

**METROPOLITAN COUNCIL**  
 390 North Robert St., St. Paul MN 55101  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD**  
 Wednesday, December 15, 2010

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

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum was present when Chair Hargis called the December 15, 2010 TAB meeting to order at 1:35 pm, Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul.

**II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Lilligren asked that item 2010-69 be pulled from the list of consent items, and the item be open for discussion prior to action. Motion by Lampi, seconded by Smith, to adopt the revised agenda for the December 15, 2010 TAB meeting.

Motion passed.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Krause, seconded by Hovland, to approve the minutes from November 17, 2010 TAB meeting. Motion passed.

**IV. PUBLIC FORUM**

Invitation to the public to address the Board about any issue not on the agenda. Public comment on the agenda items has occurred at the respective TAB subcommittee meetings.

Roggenbuck reported on the public comment from the November meeting. A Shoreview citizen appeared at the November meeting with concerns about bus passenger shelters being removed from parts of Shoreview and not replaced. Prior to the citizen appearance at the TAB, Metro Transit had already been working with the City on options to replace those shelters, including maintenance issues and ownership. The citizen has been informed that communications are taking place between MT and City of Shoreview.

There were no members of the public present to address the TAB at today's meeting.

**V. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. Technical Advisory Committee**

Mayasich reported that the TAC met on December 1, 2010 and heard information on:

Transportation Policy Plan, - Carl Ohrn gave a presentation on the final changes to the TPP.

Fran Crotty - MPCA request for \$500,000 CMAQ funds for electric car charging stations. TAC had several questions regarding the electric car charging stations program. The committee moved the request back to TAC F&P and asked that the F&P move an action item back through TAC. There is concern that at this time, any revenue from the charging stations cannot be tapped at the state or federal level to fund the charging stations. Electric vehicles are using the infrastructure; the revenue will need to be addressed in the future at the national and state level, as to how to capture funding from them.

The TAC also approved TIP amendment action items also on the TAB agenda today. The committee had discussion regarding two bridge projects that are being turned back by Henn. Co. Public Works. There have been number of bridge projects that have been turned back in the region as a result of the projects moving through the design process, and the State Historic Preservation Office review determines the bridge(s) to be ineligible for replacement and the scope changes to “rehab”, and not eligible for the funds. Staff would like to request a member of SHPO to attend a meeting to explain how SHPO makes the decisions as to which projects are eligible to move forward as total replacements vs rehab.

## **B. Policy Committee**

Johnson reported that the Policy Committee met on December 15, 2010, and discussed the following:

2010-73: Metropolitan Airports Commission 2011-2017 Capital Improvement Program  
Item 4 of the MAC 2011-2017 CIP action item that was included in the mailing was revised on December 8, by the MAC Finance Development & Environmental Committee, and is now part of this motion.

Motion by Krause, seconded by Have:

That the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) recommend approval of all five findings concerning the MAC 2011-2017 Capital Improvement Program and forward to the Metropolitan Council for its consideration.

Findings 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 are as follows:

1. That the MAC has in place an adequate public participation process for development and review of its Capital Improvement Program.
2. That an Assessment of Environmental Effects (AOEE) has been prepared and commented on for 2011 projects with potential environmental effects.
3. That none of the 2011 projects meet both the dollar threshold levels and criteria requiring project approval.
4. That federal, state and local funding for the 2011 CIP has been identified by the MAC, including approximately \$21 million in 2010 bonds to cover most of the proposed 2011-2013 projects.
5. That all other projects in the 2011 CIP appear consistent with the TPP.

Motion passed

Information and discussion: Regional Transitway Guidelines

Mary Karlsson, MTS and Tom Randall, MT presented to the Policy Committee on the BRT station-to-station fare collection system. It is very important to keep passenger loading/unloading traffic moving as quickly as possible. There may be card reading stations at both of the doors of the bus to enable entering and exiting at both doors. Methods of payment are being discussed. Recommendations will be brought to the Transitway Guidelines Advisory Committee.

## **C. Programming Committee**

Hovland reported that the Programming Committee heard information on the following items:

Information and discussion: 2011 Regional Solicitation

Kevin Roggenbuck reported on the status of the 2011 Regional Solicitation. Technical committees, staff and some scoring groups are working on the revising the 2009 Solicitation based on comments. Policy questions from TAB are being drafted into the draft document. The document will go to the F&P TAC on 12/16. The CMAQ transit scoring group has met and discussed different issues; one of the main issues coming out of that

group is to hold a workshop on ridership estimating to avoid the costly process for the applicant to hire a consultant. The HSIP group met and recommended implementing more proactive projects on the road system. MnDOT has asked the counties are to prepare a safety plan identifying some of the proactive projects on the highways. The group has recommended holding 30% of the money for a couple of years so that when the safety plans are done, some of the money could be used for the proactive safety projects. Staff is working to rewrite criteria to address a number of technical questions that have arisen from the applicants, and should have ready prior to the open house and public meetings.

Information and discussion: 2011 Regional Solicitation: MPCA request for CMAQ funds for electric vehicle charging station infrastructure.

Hovland stated that the item went to the Executive Committee, then to TAC, then to F&P who will meet on 12/16. Thornton stated there are different options to collecting fees for the charging station, depending on the housing agency. Some collect by credit/debit cards by the amount of electricity used. He also agreed that electric vehicles would not be contributing to the highway funds, and at some point in the future there is a need to address that issue. Stark added that St. Paul has gotten a grant to install some charging stations, and the city is in the process of deciding whether to charge, how much, etc.

Information and discussion: Withdrawal of two regionally selected bridge projects in Hennepin County. There is approximately \$3M being returned to the solicitation process as a result of two bridge projects in Hennepin County no longer qualifying for replacement. SHPO determined that the bridges would need to be rehabbed and this would be 3-4 times more costly to the County. Representatives of SHPO have been asked to address the TAC to find out more about the historical qualifications placed by SHPO on bridges. Smith questioned the qualifications and restoration of the Mendota Bridge in the past, and where the funding came from. MnDOT will report back on this.

Hovland stated that the Policy Committee discussed and approved the following items. There were no objections to acting on Items 2010-70 through 2010-72 as consent in one action. Motion by Hovland, seconded by Lampi to approve TAB Action Items 2010-70 through 2010-72 (as listed below). Motion passed.

2010-70: 2011-2014 TIP Amendment: Mill and Overlay and additional funds for HOT lane project on I-35 from I-35W/E intersection to Burnsville Parkway.

Motion: That the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) Adopt an amendment to the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include mill and overlay of adjacent lanes to SP#1981-120, Northbound I-35W HOT Lane addition.

2010-71: 2011-2014 TIP Amendment: Unbonded concrete overlay, Drainage corrections, cable median barrier on I-35E from South of CSAH 96 to I-35W junction.

Motion: That the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) adopt an amendment to the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include SP#0282-34, I-35E unbonded concrete overlay, drainage corrections, and cable median barrier south of CSAH 96 to the north junction with I-35W.

2010-72: 2011-2014 TIP Amendment: Mill and overlay on TH 8 from I-35 to CSAH 80 in Forest Lake and Chisago City.

Motion: That the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) adopt an amendment to the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include SP#1308-21, Mill and Overlay on TH 8 from I-35 to Karmel Ave. (CSAH 80 in Forest Lake and Chisago City).

2010-69: 2011-2014 TIP Amendment: Metropolitan Council/Metro transit: Section 5307 Downtown Minneapolis East-West Transit Spine

Discussion: Lilligren stated that he attended a meeting of the Minneapolis Downtown Council that was well attended by the Downtown Improvement District. There is extreme dissatisfaction with designating 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Street as the East-West Spine. The east-west spine issue has been unresolved since about 2007. Minneapolis

approved "Access Minneapolis", which is an overall transportation action plan for the city, in 2007. There was concern with 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> as the east-west spine expressed by the business community at that time. An east-west spine was not approved at that time, and is not presently part of the City's comprehensive plan. The City Council is in the approval process with the east-west spine issue. Downtown property and business owners have expressed extreme dissatisfaction during the public comment process through the city. Minneapolis City staff recommendation is in favor of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>; and there is significant support on the City Council to recommend 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. The Minneapolis Director of Public Works is in conversations with Metro Transit Director.

Lilligren will abstain from voting until this is part of the City's comprehensive plan.

Maurice Roers of Metro Transit explained that the timing of this project is scheduled to coordinate with the City's mill and overlay on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. The City of Minneapolis mill and overlay project is using funds made available from the I-35W bridge project, which must be spent by September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Motion by Hovland, seconded by Krause:

That the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) adopts an amendment to the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include Section 5307 funding for the Downtown Minneapolis East-West Transit Spine.

Motion passed with Lilligren abstaining.

## **VI. SPECIAL AGENDA**

### Status report on the TH 169/I-494 interchange project

John Griffith, MnDOT Metro West Area Manager reported on the TH 169/I-494 project. He reported on the monetary situation, design and construction schedule.

## **VII. ITEMS OF TAB MEMBERS**

Hargis reported that he was officially made Chair of the TAB at the 12/08 meeting of the Metro Council.

There is an opening for Co-Chair of the Programming Committee. Please let him know if you are interested.

Three citizen seats on the TAB are expiring, current TAB members will continue to serve until a new administration is seated.

## **VIII. AGENCY REPORTS**

### Report on the 2010 JARC and New Freedoms solicitation

Elaine Koutsoukos, MTS, gave an update on the 2010 JARC and New Freedoms solicitation.

## **IX. OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

## **XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Hargis adjourned the regular meeting of TAB at 2:55 pm on Wednesday, December 15, 2010.

Respectfully submitted: LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary