

**METROPOLITAN COUNCIL**  
 Metropolitan Council Chambers, 390 North Robert St., St. Paul, MN 55101  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD**  
 Wednesday, April 21, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Hargis, William	Bennett, Tony	Thornton, David
Petryk, Becky	Have, Ron	McBride, Scott	Berg, Dennis
Hovland, James	Meyers, James	Ulrich, Jon	Mussell, Richard
Ward, Bart	Lampi, Steve	Hegberg, Dennis	Stark, Russ
Smith, Jill	Callison, Jan	Leppik, Peggy	Johnson, Ken
Gepner, David	Maluchnik, Randy	Heffelfinger, Thomas	Reinhardt, Andrew
ABSENT:	Wiski, Donn	Tjornhom, Bethany	Whalen, Julia
Lilligren, Robert	Stenerson, Sherry	Haik, Chuck	Gustafson, Dan
	Craig, Matthew	Swanson, Dick	Krause, Paul
LIAISON/STAFF PRESENT:	Kevin Roggenbuck, TAB Coordinator		

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum was present when Chair Hargis called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm, April 21, 2010, Metropolitan Council Chambers, 390 North Robert St., St. Paul.

Hargis welcomed new TAB Members: Andrew Reinhardt and Thomas Heffelfinger who were present and gave a brief introduction of themselves. Hargis also mentioned new member Matthew Craig who was not present at this meeting.

**II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Motion by Hovland, seconded by Have, to adopt the agenda for the April 21, 2010 TAB meeting  
**Motion passed.**

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Smith, to approve the minutes from March 17, 2010.  
**Motion passed.**

**IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. Technical Advisory Committee**

Karl Keel reported that the TAC met on April 7, 2010 and heard agenda items regarding: ADA Update from MnDOT; Transitway Guidelines Update from Metro Council. The TAC also acted on three minor Functional Classification changes in Cities of Chanhassen, Chaska and Golden Valley, and acted on the five TIP amendments that are part of the TAB agenda 4/21.

**B. Policy Committee** K. Johnson reported that the Policy Committee did not meet in April.

**C. Programming Committee**

Information: ARRA Update from MnDOT Metro State Aid

Greg Coughlin, MnDOT gave a report on the ARRA program. The FHWA has notified MnDOT that ARRA savings cannot be swapped for STP money or TE money once the project has reached the point of federal authorization. This reduces the STP savings on projects noted in green on his chart. There have been many discussions between FHWA, MnDOT OCPPM (former OIM), State Aid, Region staff and F&P and TAC Chairs to try to work out options to the new analysis. Options are very limited at this time. Discussions followed about communication from FHWA and the hardships that will be placed on the project sponsors to come up with the local match now that ARRA funds cannot be used in place of STP.

Motion by Berg, seconded by Petryk to direct staff to research the projects in question to determine what amount/type of funds were distributed to each project, then discuss the pros and cons of establishing a policy

of helping out the locals in reaching their match, and then possibly research options to try to help the local communities with the local match. Staff is to present this to the TAC and the Programming committees in May.

In response to TAB member requests, Scott McBride agreed that MnDOT could furnish a spreadsheet of all of the ARRA funded Trunk Highway projects and the cost information (cost estimates, bid amounts, etc.).

Hovland reported that the Programming Committee discussed and approved the following items. Business items are presented to the full TAB as one item for action at this time. Hovland suggested acting on the TIP amendments (TAB Actions 2010-27, 28, 29, 30 & 31) in one motion unless committee members wish to discuss individually.

Committee members chose to discuss TAB Action 2010-31 separate from the other TIP Amendments. It was agreed that the TAB combine TAB Actions 2010-27, 28, 29 & 30 in one motion.

**Motion** by Hovland, seconded by Lampi and **passed** unanimously to approve the actions listed below for TAB Actions 2010-27, 28, 29 & 30.

Item 2010-27: 2010-2013 TIP Amendment: Include SP# 91-060-97, Grand Rounds Mississippi River Gorge Parking/Overlook

That the Transportation Advisory Board amends the 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to identify Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board SP #91-060-97 Grand Rounds; Mississippi Gorge Parking/Overlook.

Item 2010-28: 2010-2013 TIP Amendment: Include 20 Vehicle Purchases through the Section 5310 Program

That the Transportation Advisory Board amends the 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include 20 Funding awards identified in the attached table through the Section 5310, Elderly and Persons with Disabilities Program.

Item 2010-29: 2010-2013 TIP Amendment: include Six Projects Funded through the 2010 Federal Appropriation Bill

That the Transportation Advisory Board amends the 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include funding for six projects identified in the attached table that were included in the 2010 Federal Appropriations Bill.

Item 2010-30: 2010-2013 TIP Amendment: Include SP# 1981-123, Noise Wall Construction along I-35W in the City of Burnsville

That the Transportation Advisory Board amends the 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include SP #1981-123, I-35W Noise Wall.

Item 2010-31 was discussed separately.

Item 2010-31: 2010-2013 TIP Amendment: Include Funding for the TH 169/I-494 Interchange Reconstruction

The Programming Committee passed this item.

**Motion** by Hovland, seconded by Meyers:

That the Transportation Advisory Board amends the 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include SP #2776-03, TH 169/I-404 Interchange.

Discussion: Berg stated that he doesn't feel that this action is needed. The action was already approved as part of a larger package at the March meeting, but this separate action may make it more clear.

Barb Thoman, Acting Director Transit for Livable Communities and Will Schroeer, Smart Growth America spoke against the action and shared letters from their respective organizations to Metro Council Chair Bell and Tom Sorel. Thoman and Schroeer asked that the item be tabled at this time.

Gepner reiterated some of the comments he had at the March TAB meeting. He stated that the principals and guidelines that the TAB has worked toward are being violated with this action, which was why he did not vote

in favor of the item at the March TAB meeting. He feels that the money could be better spent by spreading it among other projects.

Addressing Thoman and Schroeer concerns, Hovland stated that this project is an improvement project, not expansion project. The maintenance needs will be the same. The project design includes the ability to accommodate BRT for movements southbound on TH169, and also includes bus shoulder lanes. He highlighted the importance of this intersection to freight movement through the state, and to the interregional corridor in general. McBride also addressed Thoman/Schroeer comments about congestion, and targets attained by MnDOT in spending on bridges, preservation, safety, mobility and right of way and miscellaneous categories. This project did not happen on a short timeline, there have been a lot of very public processes that have been addressed.

**Motion passed** with two no votes.

## **V. SPECIAL AGENDA**

The Prospectus for Reauthorization of SAFETEA-LU and a Second Transportation Stimulus Package. Margaret Donahoe, MN Transportation Alliance Executive Director, spoke about federal transportation funding. She highlighted specifics of the different bills that are being considered in congress.

## **VI. ITEMS OF TAB MEMBERS**

Bart Ward stressed the importance of preservation, and noted that he will be pushing for preservation projects in the future, rather than new projects.

McBride gave an update of the 2008 legislative session. They established a Legislative Task Force to advise the Governor and the legislature on management and operation strategies that will improve the efficiency in transportation. MnDOT staffed that legislative commission and they met for about year. The task force was charged with making recommendations to improve efficiency in two areas: 1) state transportation construction and maintenance projects; and 2) management of state transportation infrastructure. A final report was submitted to the Governor and Chairs of the Legislative Transportation Committees in January 2009. Some hearings were held. The committees want to look at MnDOT's programming process and how the decentralized structure relates to the programming process. MnDOT has established a peer review, contracting with American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) to evaluate the programming process. As part of this, ASCE wants to speak to internal MnDOT Programming staff and representatives of the Area Transportation Partnerships (ATP). TAB serves as a large part of the MnDOT Metro District's ATP. The first recommendation of the ASCE is to validate Statewide interests in MnDOT regional structure and allocation process in relation to centralized/decentralized structure. MnDOT has been requested to provide names of TAB members to speak to, when ASCE national experts are in town during the week of the May 19 TAB meeting.

McBride stated that MnDOT has recommended Tim Mayasich, Kevin Roggenbuck, Carl Ohrn to be interviewed, and senior TAB members are also needed. Bennett made a motion to select Bill Hargis and Dennis Berg, who accepted, and to also ask Paul Krause. Motion passed.

## **VII. AGENCY REPORTS**

Update on Future Federal Air Quality Standards for Fine Particulate Matter and Ozone  
In the interest of time, this item was deferred to the May TAB meeting.

## **VIII. OTHER BUSINESS**

None

## **X. ADJOURNMENT**

Hargis adjourned the regular meeting of TAB at 3:30 pm on Wednesday, April 21, 2010.