

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
 390 North Robert St., St. Paul MN 55101
REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD
 Wednesday, May 18, 2011

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Hargis, William, Chair	Hegberg, Dennis	Meyers, James
Petryk, Becky	Johnson, Ken	Have, Ron	Maluchnik, Randy
Hovland, James	Smith, Jill	Lilligren, Robert	Westerberg, Andy
Peilen, Lisa	McBride, Scott	Ulrich, Jon	Ward, Bart
Heffelfinger, Thomas	Callison, Jan	Krause, Paul	Rossbach, Will
Bennett, Tony	Reinhardt, Andrew	Stark, Russ	Thornton, David
	Gallagher, Steven	Swanson, Dick	
ABSENT:	Duininck, Adam	Trepanier, Mike	Tjornhom, Bethany
	Mussell, Richard	Whalen, Julia	Gepner, David
LIAISON/STAFF PRESENT:	Kevin Roggenbuck, TAB Coordinator		

I. CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Chair Hargis called the May 18, 2011 TAB meeting to order at 1:40 pm, Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul.

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Smith, to adopt the agenda for the May 18, 2011 TAB meeting.
 Motion carried.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Callison, seconded by Johnson, to approve the minutes from April 20, 2011 TAB meeting.
 Motion carried.

IV. PUBLIC FORUM

Invitation to the public to address the Board about any issue not on the agenda. Public comment on the agenda items has occurred at the respective TAB subcommittee meetings.
 There were no members of the public present to address the TAB at today's meeting.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Technical Advisory Committee

Carl Ohrn stated that the action items on the TAB agenda today were approved by the TAC.

B. Executive Committee

Hargis reported the executive committee received an update on the TAB membership on 5/12. The remainder of the appointments are to be named in June. Reports from the two TAB liaisons to the MC Transportation Committee (Lilligren and Gepner) will begin to appear as an item on the TAB agendas. The Executive Committee also discussed the process for the TIP and heard an update on the regional solicitation. The committee met with MC Chair Haigh and Regional Administrator Born on 4/18 as was discussed at the last TAB meeting.

C. Policy Committee

Stark reported that the Policy Committee met last week and heard information on the following:

Information: Regional “A” Minor Arterial Study.

Carl Ohrn gave a presentation on the purpose, scope and schedule of the study. Information included how “A” minor arterials are classified and categorized. The study group will have a preliminary analysis in January 2012 and come back to the TAB before any finalization or recommendations from the study.

Action Item:

2011-43: Twin Cities Regional Roadway Functional Classification Map

Stark stated the Policy Committee passed this action item and he made a motion, seconded by Have:

That the Transportation Advisory Board adopts the Roadway Functional Classification Map for the seven-county Twin Cities region as the official map for the 2011 regional solicitation.

Motion passed.

Discussion: Review of Regional Transportation Planning and Programming Processes

TAB involvement in MPO transportation planning and programming processes (referred by the full TAB).

The committee focused on the proposal by Ulrich for a 3-step process. There were concerns about slowing down the process overall and how to decide what might be “minor” amendments to the TPP that may not need to go through the entire process. Ulrich stated that flexibility is needed and TPP amendments have some urgency and perhaps may not need 3 steps for approval, whereas a TPP update should follow a longer review process. Roggenbuck will work with Ulrich on draft language that will be reviewed by the Policy Committee in June.

Discussion: Electric Vehicles and the Gasoline Tax

Ethan Fawley of Fresh Energy (Minnesota Drive Electric) attended the Policy Committee and presented on this subject. Committee discussion took place regarding alternative road tax for electric vehicles and impact of alternative fueled vehicles on revenues used to maintain roadways. There are policy questions and challenges because the gas tax is a major revenue source for transportation. Stark clarified that his earlier statement about St. Paul electric vehicle stations was in error, these stations will not be free to the customer, the city is working on details. The committee also discussed mileage-based user fees, particularly if the gas tax does not produce the revenue expected.

D. Programming Committee

Hovland reported that the Programming Committee heard information on the following items:

Information: 2011 Regional Solicitation

The solicitation was mailed out on 5/12, on 5/19 the TAC F&P will choose chairs that will assemble the project scoring teams. Project scoring is due 7/18/11.

Hovland stated the Programming Committee acted favorably on the following items and suggested moving them to the full TAB as Consent Items. There was no objection from committee members.

Motion by Hovland seconded by Lilligren to approve items 2011-44, 2011-45, and 2011-46 in one motion as consent items.

Motion passed.

2011-44: 2011-2014 TIP Amendment: MnDOT SP#6386-56: Unbonded Concrete Overlay, Reconstruction of Ramps and Loops and New Acceleration Lanes on I-694 at TH 36 Interchange

Motion:

That the TAB Adopt an amendment to the 2011-2014 TIP to include MnDOT SP#6286-56: Unbonded Concrete Overlay, Reconstruction of Ramps and Loops and New Acceleration Lanes on I-694 at TH 36 Interchange.

2011-45: 2011-2014 TIP Amendment: MnDOT SP#1928-64, Mill and Overlay on TH 52 in Inver Grove Heights

Motion:

That the TAB adopt an amendment to the 2011-2014 TIP to include MnDOT #SP1928-64: US 52 Mill and Overlay, Drainage, ADA Improvements and Traffic Management System Improvements from TH 55 to I-494 in Inver Grove Heights.

2011-46: Scope Change, 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment and Program Year Change: City of Maplewood SP#138-010-018: TH 36 and English Street Interchange Construction.

Motion:

That the TAB:

1. Approve a scope change to SP#138-010-018: TH 36 and English Street Interchange to a full diamond interchange at English Street rather than the original split diamond interchanges with TH 61 and English; and
2. Adopt an amendment to the 2011-2014 TIP to reflect the new scope and cost; and
3. Change the program year for SP#138-010-012, Keller Lake Water Quality Improvement Project, from 2012 to 2014 so that the two projects can be coordinated.

2011-47: Adoption of the Draft 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and schedule for the purpose of holding a public hearing.

Hovland stated that the Programming Committee approved this item. There were no questions or comments from committee members.

Motion by Hovland, seconded by Lilligren:

That the TAB adopts the Draft 2012-2015 TIP and development schedule for the purpose of a public hearing to be held on June 15, 2011.

Motion passed.

Discussion: Contingency Planning for the New Federal Transportation Act

The Programming Committee did not hear this item due to lack of time at the meeting, this item was heard at the full TAB.

Kevin Roggenbuck reported that a new Act may bring substantial changes to the funding levels and categories, eligibility, and allocation processes. The TAB Executive Committee has decided to conduct contingency planning through the Programming Committee to help the TAB be prepared for potential impacts. There is little concrete information available at this time and Roggenbuck referred members to information that has been provided in the committee packet.

VI. SPECIAL AGENDA

Proactive Safety Projects and the County Safety Plans

Sue Groth, MnDOT Traffic Engineer, introduced Brad Estochen, MnDOT, to give a presentation on safety plans and safety project funding. The goal of the program is to prevent and reduce serious injury crashes. MnDOT is performing a risk-based assessment to analyze what and where preventive changes should be made to reduce crashes. MnDOT will work with local government engineers to develop a plan. Some examples of proactive changes are cable median barriers, rumble strips, and signal enhancements. The committee discussed the need for public education for drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists about traffic safety.

Mileage Based User Fees

Ken Buckeye, MnDOT presented on the mileage-based user fee study that was directed to MnDOT by the 2007 legislature. The study has not reached concrete conclusions and in fact has raised questions about privacy, policy issues, public acceptance, equity, technology, etc. MnDOT anticipates a demonstration project to be complete in late 2012. Members requested that copies of each PowerPoint presentation be provided. Roggenbuck will provide to members.

VII. ITEMS OF TAB MEMBERS

None

VIII. AGENCY REPORTS

None

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

Roggenbuck reminded the members that the TAB bike event is scheduled for June 30 and more details will be provided soon.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Hargis adjourned the regular meeting of TAB at 3:30 pm on Wednesday, May 18, 2011.

Respectfully submitted: LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary