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TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD
Metropolitan Council
390 N. Robert St., St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-1805

Minutes of a Meeting of the
FUNDING AND PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE
July 19, 2012

MEMBERS PRESENT: Karl Keel (Chair), Greta Alquist, Craig Jenson, Joe Lux, Kate Garwood, Colleen Van Wagner, Brian Isaacson, Cynthia Wheeler, Steven Hay, Charles Carlson (for Adam Harrington), John Powell, Richard McCoy, Ted Schoenecker, John Sass, Innocent Eyoh, Kevin Roggenbuck, and James Andrew (staff)

OTHERS PRESENT: Jon Solberg - MnDOT

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:31 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as written.

3. Approval of the Minutes from the May 17, 2012 Meeting and the May 31, 2012 Meeting

Minutes from both meetings were approved without change.

4. TAB Report (Kevin Roggenbuck) – Information Item

K. Roggenbuck reported that the TAB did not meet in July and that the Executive Committee will meet in early August.

5. Sunset Date Extension Request from Ramsey County for SP#146-020-011: CSAH 10/TH 10/CR H Intersection in Mounds View – Action Item*

Joe Lux presented the request. This project was initiated by the City of Mounds View when they applied for HSIP funds. They requested that Ramsey County take on the project. In discussions with MnDOT, it was determined that Highway Avenue is a MnDOT road and a bridge project was being programmed in the same general vicinity of this project. He referred to a layout of the project. The Ramsey County project overlaps with the MnDOT project at I-35 and CR H.

B. Isaacson stated that MnDOT and Ramsey County are proposing a TIP amendment that would move the program year to coordinate with the bridge project in 2015. This would be different from a sunset date extension but would move the project out beyond its sunset year. This project would become part of the bridge project and they can be delivered together.

A question was asked about the advantages of doing these two projects together. One advantage is less interruption of traffic and the potential need to tear up pavements twice. The other reason is that Ramsey

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County would have to do a scope change if they were to do them in different years since the termini would need to change.

J. Lux reported that the signal plans have progressed to 90%. A trail has been added to the south side of the road and they need to do some pavement correction. The plan is 60-70% complete. They still need a small amount of right of way from the parks department but it is county property. There is also one parcel that is still in question but there is progress being made with it. A project memorandum has been started, and is almost ready to be sent in.

Committee members asked if the MnDOT project could be moved from 2015 to 2014 in order to keep this project on schedule. B. Isaacson stated that it would be unlikely to move this project up to an earlier year. Jon Solberg stated that it would be unlikely to deliver in 2014 because of other bridges in the area and the cost of those bridges. These two projects would be instead combined into one to be programmed in 2015.

K. Keel stated that he was convinced that they have met the requirements of the sunset date extension, and the rationale for tying the two projects together makes sense.

J. Lux added that had there not been a need to coordinate with MnDOT, the project could be delivered in 2013.

B. Isaacson stated that MnDOT will bring in a TIP amendment reflecting this change at a later meeting.

6. Acceptance of the Public Comment Report and Adoption of the 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – Action Item*

Kevin Roggenbuck went over the public comment report for the TIP.

K. Garwood asked about the addition of amounts for the TDM program in 2015 and 2016. K. Roggenbuck responded that this set-aside was not in the draft TIP but the TAB has asked to keep these programs whole so the projects needed to be separated out from the rest of the CMAQ set-aside. He added that the projects selected by the TAB in June are not in this final TIP and will be amended at a later date. He added that we still need to figure out what funding is available in 2015 and 2016 from the new act. We can't determine program years until we know how much funding is available.

K. Keel stated that MAP-21 took away some categories, but the projects selected by TAB are still eligible. TAB adopted the contingency that they don't want to take away federal funds, but rather just defer some projects.

K. Garwood asked whether project sponsors should start environmental documentation and begin work on these projects that are not yet in the TIP. B. Isaacson stated that he felt that people should get going if they know that they are selected. We still need to figure out how the rules are adjusted and we are aware that we are behind. We have been in conversations with the Office of Capital Programs about what they know but they don't know all of what the new act means in all areas. They are certain they can keep 2013 whole, but less certain that they have enough for 2014. 2015 and 2016 are not included in the new act so they are in question. There is a change in the funding level about what comes to the Metropolitan Council, and Rulemaking has to take place before a lot of the new act will be understood. Some rules are changing, and it appears that there are more requirements in this act than existed before but there is also more flexibility in other areas.

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C. Van Wagner stated that in their initial review of the new projects, a handful of them want to advance to 2013. B. Isaacson stated that the ability to advance may be affected, but that there may be a need to spend the funds in 2013 if there is not enough to program in that year.

K. Keel noted how little public comment was received and questioned the effectiveness of this public involvement process.

B. Isaacson **moved** to accept the public comment report. J. Powell seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

J. Powell **moved** to adopt the 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program. I. Eyoh seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

7. Other Business

K. Keel presented a certificate of recognition for James Andrew for his six years of service as the staff to the Funding & Programming Committee. K. Garwood **moved** to adopt the certificate and C. Van Wagner seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED**☺

Brian Isaacson distributed the HSIP projects that were selected through a MnDOT process for 2015 and 2016. These projects are only part of the total HSIP solicitation and are for reactive projects. There should be at least as much for HSIP funding in 2015 and 2016 as was available in previous years. He stated that the MnDOT did not receive enough applications to fill out what is available. There should be some extra funding available. MnDOT solicits and scores the projects. These projects will need to be amended into the program at the same time that the projects selected by TAB in June are amended.

K. Keel stated that he would appreciate a report for TAC in August and that it should be clear about unprogrammed funds that are left over to program from these funds.

K. Garwood **moved** to approve the list of HSIP projects but with the stipulation that a staff report be presented with the action to TAC. J. Lux seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:13 p.m.

Submitted by:
James Andrew