

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD

Metropolitan Council Building, 390 Robert Street No., Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101

TAB PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes: June 15, 2011
Metropolitan Council Chambers.

Members Present: Robert Lilligren, Co-Chair, Tony Bennett, Jan Callison, David Gepner, Dennis Hegberg, Scott McBride, Dick Mussell, Jill Smith, David Thornton, Jon Ulrich, Bart Ward, Andy Westerberg.

Guests and Staff: Carl Ohrn, Metropolitan Council
Len Simich, Southwest Transit
Pat Bursaw, MN/DOT Metro Program Management
Kevin Roggenbuck, TAB Coordinator

I. Call to order.

Co-Chair Lilligren called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM.

II. Adoption of the Agenda.

Mr. Westerberg moved, seconded by Ms. Smith to adopt the agenda. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote. Mr. Lilligren noted that Carl Ohrn will substitute for TAC Chair Tim Mayasich.

III. Approval of the Programming Committee minutes from May 18, 2011.

Ms. Callison moved, seconded by Ms. Smith, to approve the minutes from the May 18, 2011 TAB Programming Committee meeting. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

IV. Information Items and Action Transmittals.

(a). Information: 2011 Regional Solicitation.

Mr. Roggenbuck informed the committee that the Chair of the TAC Funding & Programming Committee has named several scoring group chairs and they have begun filling out the scoring groups. A file transfer protocol (FTP) site will be set up so applicants can submit their project proposals electronically rather than delivering a paper copy. The regional solicitation webpage has been updated with a link to questions and answers on the regional solicitation.

(b). 2011-50: 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment: MN/DOT.

Mr. Ohrn presented this item to the committee. Mr. Ohrn described the project, funding sources and said it is consistent with the region's Transportation Policy Plan (TPP). Mr. Ohrn answered questions about the source of funds for the project and the extent of the improvement.

Ms. Callison moved, seconded by Ms. Smith, to recommend adoption of the TIP amendment as described in action transmittal 2011-50. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

(c). 2011-51: Scope Change Request and 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment: Southwest Transit.

Mr. Ohrn presented this item to the committee. Mr. Ohrn described the original project; construction of 450 park and ride spaces at CR 10 and TH 212. Mr. Ohrn described the scope change requested by Southwest Transit; moving the project about 1.2 miles east and using the CMAQ funds intended for right-of-way acquisition in the original project for construction in the new location. Mr. Ohrn said approval of this scope change also requires adoption of a TIP amendment to reflect the change in project scope and increased cost.

Mr. Ohrn said the technical committees compared the requested scope to the original scope and found that they provide similar benefits. Mr. Ohrn explained that the CMAQ funds intended for right-of-way acquisition in the original scope would be used for construction at the new location because the revised scope included would build more structured parking on land already controlled by Southwest Transit. The technical committees recommended approval of the scope change to the TAB.

Discussion followed about the transit facility's connection to the land use around the original site, the current use of other park and ride facilities in the area and the need for additional operating funds and buses to serve the new location. Mr. Simich said this park and ride project was not part of any development proposal at CR 10 and TH 212; that nearby park and ride sites are 90% to 100% full during the school year; Southwest Transit has available buses and Southwest Transit has reduced local service to focus on peak demand service.

Mr. Mussell moved, seconded by Mr. Ulrich, to recommend approval of the project scope change and adoption of the TIP amendment as described in action transmittal 2011-51. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

(d). 2011-52: Scope Change Request and 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment: MN/DOT.

Mr. Ohrn presented this item to the committee. Mr. Ohrn described the original project scope to reconstruct the TH 120 intersection with Hudson Road, essentially closing the intersection and using frontage roads to cross TH 120 and eliminating a full movement intersection that is close to the westbound I-94 exit ramp intersection with TH 120.

Mr. Ohrn said local businesses objected to the proposed design and the city of Oakdale felt it would hinder redevelopment efforts along TH 120. In response, MN/DOT redesigned the project. Mr. Ohrn described the revised scope. The revised design would allow some turning movements at TH 120 and Hudson Road, adds a southbound auxiliary lane and does not have the northbound frontage road. The STP funds awarded through the solicitation stay the same, but MN/DOT would add other federal funds to the project to keep it funded at 80% federal and 20% state match.

Ms. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. McBride, to recommend approval of the scope change request and adoption of the TIP amendment as described in action transmittal 2011-52. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

(e). 2011-53: 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment: MN/DOT.

Mr. Ohrn presented this item to the committee. Mr. Ohrn explained how funding for this study was available, then made unavailable, and is now available again from the Value Pricing Pilot Program but must be spent in 2012. Mr. Ohrn said the funds will be used to study the feasibility of reconstructing the I-94 and TH 280 interchange to provide better continuity with planned MnPASS lanes on I-94.

The committee discussed the demographics of people who use the MnPASS lanes and Mr. McBride explained the pricing format.

Mr. McBride moved, seconded by Ms. Callison, to recommend adoption of the TIP amendment as described in action transmittal 2011-53. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

(f). Discussion: Impacts of a State Government Shutdown.

Mr. Roggenbuck presented this item to the committee. Mr. Roggenbuck said a state government shutdown on July 1 will affect the MN Department of Transportation and the MN Pollution Control Agency. Mr. Roggenbuck explained how staff from both of these state agencies is important to the regional solicitation process and the preparation of the 2012-2015 TIP. Mr. Roggenbuck said the timing for a state government shutdown is especially bad because the deadline for submitting projects in the regional solicitation is July 18 and the public comment period on the draft 2012-2015 TIP closes on July 5.

Mr. Thornton said there will be no MPCA staff available to assist with the regional solicitation or TIP process. They will not be able to process permits for developments and construction projects during a state government shutdown.

Mr. McBride said the Governor's Office released a list of closed services today and read some of the closures from the list. Mr. McBride said only about 200 MN/DOT staff statewide will stay on the job during a shutdown and they will serve only emergency and critical functions. Mr. McBride said Metro State Aid and other planning staff will not be available to assist with the regional solicitation or the TIP.

Mr. Thornton and Mr. McBride answered questions from the committee about how their agencies are preparing for a shutdown and which services might remain operational. The committee discussed whether to defer the due date for applications in the regional solicitation and how long the date should be postponed if state government is shut down.

Ms. Callison moved, seconded by Mr. McBride, to recommend to the TAB, "Inform applicants that if the state government is shut down, the TAB will postpone the regional solicitation due date to a new date to be determined on July 20 or at the next TAB meeting, giving reasonable notice in setting the new due date."

Discussion followed. Applicants will not know how long the application due date has been postponed until the TAB meets on July 20th. The committee decided it would meet on another day if necessary and would emphasize to applicants that the postponed due date will give them ample time to coordinate with MN/DOT and other agencies.

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

(g). Discussion: Contingency Planning for the New Federal Transportation Act.
Mr. Lilligren noted the time and said Mr. Roggenbuck will present this item to the full TAB.

V. Other Business.

Members did not raise any other business.

VI. Adjourn

Mr. Lilligren adjourned the meeting at 1:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted:
Kevin Roggenbuck, TAB Coordinator.