

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD

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

TAB POLICY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes: March 10, 2011
Metropolitan Council Chambers

Members Present: Ken Johnson Co Chair, Russ Stark, Co-Chair, David Gepner, Dennis Hegberg, Randy Maluchnik, Scott McBride, James Meyers, Lisa Peilen, Andrew Reinhardt, Bethany Tjornhom.

Guests and Staff: Philip Schaffner, MN/DOT Office of Statewide Multimodal Planning.
Dan Krom, MN/DOT Office of Passenger Rail.
Libby Starling, Metropolitan Council Research.
Kevin Roggenbuck, TAB Coordinator.

I. Call to Order.

Co Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 12:30 PM.

II. Adoption of the Agenda.

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

III. Approval of the Minutes from January 13, 2011.

Mr. Gepner moved, seconded by Mr. Meyers, to approve the minutes from the January 13, 2011 TAB Policy Committee meeting. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

IV. Information Items and Action Transmittals.

a. Information: MN/DOT 50 Year Visioning.

Mr. Schaffner presented this item to the committee. Mr. Schaffner said a new office in MN/DOT was created in 2010 called the Office of Statewide Multimodal Planning. This office is leading the 50-year visioning initiative, an effort to better align the transportation system with quality of life goals. The vision is a goal defining effort that does not include strategies on how to achieve the vision. The vision will make MN/DOT's long range transportation plan fully multi-modal. Instead of having one plan for each mode, all modes will be included in planning.

Mr. Schaffner said the 50 year vision is not fiscally constrained to evaluate a list of projects. The purpose is just to develop ways or priorities to rank or evaluate projects. MN/DOT will educate the public about issues and trends affecting transportation. Mr. Schaffner said an interim document will be prepared in July and a public hearing will follow.

b. Information: High Speed Rail in Minnesota.

Mr. Krom presented this item to the committee. Mr. Krom said his office is continuing to work on several passenger rail studies despite Wisconsin's decision to give back \$810 million in federal funding to develop a high speed passenger rail line between Milwaukee

and Madison. Mr. Krom said several of the 24 planned routes between the Twin Cities and Chicago do not go through Wisconsin and Minnesota would not be deterred by Wisconsin's decision. Mr. Krom said the Obama Administration is committed to proposing a National High Speed Rail Initiative and Transportation Secretary LaHood believes Minnesota is well positioned for future initiatives.

Mr. Krom answered questions from the committee about how fast high speed rail travels and about the sources of operating funds and offered to return and give the committee more information when it becomes available.

c. Information: Regional Population Forecasts.

Ms. Starling presented this item to the committee. Ms. Starling explained the difference between population/household estimates and forecasts. Estimates are backward looking based on observed changes in housing stock and forecasts are forward looking based on Census data. The Met Council uses these forecasts as the basis for long range planning.

Ms. Starling described how population is counted in different groups and different geographic areas. Ms. Starling explained that the State Demographer works with data only at the county level while the Met Council works at the Travel Analysis Zone (TAZ) level. The Metropolitan Council produces the official population forecasts for the seven-county metropolitan area while the State Demographer produces official population forecasts for the rest of the state.

V. Other Business.

Members did not raise any other business.

VI. Adjournment.

Mr. Johnson adjourned the TAB Policy Committee meeting at 1:50 PM.

Minutes prepared by
Kevin Roggenbuck,
TAB Coordinator