

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD

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

TAB POLICY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes: March 8, 2012
Metropolitan Council Chambers

Members Present: Russ Stark, Co-Chair, Gerry Butcher, Ethan Fawley, Steven Gallagher, Ron Have, Jennifer Janovy, Paul Krause, Lisa Peilen, Sue Sanger.

Guests and Staff: Adam Josephson, MnDOT Metro District East Area Manager
Elaine Koutsoukos, Metropolitan Council
Ann Braden, Metropolitan Council
Kevin Roggenbuck, TAB Coordinator

I. Call to Order.

Co Chair Stark called the meeting to order at 12:35 PM.

II. Adoption of the Agenda.

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

III. Approval of the Minutes from February 9, 2012.

Mr. Butcher moved, seconded by Mr. Have, to adopt the minutes from the February 9, 2012 TAB Policy Committee meeting. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

IV. Information Items and Action Transmittals.

a. Information: St. Croix River Bridge.

Mr. Josephson presented this item to the committee. Mr. Josephson said the US House and Senate have both voted to exempt the St. Croix River Bridge from the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, allowing the project to go forward once the President signs the bill. Mr. Josephson reviewed the history of the project and the objections from the National Park Service and the lawsuit brought by the Sierra Club. Mr. Josephson said work could start in 2014 and be completed in three years. After completion, the lift bridge will continue to operate as a bike/pedestrian bridge.

Mr. Josephson answered several questions from the committee about charging a toll to cross the new bridge, costs to be borne by the local governments in the project area and environmental mitigation issues.

b. Information: Coordinated Action Plan.

Ms. Koutsoukos presented this item to the committee. Ms. Koutsoukos said the Met Council is required to develop and approve this plan, and is bringing it to the Policy Committee for information today, looking for a recommendation to approve it at a later date. Ms. Koutsoukos described the types of projects that are eligible for Jobs Access and Reverse Commute (JARC), New Freedoms Program and Section 5310 funding and the projects funded in the region since 2007.

The committee members asked questions about the service providers and clients who use the services. Ms. Koutsoukos said non-profit organizations can apply for funding if it is an eligible project. Services can be available to persons with disabilities or those who do not, depending on the service plan. The service provider's insurance may limit the eligible riders who can use the service. Ms. Koutsoukos said the JARC program is fairly competitive, but the Council has turned back some New Freedoms funds due to the lack of applications.

Ms. Koutsoukos described the contents of the draft plan and the plan adoption process. The Coordinated Action Plan will come back through the TAC and TAB for a recommendation to adopt later this summer.

c. Information: Transportation Planning and Programming Guide.

Ms. Braden presented this item to the committee. Ms. Braden provided an overview of the draft Guidebook and described a number of revisions that were made following recommendations from the technical committees. Ms. Braden also explained that the Guidebook will have links to other documents where the reader can find detailed information about specific processes. Ms. Braden said the revised draft Guidebook will be presented and discussed again through the technical committees and the TAB, and the Metropolitan Council will approve it.

Committee members said the language in the draft Guidebook was clear and understandable and the document was laid out well. Committee members offered several comments:

- Expand the introduction to better describe what the Guidebook is, perhaps in an Executive Summary.
- Identify the amounts of money flowing through the region for transportation projects, perhaps at a certain time period.
- Clarify a reference to "3C" on page 4.
- Consider adding a list of key contact persons.

V. Other Business.

Members did not raise any other business.

VI. Adjournment.

Mr. Krause moved, seconded by Mr. Gallagher, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote, and Mr. Stark adjourned the TAB Policy Committee meeting at 1:55 PM.

Minutes prepared by
Kevin Roggenbuck,
TAB Coordinator