

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

Office of Transportation and Transit

390 Robert Street North, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-1805

Telephone (651) 602-1000 TDD (651) 291-0904 FAX (651) 602-1739 Metro Info (651) 602-1611

TRANSPORTATION ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, September 5, 2012

1. Call to Order

At 12:35 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Chair Ron Biss. **Public present:** Kari Sheldon, Kristin Jorendy from MnDOT and Mark Hughess. **Council staff present:** David Russell, Andy Streasick and Alison Coleman.

Members Present: Ron Biss, John Schatzlein, Kim Kang, Margot Imdieke Cross, Wayne Wittman, Heidi Myhre, Darrell Paulsen, Jerolyn Pofahl, John Lund, Chad McGuire, Nichole Villavicencio and Willie Daniels. **Members Absent:** James William **Members excused:** Bruce Lattu and Kjensmo Walker.

2. Approval of the Agenda

McGuire moved to approve the agenda. Lund seconded the motion. The motion carried.

3. Approval of August 1, 2012 Minutes

Paulson moved to approve the minutes. Wittman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

4. Thrive MSP 2040

Libby Starling spoke to the TAAC committee. She is the manager of Regional Policy and Research. Thrive MSP 2040 is the long range plan that will create a vision for the seven county region for the next 30 years. It is required under state statute in order to be an overall metropolitan development guide. Thrive MSP 2040 will be an update to the 2030 Regional Development Framework. It is taking the vision out to the year 2040. It also provides the overall policy and vision direction for the Council systems and policy plans including the Transportation Policy Plan. The Council wants the plan to help the region maximize the overall opportunity for growth and prosperity both in the near term and over the long term looking at over the next 30 years.

The Council's forecasts indicate that the seven county area will be growing or anticipating 893,000 additional people in the region. They are anticipating continued employment growth, continued growth of households as well as a region that is going from 24 percent of people of color in the year 2020 to 43 percent of people of color in the year 2040. The region will have more people age 65 or older, more people in all groups but overall we are looking at going from 10 percent of our population being age 65 and above at present to 21 percent of our population being age 65 and above by the year 2040.

They want our region to be a region that attracts and retains talent, jobs and economic prosperity. Without people wanting to move into a region they won't have the population growth they are forecasting. Without people wanting to live here and choosing to live in the Twin Cities we won't be able to sustain the ongoing job growth that they are forecasting as well. They want the Twin Cities to be a region that attracts and retains economic prosperity.

They are working on Thrive MSP 2040 now with the goal that the Council will be adopting a complete Thrive MSP 2040 plan in early 2014. In 2014 and 2015 the overall vision that is in Thrive MSP 2040 will be translated into the Systems and Policy Plans, a Water Resources Management Plan, a Parks and Open Space Plan, the Transportation Policy Plan, a Housing Policy Plan and a Water Supply Master Plan. They take the overall vision of Thrive MSP 2040 and lay it out in more policy detail. The Council will then take the Systems Plans and convert those into what are officially called “System Statements.”

It is laying the various overall systems plans and planning documents on a map. Taking jurisdictional boundaries and saying to each of the cities and townships within the region “Here are your responsibilities as a local jurisdiction to meet the overall goals of the regional planning documents. Here is what we expect for your city.” The cities have until the end of 2018 to update their local comprehensive plans to align with the regional planning documents. They are in the early stages of a decade long planning cycle that will cascade down into all the cities and townships of our region.

In terms of the overall timeline for this work right now in the fall of 2012 they are looking at principals and goals to guide the work. They are looking back with the Regional Development Framework to 2030 to learn what worked and what didn’t work. Then they will be using that information in combination with the work they are doing on outreach and engagement to develop some alternative policy scenarios. They are looking at different options of futures that the region might have ahead. Identify two or three different paths all of which will be legitimate but that represent different visions of what the future of this region might look like.

In the beginning of 2013 they will be doing a second round of outreaching engagement to have conversations about the alternative policy scenarios. Then through 2013 they will be going from the different visions of what the future might hold to looking at what they think the policies of Thrive MSP 2040 will look like. They will be going into the public meeting and public hearing process in the fall of 2013 with the goal of adoption in early 2014.

Thrive MSP 2040 by its nature is the attempt to focus on conversations and goals that are too big for any one community to take on. By collaborating on a regional perspective it is possible to take on whether it is highways, the transit system or natural resources. None of these are at the limits of where the city boundaries happen to be. These are issues that they have to take on at a regional level. Because they are taking it on at a regional level they want to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to have input and provide their ideas into this overall planning process.

This past summer, this month and into October they are trying to do extensive outreach and engagement effort. They are trying to reach out to various groups, especially the advisory committees of the Council to have opportunities to hear from them what types of things they should be thinking about and how they should be framing Thrive MSP 2040.

There is an online civic engagement tool called “Your Ideas”. So that they have a conversation about what people would like to see in Thrive MSP 2040. People can register for their ideas, share their ideas and vote for other people’s ideas. Throughout the month of September the Council is hosting 10 listening sessions at locations across the region. Information about those is available at thrivemsp.org.

What do they need to be a thriving metropolitan region? What kind of region do they want to leave for their children and their children’s children out to the year 2040? What decisions can they make today that will set them on a path toward achieving that vision into the future? What do you see as the issues and challenges facing the region over the next 30 years? How should the Council be addressing those issues through the Thrive MSP 2040 planning document and planning process? What policies in the previous regional plans should they keep? What should they adjust? What should they discontinue? What policies would you like to add to Thrive MSP 2040? What criteria should the Council use in

resolving tension among different policies and goals? What advice do you have as the Council moves ahead on developing Thrive MSP 2040?

She asked the committee for ideas they would like to share.

Some of the ideas listed were:

- Multi use housing for people with disabilities and seniors.
- Location of good paying jobs.
- Foster relationships with cities, counties and townships so that they can spread the transit, the housing and the jobs out to the suburbs.
- Job access via transit is very important. So that jobs and housing are located along transit.
- Land use is very important especially along transit lines.
- Each city or state has a uniform cross walks and buttons.
- It is important that priority and funds be dedicated to the infrastructure that is already in existence and upgrading that infrastructure. A lot of people rely heavily on the buses.
- Each segment of the plan should have some sort of an accessibility statement or commitment to access or some verbal acknowledgment that the following portion of the plan to talk more in depth what access should look like especially with an aging community and more people with disabilities and an integrated setting.
- It is important to keep rural communities involved.
- Make sure listening sessions are accessible.
- Outreaching to senior citizens is important.
- Sign language interpreters
- Connect more with some of the disability organizations in the community. All of the disabilities are different. They are not just physical disabilities. Some are hidden in how they present themselves like with Autism.
- Affordability of houses and apartments
- You need alternatives and room for changes because of unknowns.
- Access for everyone and being dependable and reliable. Do not cut back on what is already there. Always expand and not contract.
- Keep weather in mind with access issues
- Be creative and more efficient.
- Try to keep as many people on regular transit as possible. Metro Mobility is more expensive.

The Council is having these conversations before they are putting any specific policies on the table.

5. State Fair Park and Ride Issues

This item was not discussed.

6. Committee Work Plan

Chair Biss spoke to the TAAC committee. Make public aware of committee and what it does. Chair Biss discussed the current work plan and asked the committee to consider any additions to the work plan and bring it back to the committee.

7. Member Comment

None.

8. Public Comment

Mark hughes addressed the committee.

Kari Sheldon addressed the committee.

9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:32 p.m.