

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
 390 North Robert St., St. Paul MN 55101
REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD
 Wednesday, September 21, 2011

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Hargis, William, Chair	Hegberg, Dennis	Rossbach, Will
Stark, Russ	McKnight, Kenya	Mussell, Richard	Gallagher, Steven
Have, Ron	Callison, Jan	Lilligren, Robert	Maluchnik, Randy
Peilen, Lisa	McBride, Scott	Heffelfinger, Thomas	Thornton, David
Petryk, Becky	Sanger, Sue	Gepner, David	Siddiqui, AJ
Donahoe, Margaret	Drotning, Karl	Van Hattum, David	Swanson, Dick
Tjornhom, Bethany	Hovland, James	Bennett, Tony	Meyers, James
Westerberg, Andy	Reinhardt, Andrew	Whalen, Julia	Ulrich, Jon
Krause, Paul	Duininck, Adam		
ABSENT: none			
LIAISON/STAFF PRESENT:	Kevin Roggenbuck, TAB Coordinator		

I. CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Chair Hargis called the September 21, 2011 TAB meeting to order at 1:38 pm, Metropolitan Council Chambers, 390 North Robert St., St. Paul.

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Lilligren, seconded by Hovland, to adopt the agenda for the September 21, 2011 TAB meeting. Motion carried.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Maluchnik, seconded by Callison, to approve the minutes from August 17, 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 MEMBERS

Chair Hargis introduced new TAB members Kenya McKnight, AJ Siddiqui, Margaret Donahoe, Karl Drotning, and David Van Hattum. Each said a few words about themselves. Each TAB member also introduced themselves to the new members.

VI. RECOGNITION OF TAB MEMBERS

This item was postponed to the October TAB meeting.

VII. RECOGNITION OF CARL OHRN, TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ANALYST, METRO COUNCIL.

The TAB recognized MTS Planning Analyst Carl Ohrn with a plaque for his years of service with planning and programming and assistance to the TAB.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Technical Advisory Committee

Mayasich reported that the Technical Advisory Committee met on September 7, 2011 and heard information about the following:

MnDOT presented information about the I-35 MnPASS program.

The TAC also acted on an item involving an MPCA request for CMAQ funds for electric vehicle station infrastructure development. The TAC voted to forward the item to the TAB Programming Committee for consideration and recommendation to the full TAB. This item is 2011-60 on today's TAB agenda.

B. TAB Executive Committee

a. Information: Roggenbuck reported that the Executive Committee Met on 8/11 and heard the following items:

The Executive Committee reviewed the items on upcoming committee calendars and noted the need for new information to discuss contingency plans for transportation funding actions if no new bills for transportation funding are introduced.

An orientation for new TAB members was held on 9/16.

The due date for the Regional Solicitation applications was changed to 8/22. A one-page summary of the application results was mailed to the Programming Committee.

Since the 8/11 Executive Committee meeting, SAFETEA-LU has been extended for six months. This does not answer the Transportation Funding Bill questions and, in October, the TAB will discuss when to resume the Regional Solicitation activities.

A Transportation Planning Handbook is being prepared (old Prospectus). The technical committees will have input on the handbook.

Information on the "A" Minor Arterial Study will be coming as the study advances.

The Regional Transitway Guidelines were presented to the Policy Committee on 9/17 and are available for public comment.

An example of some transportation items that might come to the TAB as information items in the future are: Transportation Finance; Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), Major Regional Development Projects.

b. TAB Action 2011-62: Approval of subcommittee assignments effective September 21, 2011.

Hargis stated that Randy Maluchnik will co-chair the Policy Committee in Ken Johnson's place.

Copies of the committee assignments have been provided with the TAB mailing.

Motion by Lilligren, seconded by Duininck to approve the TAB subcommittee assignments effective September 21, 2011 as named on the roster provided in the meeting packet. Motion carried

C. Policy Committee

Maluchnik reported that the Policy Committee met and heard the following items:

a. Information: Internal Audit on Metropolitan Planning Process, and

b. Transportation Handbook

The audit stated that there have been some inconsistencies over time regarding the TPP and comments and timing thereof. The audit asks that: The role of the TAB be clarified in the TPP process; opportunities for public comment be made more clear; and, the TAB and Metro Council strengthen the public outreach process. The Transportation Planning Handbook will more clearly spell out the roles of TAB and MC in planning, and there will be more explanation of the local roads. The Executive Committee will discuss and recommend how to take an active role and move forward with comments on the Planning Handbook. Stark requested that the Policy Committee see the draft Planning Handbook at the October meeting, with an outline of the proposed changes to be made. Comments on the Planning Handbook will be made through the Policy Committee.

c. Information: Interstate 35E Corridor

The committee received an update from MnDOT for the I-35E corridor and proposed MnPass lanes.

d. Action Item 2011-59: 2012 Unified Planning Work Program

The Policy Committee recommended the TAB approve this item. Elaine Koutsoukos was present to answer questions. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Stark, seconded by Have that the Transportation Advisory Board recommend adoption of the 2012 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area to the Metropolitan Council. Motion carried.

D. Programming Committee

Hovland reported that the Programming Committee met on 8/11 and the agenda consisted of the following items:

a. Information: 2011 Regional Solicitation

Roggenbuck gave an update on the 2011 Regional Solicitation. 140 applications were received (a higher number than the last solicitation). Based on the numbers proposed in a House bill, the region may have approximately \$50 - \$60 million to allocate, but that number may change depending on the outcome of the Transportation Funding Bill.

b. Information: Contingency Planning for a New Federal Transportation Act

A 6-month reauthorization of SAFETEA-LU was passed unanimously by the federal government. The committee agreed that previously selected projects should be honored in the TIP before new projects are funded.

c. 2011-60: MPCA request for CMAQ funds for EV recharging station infrastructure development project. Hovland reported that the TAC voted 9-8 that the Programming Committee should pass this on to the full TAB to discuss. Options are: 1) Program this project in 2012 using funds from the regional balance or 2) Fund the project in 2015 from the 2011 regional solicitation. Fran Crotty, MPCA, presented this item to the Programming Committee and the full TAB. Discussion followed.

Krause asked what the average cost is per charging stations (\$1,500), and stated that the Mall of America has 16 stations that were not funded by the government. The vendor makes the income from the Mall of America units, but they are not being used and other cars are taking these parking spaces at the MOA. Krause stated that a program for charging electric vehicles is needed, but perhaps it is too early, and too costly (\$500,000) at this time. There are many more projects (example: Cedar Ave BRT) that this money could be used for, and Krause would not support this at this time. He stated that electric vehicles have a future, but it is not the government's place to provide the charging stations; perhaps private companies could provide and own the stations.

Peilen asked questions about the cost and availability of electric vehicles, the range of mileage on a full charge, and how long it takes to charge the vehicle (average 4 hours+/-). Whalen mentioned the tax credits given to electric vehicle buyers and those dollars are not going into the money to be used for roads. She stated that there are other projects next on the list that should be given priority before adding more projects to the mix. Heffelfinger questioned the approximate cost of \$7,000 per unit, and questioned that if the high cost is installation, then why wouldn't Xcel Energy commit more than a \$22,000 match.

Rossbach asked who would be the owner(s) of the electric vehicle charging stations. Crotty answered that the participating cities and government entities would own the stations. Have suggested there be incentives for employers to provide the stations.

Crotty stated that the objective of this project is to be ready for electric vehicles. Thornton added that the timing is important; this project does not qualify to compete for CMAQ funds the way the regional solicitation is set up at present. Electric vehicle manufacturers will make cars available in the markets that are most ready for them.

In answer to Hovland's question of what is the MPCA's most compelling case to use government money for electric vehicle charging stations, Crotty stated the case for cleaner vehicles.

Stark asked how other parts of the country financed their electric vehicle charging stations and Crotty answered that the federal government provided funding to certain areas of the country. Sanger asked whether consideration has been given to transfer these charging stations to a private entity and Crotty answered that this has not been considered at this time. Drotning stated that although there is demand for the electric vehicles, he feels the project is premature.

Lilligren stated he feels this is not outside the realm of the government's job, in order to build a robust economy. Callison supports this action because it will begin to find the answers to ownership, and financing of the charging stations, but asked if the action could be postponed to the October TAB meeting.

Motion by Callison, seconded by Rossbach:

That this item return to the TAB at its October meeting for discussion and possible action.

Motion passed.

McKnight requested discussion at the October meeting of how the locations for the charging stations were determined. Swanson also requested information on how \$500,000 to electric vehicle charging stations is better use of funding than using the funding for other transit options.

IX. SPECIAL AGENDA

Minnesota GO! Visioning Stakeholder Outreach and the draft Minnesota Statewide Transportation Plan

Due to time constraints, Kirby Becker, MnDOT, agreed to return to the committee in October to report on drafting the statewide transportation plan.

X. ITEMS OF TAB MEMBERS

None.

XI. AGENCY REPORTS

None.

XII. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Hargis adjourned the regular meeting of TAB at 3:15 pm on Wednesday, September 21, 2011.