of the TIP amendment as described in action transmittal 2012-09. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

(k). 2012-10: 2012-2015 TIP Amendment Request: MnDOT.

Ms. Bursaw presented this item to the committee. Ms. Bursaw described two projects; one to add an auxiliary lane to I-494 between TH 100 and I-35W and another to replace the Xerxes Avenue bridge over I-494. MnDOT requests a TIP amendment to combine both projects into one and fund it through the Interstate Maintenance program, which requires only a 10% match. Combining projects also saves money on mobilization and administration costs.

Mr. Lilligren moved, seconded by Ms. Whalen, to recommend adoption of the TIP amendment as described in action transmittal 2012-10. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

IV. Other Business.

Members did not raise any other business.

VI. Adjourn.

Mr. Hovland adjourned the meeting at 1:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted:
Kevin Roggenbuck, TAB Coordinator.