

Meeting Notes

TAC – Planning Committee

Thursday, July 12, 2012

Room: LL-B

2:00 P.M.

Members Present: Allen Lovejoy, Paul Czech, Adam Harrington, Craig Jenson, John Kari, Susan Moe, Bob Paddock, Mike Rogers, Ann Pung-Terwedo

Others Present: Brent Rusco (Hennepin Co), Philip Forst (FHWA), Jonathan Ehrlich (MTS)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Allen Lovejoy.

2. Minutes

After a brief review, the minutes of the March 8th meeting were approved. The question was raised as to whether or not ‘minutes’ are required under the ‘by-laws’ and, if not, could these be replaced by ‘meeting notes’. Upon review of the by-laws, there is nothing specific to subcommittees of TAC that required minutes. Consequently, committee action will be reported as ‘notes’ in further meetings.

3. Agenda Items – TPP Amendment: Bottineau LPA and Arterial BRT

The only item on the agenda was an amendment to the Transportation Policy Plan. The amendment reflects the Bottineau Transitway Locally Preferred Alternative and Arterial Transitway Corridor Study requested by Hennepin County and the Metropolitan Council..

These two pieces were presented by Brent Rusco (Hennepin County) and Adam Harrington, Metro Transit. Jonathan Ehrlich gave opening remarks about the overall plan amendment before introducing the two.

Brent gave a slide presentation overview of the Bottineau Locally Preferred Alternative, starting with the system plan. Initially, there were 21 alternatives that were whittled down to the one that was being presented. Brent ran through the evaluation process and goals and objectives. He indicated that this dovetailed with the New Starts process. He showed the committee a map of the considered alignments and indicated that the recommendation was that no BRT be considered. Brent also indicated that there was public input as well as committee work along the entire process. The final alignment being recommended is the B-C-D1 alignment. Details can be found on the website.

Brent noted that the City of Golden Valley did not pass a resolution regarding the alternative, but that four others did pass resolutions in support. The committee expressed interest in what this may mean to the FTA. Questions were also raised on the BNSF involvement in the study as well as signal preemptions.

The second part of the presentation was done by Adam Harrington, who spoke on the issue of Arterial BRT. There have been 11 arterial transitway corridors studied

in the region. These were high-ridership corridors but did not have LRT space capabilities. The study indicated that a number of potential Arterial BRT corridors are also being studied for other modes, such as streetcar. Lake Street and Hennepin Avenue, along with Penn Avenue and an extension of Chicago Avenue to Emerson-Freemont Avenues are listed as additional potential BRT corridors.

Susan Moe indicated that a demonstration of fiscal constraint will need to be submitted along with the plan amendment. The question of public involvement will also need to be looked at. She was willing to meet with Jonathan to help with these facets of the plan amendment.

Jonathan read the motion that asks for a series of amendments to the TPP (included in the committee mailing) and commented that a TPP amendment was needed before work can move forward with the studies. **The motion was moved and seconded. The committee approved the motion with the proviso that the necessary financial elements are included by the time the action goes forward to TAC (currently scheduled for August 1st).**

4. **Other Business**

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting was adjourned.

The next scheduled meeting is set for 1PM, August 9th.

Bob Paddock, Secretary