

**Transportation Advisory Board**  
of the Metropolitan Council of the Twin Cities

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**TO:** Transportation Advisory Board  
**FROM:** Kevin Roggenbuck, Transportation Coordinator  
**DATE:** September 14, 2011  
**RE:** Notes from the TAB Executive Committee meeting on August 11, 2011.

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The TAB Executive Committee met on Thursday, August 11 to discuss upcoming action and information items for the TAB and TAB subcommittee agendas and other timely issues that are of interest to the Board.

Attached for your information are the speaking notes prepared for the meeting. Staff will provide a short summary of the discussion and recommendations from the TAB Executive Committee meeting.

## **TAB Executive Committee meeting...August 11, 2011**

### **Membership**

- Sue Sanger, St. Louis Park, was recently appointed to replace Mike Trepanier, Brooklyn Park.
- Met Council should announce their appointments on August 24. Arlene has asked the Chair's Office to use a schedule to advertise and appoint members annually in December.

### **Work Program**

#### 2011 regional solicitation

- State government shutdown did happen. As per TAB direction and consultation with Bill and the TAC F&PC; the staff rescheduled the due date to August 22 – one month after resolution of the state budget impasse.
- Staff will set up an ftp site where applicants can submit an electronic copy to us without the hassle of files being too large to email.

#### Contingency Planning

- Discussed at TAB in June; directed TAC F&PC and TAC to explore options and answer questions about what if the new federal Act provided less funding than we have been programming.
- The technical committees discussed it in July and August. No bills introduced yet, only bill outlines or press releases with policy positions.
- Based on the information available, six-year House bill at \$230 B/6years could reduce federal funds to states and MPOs by 1/3.
- The numbers are educated guess, but two things to take away from a new House-style federal Act that reduces formula funds by 1/3:
  - TAB will not have enough funding in the first three years of the new Act to cover the projects already programmed in 2012-2014 through the last two solicitations, and
  - TAB will be hard pressed to cover the projects already programmed in the 2012-2015 TIP from the last two solicitations using all the funding in the six-year Act.
- Technical committees recommend accepting 2011 solicitation applications on August 22 but do not score them for at least two months until we know more about reauthorization or extension.
- Working with MnDOT Metro Program Management staff to figure out the federal cost/amount of the local program of projects in the TIP; waiting for actual bill language from House.
- Two year bill (Senate) helps us afford the projects already in the TIP, but offers no insight to funding beyond 2013. No insight to the 2011 solicitation and projects for 2015-16.
- EVERY state and MPO is in this situation, to one degree or another.
- Serge Phillips with MnDOT coming to TAB Programming Committee today; will work with him and others to track this; will track this ourselves too.

## Transportation Planning Handbook

- This is a new version of the Prospectus, spelling out specific roles and responsibilities in regional planning and programming.
- Council plans on completing it by the end of this year and adopt or approve it spring 2012.
- Policy Committee will consider Jon Ulrich's changes to the TPP Update process on Aug 17; TAB can make this the first input to the new TPH.
- This is important. TAB should take an active role in defining how and when it gets involved in MPO responsibilities (TIP, Solicitation) AND unique studies (Transitway Guidelines, "A" Minor Arterial Study).

## "A" Minor Arterial Study

- Work plan or scope of work is being developed; TAC and TAB will get a chance to see it soon and comment.
- A large part of the purpose of the study was to determine whether the regional solicitation should be modified based on the study findings. New federal Act may make that moot.

## Transitway Guidelines

- Draft TG will be presented to TAB Policy on August 17 for comment prior to adoption for public comments.

## Other...

- Arlene expressed a desire to inform the TAB about transit planning and finance items that were typically not brought to the Board. I will work with her to put together a program of information items that the TAB can perhaps be a resource for decision making.
- 2012 Unified Planning Work Program will come through TAC/TAB soon.
- The Prospectus states that one of the TAB's responsibilities is to "review and comment on relevant plans and/or projects of regional significance." TAB should be plugged into large redevelopment proposals still out there that affect surface transportation and public resources. E.g. Vikings stadium in TCAP site, LRT area and Upper Post at Ft. Snelling and Ford Plant. TAB should be plugged into other operation policy matters too, like we are with Transitway Guidelines. Includes arterial transitway development, priced managed lanes, CMSP policy and projects, ...not to make decisions, but to be able to comment on them before they are finalized by the agency and put into practice. TAB members can make suggestions for the agenda and I will work on scheduling speakers.

Talking points prepared by Kevin Roggenbuck