

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD

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

TAB PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes: July 21, 2010
Metropolitan Council Chambers.

Members Present: Bill Hargis, Co-Chair, Jan Callison, David Gepner, Robert Lilligren, Scott McBride, Richard Mussell, Becky Petryk, Jill Smith, Dick Swanson, Jon Ulrich, Julia Whalen.

Guests and Staff: Tim Mayasich, Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority.
Arlene McCarthy, Metropolitan Council Transportation Services.
Mark Fuhrmann, Metro Transit.
Connie Kozlak, Metropolitan Council Transportation Services.
Kevin Roggenbuck, TAB Coordinator.

I. Call to order.

Co-Chair Hargis called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM.

II. Adoption of the Agenda.

Mr. Mussel moved, seconded by Ms. Petryk, to adopt the agenda. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

III. Approval of the minutes from June 16, 2010.

Mr. Swanson moved, seconded by Ms. Callison, to approve the minutes from the June 16, 2010 TAB Programming Committee meeting. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

IV. Information Items and Action Transmittals.

2010-42: Project Scope Change Request for SP# 62-678-12, County Road B2 reconstruction: Ramsey County.

Mr. Mayasich presented this item to the committee. Mr. Mayasich explained that Ramsey County was awarded STP funds in the 2005 regional solicitation to widen County Road B2 between Snelling Avenue and Fairview Avenue to six lanes. The county conducted a traffic study showed that intersection improvements would relieve traffic congestion on County Road B2 better than widening the road to six lanes. The cost of the revised project scope is higher than the original scope, but the TAC thought the project would have been selected anyway. Mr. Mayasich said the TAC Funding and Programming Committee recommended looking at ways to improve cost estimating procedures in the next regional solicitation. Mr. Mayasich answered questions from the committee.

Ms. Petryk moved, seconded by Ms. Whalen, to recommend approval of the project scope change request as described within action transmittal 2010-42. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

2010-43: 2010-2013 TIP Amendment to include the changed project scope and cost for SP# 62-678-12: Ramsey County.

Mr. Mayasich presented this item to the committee and explained that the TIP amendment is necessary to include the revised project scope.

Mr. Swanson moved, seconded by Ms. Petryk, to recommend adoption of the TIP amendment as described within action transmittal 2010-43. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

2010-44: Vehicle Mode Reassignment and TIP Amendment for two CMAQ projects: Metropolitan Council and Metro Transit.

Mr. Mayasich introduced this item to the committee and explained the concerns expressed by the TAC Funding and Programming Committee and the full TAC that the requested action is contrary to current policy.

Ms. McCarthy presented this item to the committee. Ms. McCarthy referred the committee to a letter dated July 15, 2010 from Brian Lamb, Metro Transit, and Ms. McCarthy. The letter explained why the two CMAQ bus purchase projects are no longer needed for express service, but Metro Transit must purchase more LRT vehicles for the Hiawatha Line because the platforms were reconstructed to accommodate three-car trains. Together with the projected opening of LRT service on Central Corridor, Metro Transit wishes to purchase LRT vehicles for both lines in one order to get a lower bid price and save money. Metro Transit needs to reassign the CMAQ funds from the two bus purchase projects to the LRT vehicle purchase to request bids for vehicles on both lines. Ms. McCarthy and Mr. Fuhrmann answered questions from the committee about the other sources of money to purchase the rail cars, the potential cost savings of purchasing the rail cars in a large quantity and the timing of the TAB's decision.

Chair Hargis asked Mr. Roggenbuck to refer the committee to a memo dated July 19, 2010 describing four options for the Committee to consider. Mr. Roggenbuck explained the four options and answered questions from the committee about the options and the concerns expressed by the TAC. Committee members expressed concern that the TAB could be setting a precedent by drifting from adopted policy and making a decision on this funding based on politics or expediency. Committee members discussed reviewing the adopted policy concerning re-allocation of federal funds from dropped local projects and setting a timeline for a report from the technical committees back to the TAB.

Ms. Smith moved, seconded by Ms. Whalen, to recommend reassignment of the CMAQ funds as requested and amend the 2010-2013 TIP as requested in the July 15 letter and to direct the TAC Funding and Programming Committee to review the policy on reallocating federal funds from dropped local projects. The motion passed by voice vote.

2010-45: Project Scope Change Request for SP# 141-020-107, Cedar and Franklin Avenue Pedestrian Improvements: Minneapolis.

Mr. Mayasich presented this item to the committee. Mr. Mayasich described the two Minneapolis projects and explained the need to revise the project scope of the Cedar and Franklin pedestrian project to include construction of collector road that was awarded federal funds by the TAB through the Transportation Investment for Planned Economic Development District (TIPEDD) program in the 2005 regional solicitation.

Mr. Lilligren moved, seconded by Mr. Swanson, to recommend approval of the project scope change as described in action transmittal 2010-45. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

2010-46: 2010-2013 TIP Amendment to include the changed project scope and cost for SP# 141-020-107: Minneapolis.

Mr. Mayasich presented this item to the committee and explained that the requested TIP amendment is necessary to include the revised project scope for the Cedar and Franklin Avenues pedestrian project recommended by the committee in the previous agenda item.

Mr. Lilligren moved, seconded by Mr. Swanson, to recommend approval of the TIP amendment as described in action transmittal 2010-46. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

2010-47: 2010-2013 TIP Amendment to include SP# 6280-308RW1, Cayuga Bridge right-of-way purchase: MN/DOT.

Mr. Mayasich presented this item to the committee. Mr. Mayasich said the Cayuga Bridge replacement project has been advanced and MN/DOT is ready to purchase right-of-way, making it necessary to include this project in the current TIP.

Mr. Swanson moved, seconded by Mr. McBride, to recommend adoption of the TIP amendment as described in action transmittal 2010-47. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

2010-48: Travel Demand Management Evaluation and Implementation Study: Metropolitan Council.

Mr. Mayasich introduced this item to the committee. Ms. Kozlak said the report recommends that the TAB consider a different way of allocating CMAQ funding to travel demand management programs and that a process would be developed through the TAC Funding and Programming Committee.

Mr. Mussell moved, seconded by Ms. Whalen, to recommend acceptance of the study to the Metropolitan Council and consideration of the study recommendations. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Information: Local Project and TIP Management Issues.

Due to time constraints, discussion of this agenda item was moved to the full TAB agenda.

Information: 2011 Regional Solicitation Policy Issues.

Due to time constraints, discussion of this agenda item was moved to the full TAB agenda.

V. Other Business.

Members did not raise any other business.

VI. Adjourn

Mr. Hargis adjourned the Programming Committee meeting at 1:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted:
Kevin Roggenbuck,
TAB Coordinator.