

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD

Metropolitan Council Building, 390 North Robert Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101

TAB POLICY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes: January 13, 2011
Metropolitan Council Chambers

Members Present: Ken Johnson Co Chair, Russ Stark, Co-Chair, David Gepner, Ron Have, Tom Heffelfinger, Dennis Hegberg, Paul Krause, Peggy Leppik, Randy Maluchnik, Scott McBride, James Meyers, Bethany Tjornhom.

Guests and Staff: Matt Shands, MN/DOT Office of Innovative Finance.
Ed Idzorek, MN/DOT Office of Innovative Finance.
Steve Elmer, Metropolitan Council Transportation Services.
Mary Karlsson, Metropolitan Council Transportation Services.
Kevin Roggenbuck, TAB Coordinator.

I. Call to Order.

Co Chair Stark called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM. A quorum was not present, Co-Chair Stark directed the committee to take up agenda item IV.a.

IV. Information Items and Action Transmittals.

a. Information: Transportation Economic Development Program.

Mr. Shands presented this item to the committee. Mr. Shands reviewed the legislative direction on both the Transportation Economic Development (TED) and Safety and Mobility (SaM) programs including the funds available, project eligibility and geographic distribution of the awarded funds. Mr. Shands explained that the TED program directs funds toward projects that will assist in the development of new business or expanding businesses and presented the list of projects selected for funding in phase one. Mr. Shands discussed the five-year job creation/retention estimates and answered questions from committee members.

Mr. Idzorek explained the SaM program purpose, funding levels, project eligibility and scoring criteria. Mr. Idzorek presented the projects selected to receive SaM funding and answered questions about the funding split between the metro district and greater Minnesota.

Co-Chair Stark said a quorum is now present and directed the committee back to agenda item II.

II. Adoption of the Agenda.

Ms. Leppik moved, seconded by Mr. Meyers, to adopt the agenda. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

III. Approval of the Minutes from December 15, 2010.

Mr. Meyers moved, seconded by Mr. Have, to approve the minutes from the December 15, 2010 TAB Policy Committee meeting. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

b. Information: Metro Area Freight Study.

Mr. Elmer presented this item to the committee. Mr. Elmer reviewed the findings from the 2005 MN/DOT Statewide Freight Plan, reviewed the results of other freight studies and described the region's freight system characteristics. Mr. Elmer described the purpose of the metro area freight study and the outreach activities.

Mr. Have explained how the Twin Cities is at "the end of the line" and not much freight moves westbound through the region, causing some businesses to move their distribution centers out of the area. Mr. have said other regions are more active in providing zoning changes or providing other incentives to attract shippers.

c. Information: Regional Transitway Guidelines.

Ms. Karlsson presented this item to the committee. Ms. Karlsson described the remaining steps in the transitway guidelines review process. Ms. Karlsson also highlighted steps in the TPP amendment process to start in March.

Ms. Karlsson described the proposed fare collection system for the Cedar Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), noting that the discussion at Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) meetings led to the addition of off-board ticket vending machines at the Apple Valley station. Ms. Karlsson said the Cedar Avenue BRT buses will be branded differently than the regular-route service buses and also have fare collection at both doors so people will know they are part of the BRT system.

Ms. Karlsson said the light rail lines and the BRT lines will be renamed and color coded, and that the Metropolitan Council will set the fare structure.

V. Other Business.

Mr. McBride announced that Khani Sahebjam, MN/DOT Deputy Commissioner, has accepted a position at HDR Consulting and today is his last day at MN/DOT.

VI. Adjournment.

Mr. Johnson adjourned the TAB Policy Committee meeting at 2:05 PM.

Minutes prepared by
Kevin Roggenbuck,
TAB Coordinator