

TAB PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes: September 10, 2009
Metropolitan Council Chambers.

Members Present: Bill Hargis, Co-Chair, Jim Hovland, Co-Chair, Tony Bennett, Dennis Berg, David Gepner, Robert Lilligren, Scott McBride, Glenn Olson, Becky Petryk, Dick Swanson, Jon Ulrich.

Guests and Staff: Kevin Roggenbuck, TAB Coordinator.
Carl Ohrn, Metropolitan Council.
Greg Coughlin, MN/DOT Metro State Aid.
Tim Mayasich, Ramsey County Regional Rail and TAC Chair.

I. Call to order.

Co-Chair Jim Hovland called the meeting to order at 12:10 PM.

II. Adoption of the Agenda.

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

III. Approval of the minutes from June 17, 2009.

Mr. Hargis moved, seconded by Mr. Swanson, to approve the minutes from the June 17, 2009 TAB Programming Committee meeting. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

IV. Information Items and Action Transmittals.

a. Information: Update on the 2009 Regional Solicitation.

Mr. Roggenbuck updated the committee on the status of the 2009 regional solicitation. Mr. Roggenbuck explained the composition of the volunteer scoring groups and said that all but two of the scoring groups have completed scoring their projects. The scoring group chairs will report the final scores to the TAC Funding and Programming Committee on September 17. The score will then be posted on the Metropolitan Council's website where applicants can see them. Mr. Roggenbuck answered questions from the committee.

b. 2009-49: 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program for the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area.

Mr. Ohrn reviewed the public comment report with the committee and said turnout for the public hearing was typically low. Mr. Ohrn reviewed the major changes made to the TIP since the first draft was released.

Mr. Hovland suggested advertising the draft TIP public hearing through the websites maintained by the seven counties.

Mr. McBride moved, seconded by Mr. Hargis, to recommend adoption of the 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program for the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

c. Discussion: Regionally-selected ARRA projects.

Mr. Coughlin reviewed the status of the regionally-selected ARRA projects with the committee from a spreadsheet dated September 2, 2009. Mr. Coughlin explained the various tracking elements in the spreadsheet and noted that only four local projects out of 48 had proceeded to letting and 23 projects have a scheduled letting date in December, very near the deadline to authorize all the funds.

The committee asked for job creation data on the ARRA projects. Mr. Coughlin said MN/DOT State Aid Central Office is tracking that information.

d. 2009-50: Regional ARRA fund management and reporting.

Mr. Mayasich explained that bids for the ARRA projects are coming in considerably lower than the amount of funds programmed, leaving an excess of ARRA, STP, TE or local matching funds. The TAC struggled with the question of how we make sure to spend all of the ARRA funds so we do not lose any. Mr. Mayasich described the fund management process recommended by the TAC.

The committee asked why the TAC did not recommend putting more new projects into the TIP? Mr. Mayasich said there is not enough time for local governments to develop a new project in time for the ARRA deadline.

Mr. Mayasich and Mr. Ohrn answered questions about ARRA fund management from the committee. If construction cost go back up in the coming months, the local project sponsors will be responsible for the increased costs. MN/DOT believes the policy recommended by the TAC gives MN/DOT enough flexibility to deal with cost changes. If STP or TE funds are reduced, MN/DOT would use the obligating authority on state projects and make the funds available in a later solicitation.

Mr. Swanson asked what MN/DOT will if it has leftover ARRA funds in December after all the programmed ARRA projects have been authorized. Mr. Coughlin described four options to spend any leftover ARRA. State Aid preferred to advance a local project from a scheduled April or May authorization to December and use the leftover ARRA funds to reduce the local match.

Mr. McBride explained that MN/DOT is programming new projects and shifting the state and federal funding on others to use the anticipated leftover state ARRA funds. MN/DOT's decision was based on project readiness.

Mr. Hargis moved, seconded by Mr. Berg, to recommend adoption of the region ARRA fund management and reporting policy to the full TAB. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

V. Other Business.

Mr. Gepner reminded the committee about the TAB bike event in Chanhassen scheduled for September 11.

VI. Adjourn

Respectfully submitted:
Kevin Roggenbuck,
TAB Coordinator.