

**METROPOLITAN COUNCIL**  
 390 North Robert St., St. Paul MN 55101  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD**  
 Wednesday, March 16, 2011

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

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum was present when Acting Chair Johnson called the March 16, 2011 TAB meeting to order at 1:35 pm, Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul.

**II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Motion by Ulrich, seconded by Petryk, to adopt the agenda for the March 16, 2011 TAB meeting.  
 Motion carried.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Hovland, seconded by Smith, to approve the minutes from February 16, 2011 TAB meeting.  
 Motion carried.

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

**V. WELCOME NEW TAB MEMBER:**

Acting Chair Johnson welcomed a new member to the TAB: Will Rossbach, Mayor of Maplewood (Metro Cities rep.). Rossbach spoke to the committee about his background and experience in transportation issues.

**VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. Technical Advisory Committee**

Tim Mayasich reported that the TAC met on March 2, 2011. There were no special agenda items on that meeting agenda; the TAC approved action items appearing on the TAB agenda today, and also approved several functional classification changes (Washington County-12, Ramsey County-6, Hennepin County-1, Scott County-2).

**B. Executive Committee**

2011-36: TAB Standing Subcommittee assignments

Roggenbuck noted the list of subcommittee assignments included in the meeting materials packet (TAB Action Item 2011-36). There are still some vacancies (5) on the TAB; all five members will be placed on the Policy Committee when appointed.

Motion by Lilligren, seconded by Whalen to approve the appointment of members to the TAB Policy and TAB Programming Committees as noted in Action Transmittal 2011-36. Motion carried.

Clarifying TAB's role in Twin Cities Metropolitan Planning Organization - timeline and next steps  
Johnson began the discussion while Roggenbuck handed out the Prospectus, MOU between Metro Council and MnDOT, and TAB by-laws. Members were invited to comment on the documents. Members asked if the item could be addressed at future meeting(s) in order to give members a chance to study the documents.

Ulrich said that he would like two specific questions addressed: 1) the process for adopting the TPP. He proposes a 3-step process prior to TPP approval where the TPP is presented, the comments to the TPP presented, and reactions to the comments to the TPP presented, and 2) go back to the "genesis" of when the TAB began and how it complies with federal law, there seems to be conflicts between the advisory and policy-making roles of the TAB.

Some members had less concern with the history of the TAB/MPO, but rather would like to clarify roles and authority and establish processes now. Motion by Hovland, seconded by Westerberg that the TAB refer this to the Policy Committee for further study and recommendation to the full TAB, having an initial report within 60 days.

Discussion that followed included what is expected of the report, existing documents. Whalen stated that members should read material and formulate questions and give direction to the Policy Committee.

Hovland withdrew his motion with approval from Westerberg. Ulrich stated two important questions he feels should be answered: 1) the fundamental legal authority of who is the MPO, and 2) processes and whether the TAB has authority to establish processes.

It was agreed to put this item on the agenda for April TAB meeting to give members time to read the information and bring ideas back to the TAB for discussion. Roggenbuck said that staff will provide the most recent information on Federal Rules and Federal Guidance and most recent FHWA & FTA Certification.

As a recap of the discussion and future direction, Johnson stated that 1) members will read the documents provided and discuss in April, and 2) TAB asks the Metro Council staff to present on the history of TAB and MPO – how formed, etc.

### **C. Policy Committee**

Johnson reported that the Policy Committee met and heard presentations on the following items:

#### **MnDOT 50-year Visioning**

Presentation by Philip Schaffner, MnDOT Office of Statewide Multimodal Planning (Minnesota GO).

This is a 50-year vision for the direction for transportation, but does not address how to achieve the vision at this time. An interim report is expected in July 2011 and a final report in July of 2012.

#### **High Speed Rail in Minnesota**

Presentation by Dan Krom, MnDOT Office of Passenger Rail.

The Wisconsin decision not to proceed with high speed rail is not a deterrent to Krom at this time. Northern Lights project (to Duluth) is looking for engineering and design funds this fall. There is no identified funding stream for continuing operations for any of the rail lines at this time.

#### **Regional Population Forecasts**

Presentation by Libby Starling, Metropolitan Council.

Starling stated that most forecasts are based on the 2000 census. It is hoped that the first cut at the 2010 census will be ready and will be sufficient for redistricting. The information for detailed planning at a city level will not be available until sometime next year.

### **D. Programming Committee**

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

2011 Regional Solicitation – status report.

Kevin Roggenbuck gave a report on the 2011 regional solicitation process and status.

There was no objection to the TAB acting on Action Items 2011-28 through 2011-33 in one motion, as consent items.

Motion was made by Lilligren, seconded by Whalen to approve the following items (TAB Action Items 2011-28 through 2011-33) as consent items. Motion carried.

2011-28: Sunset Date Extension for MVTA SP#TRS-MVTA-10A: Bus Purchase, ITS, and Install Platform Fare Collection for Cedar Avenue BRT

Motion: That the TAB Approve a one year sunset date extension from March 31, 2011 to March 31, 2012 for MVTA SP:TRS-MVTA-10A: Bus Purchase, ITS, and Install Platform Fare Collection for Cedar Avenue BRT.

2011-29: 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment request for Metro Transit: FTA 5309 Funds for Real Time Transit Arrival Signs and Transit Signal Priority

Motion: That the TAB Adopt an amendment to the 2011-2014 TIP to include Metro Transit: FTA 5309 Funds for Real Time Transit Arrival Signs and Transit Signal Priority.

2011-30: 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment request for Metro Transit SP#CMT-09-07: Maplewood Mall Transit Center Expansion

Motion: That the TAB Adopt an amendment to the 2011-2014 TIP that splits the CMAQ-funded Maplewood Mall Transit Center expansion and advances the \$4,129,070 park and ride construction portion of the Maplewood Mall Transit Center from program year 2013 to 2011 and maintain the balance of the original CMAQ award (\$3,010,930) for bus purchases and bus service in 2013.

2011-31: 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment request for Metro Transit Project to Construct New Paint Booth

Motion: That the TAB adopt an amendment to the 2011-2014 TIP that adds a Metro Transit FTA 5309 Funding for Construction of a new paint booth at the existing Overhaul Base Maintenance Facility.

2011-32: 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment request for FTA Section 5310 Projects for Transportation for Elderly and Persons with Disabilities

Motion: That the TAB adopt an amendment to the 2011-2014 TIP that adds projects selected by MnDOT to receive FTA Section 5310, Elderly and Persons with Disabilities Program funds.

2011-33: 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment request for additional local funds to Dakota County SP#091-090-048: Mississippi River Trail from Cahill to Pine Bend Bluffs Trailhead

Motion: That the TAB adopt an amendment to the 2011-2014 TIP that adds additional local funds to Dakota County SP#091-090-048: Mississippi River Trail from Cahill to Pine Bend Bluffs Trailhead.

The following two items were not considered as consent agenda items:

2011-34: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Proposal for CMAQ Funding for Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

Motion by Lilligren, seconded by Petryk:

That the TAB request that MPCA work with the region to further develop the project proposal particularly with regard to the process for determining the location of the charging stations and for the TAC F&P Committee to prepare and forward to TAB a TIP amendment when that work has been completed.

Motion carried.

Lilligren noted that there were a number of questions that came forward from the Programming Committee on this issue. The committee has requested that staff (Carl Ohrn coordinate) prepare and present information to respond to questions about market impacts, impacts of electric cars on gas tax, road tax collection, etc. Johnson suggested that the presentation be given to the full TAB.

2011-35: Process to evaluate scope change requests for regionally-selected projects  
TAC and F&P Committees worked on this process. There was one change at the Programming Committee: in Item 6 – added a step that if scope changes are going to be rejected, they will still come through the TAB approval process.

Motion by Lilligren, seconded by Hovland:

That the TAB implements a new process for project sponsors to follow when requesting a scope change (proposed process attached to action transmittal for Item 2011-35).

Motion carried.

## **VII. SPECIAL AGENDA**

Prospects for the Reauthorization for Extension of SAFETA-LU

Serge Phillips, MnDOT Federal Relations, appeared before the committee to discuss federal transportation funding and the prospects for a reauthorization for extension of SAFETA-LU.

An extension of SAFETA-LU was granted until the end of the fiscal year (9/30/11). Theoretically, this gives Congress time to work on a reauthorization bill. The House Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman Mica has promised a reauthorization bill by Memorial Day. That bill is attached to current revenue spending and is a little lower than current levels. The Senate Environmental and Public Works committee has indicated that their committee might introduce a reauthorization bill by the beginning of summer. Debates continue for this year's spending, committees have yet to discuss next year. The continuing resolution ends 3/18/11. A 3-week extension was proposed yesterday (to 4/08/11) and will be going to the Senate. The spending bills are being considered together. There is a large gap in fiscal year 2011 spending. House Republicans have publically stated that their goal is to cut \$2B in spending for each week of a short term continuing resolution. This would potentially cut/rescind TIGER II grants, unobligated money for high-speed rail and FTA capital investment grants. CCLRT is one of four projects in the country at risk, the FFGA has not yet been signed for CCLRT. President Obama has proposed a 6-year \$556B Surface Transportation Bill as part of fiscal year 2012 budget proposal. The bill is a performance-driven proposal. There are proposed changes in categories of highway funding programs and transit programs. This proposed bill does not have an accompanying revenue package. It is possible that future funding will be linked to revenues collected. The highway trust fund is projected to last into fiscal year 2012.

## **VIII. ITEMS OF TAB MEMBERS**

None

## **IX. AGENCY REPORTS**

Scott McBride stated that MnDOT is looking at a program to address the pavement needs in Minnesota. The pavement needs cannot be sustained with the funding available. McBride gave a statistics about the number of statewide miles of roads in poor condition, and the projection to 2020. The state's bond rating is set by the assets that the state owns; the biggest asset that the state owns is the State Highway System. The condition of that highway system affects the state bond rating. It is projected that in 2020, the state would exceed that rating for Principal Arterials, and by 2017 would exceed that measure for non-Principal Arterials.

A new program of improvement called "Better Roads" is being looked at. This program would look at improvement as well as surfacing (transit advantages, congestion mitigation, etc.). MnDOT is proposing an amount of \$600M over a four-year period (2012-2015) based on cost savings, Chapter 152, trunk highway fund balance, and St. Croix River crossing funding. Currently, \$300M+ is in MnDOT's program for the St. Croix River crossing. By federal law in regards to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the project cannot be built. In 2013 & 2014, there is about \$260M in the program, the State of Wisconsin does not have funding for this project. The project is scheduled to be let in 2013, there are sunset dates on the 2013-2014 money. It is

quickly coming to the point where something else may have to be done with that money, rather than risk losing it. If St. Croix River Crossing money is used for another project, an amendment to the TPP would be likely required.

Some potential projects that are being considered are: 1) extension of MnPASS on I35E from Maryland to Little Canada Road, and 2) dynamic shoulder lanes at: a) I494 in Plymouth from Hwy. 55 to Fish Lake Interchange, and b) I-694 from Lexington Avenue to Unweave the Weave.

Other suggested projects are upgrading traffic management on signalized arterials, signal timing. MnDOT will know more about this potential program sometime in April.

## **X. OTHER BUSINESS**

None

## **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

Acting Chair Johnson adjourned the regular meeting of TAB at 3:00 pm on Wednesday, March 16, 2011.

Respectfully submitted: LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary