

**Saint Cloud Area Planning Organization
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
September 19, 2019**

A regular meeting of the Saint Cloud Area Planning Organization's (APO) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was held at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 19, 2019 at Stearns County Public Works. Senior Planner Vicki Johnson presided with the following members present:

John Noerenberg	Waite Park
Doug Diedrichsen	Metro Bus
Randy Sabart	Saint Joseph/SEH
Chris Byrd	Benton County
Jodi Teich	Stearns County
Jon Halter	Sartell
Vicki Johnson	Saint Cloud APO
Brian Gibson	Saint Cloud APO
Alex McKenzie	Saint Cloud APO
Dorothy Sweet	Saint Cloud APO

CONSIDER MINUTES OF AUGUST 29, 2019 TAC MEETING MINUTES:

Mr. Byrd motioned to approve the August 29, 2019 TAC meeting minutes, and Mr. Halter seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: No members of the public were present to comment.

MAPPING 2045 PROPOSED CHANGES TO MTP PROJECT LIST:

Mr. Gibson thanked everyone for working with the APO to get the final project list. Changes to the Project list include: Benton County deleting CSAH 8 near the airport and adding CSAH 29; Sherburne County adding three reconstruction projects; Stearns County deleting new interchange at I-94 and adding three road widening projects; and Saint Joseph adding one short extension that will eventually go to Saint Cloud. All projects are fiscally constrained. These additional changes require a second round of public comment, which will start on September 23 and will go through October 22. The revised project list is what is being considered today. Approximately 200 comments were received during the first round of public input and they generally fall in five areas: Active Transportation, Environment, Metro Bus, NorthStar, and Highway 15. Comments pertaining to your projects and jurisdiction will be provided to you upon request. *Ms. Teich motioned to Recommend Policy Board Approval of the Revised Project List, and Mr. Byrd seconded the motion. Motion carried.*

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM SCORE SHEET (STBGP) AND SCORING RUBRIC:

Ms. Johnson has been working on the STBGP scoring sheet and scoring rubric for clarification since June with the TAC. All suggestions received from TAC have been incorporated. Some of the required elements cannot be combined, and some cannot be split up. Past scoring practice had the APO staff giving the first review and then passing it along to the TAC. However, at last month's meeting it was recommended that the TAC members receive, review, and score all projects instead of the APO staff. The consensus was to leave the equity issue to the Policy Board, since it is more of a political issue. Equity could still be reflected in the applications, but Mr. Voss suggested some sort of parameters should be given for the Policy Board to consider if

they decide to use Equity in their decision. Ms. Johnson commented that it was difficult to obtain funding history information beyond seven years.

Ms. Teich noted that the Functional Classification map in the TAC meeting agenda packet did not match MnDOT's classification, and suggested that we should have the most current crash rates available. She suggested noting on the scoring sheet who received funding the previous year instead of giving it a point value. Concern was expressed about the Policy Board using equity to place a low or bottom ranked project by the TAC to the top of the list. It was suggested that TAC only use equity as a tie breaker when two projects are closely or evenly scored. The TAC would hope to avoid having the Policy Board re-rank or reprioritize the projects. Mr. Byrd commented that he wanted to keep the integrity of their technical evaluation intact as much as possible. It was agreed that the TAC would tell the Policy Board that TAC used equity only as a tie breaker between two closely ranked projects. The TAC members discussed the issue of a local jurisdiction getting funding for a project but another jurisdiction benefitting from the project, and how equity would play a role in that situation. The pros and cons of TAC members scoring their own projects was discussed, as well as the biases that may come from scoring one's own project, but also advocating for your own jurisdiction's projects. It was acknowledged that any bias involved by scoring one's own jurisdiction's project would be balanced out by other TAC members scoring their own projects. One suggestion made was to listen to the project presentations from the jurisdictions first, and then score the projects, but Ms. Johnson responded that the timing deadlines would not work. Ms. Johnson suggested that once an project is chosen, having a resolution at the front end of the process to avoid surprises would be helpful.

Ms. Johnson incorporated previous suggestions into the current scoring sheet that were presented. Ms. Teich added that the most current crash rates should be made available. It was agreed that for now we would leave the equity factor out, but only use equity for tie breakers for close projects, and will decide on how the scoring happens at a later date.

Mr. Halter motioned for the TAC to only use equity for tie breakers in closely ranked projects, and recommended the Policy Board approve the STBGP score sheet and scoring rubric. Ms. Teich seconded the motion. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS/OPEN FLOOR:

Mr. Gibson stated that the Policy Board is meeting at 5 p.m. that evening at the Waite Park City Hall, and will be discussing and voting on the revised project list. He welcomed and encouraged the TAC members to attend. Mr. Sabart asked if there was a map of the illustrative projects, and if there was a new plan for the illustrative projects. Mr. Gibson responded that previously board members used the illustrative projects when earmarks became available, but now the map is a sort of placeholder for projects in the next MTP Plan.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Meeting was adjourned at 10:52 a.m.