

Minutes

TAC Funding and Programming Committee



Meeting date: January 15, 2026

Time: 1:00 PM

Location: Virtual

Members present:

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| ☐ Eden Prairie – Robert Ellis | ☒ MnDOT Metro District – Aaron Tag | ☒ Anoka Co. – Jerry Auge |
| ☒ Fridley – Jim Kosluchar (Chair) | ☒ MnDOT Metro District State Aid – Colleen Brown | ☒ Carver Co. – Darin Mielke |
| ☒ Lakeville – Paul Oehme | ☒ MnDOT Bike/Ped – Molly Joshi | ☒ Dakota Co. – Jacob Chapek |
| ☒ Minneapolis – Katie White | ☒ MPCA – Lauren Dickerson | ☒ Hennepin Co. – Emily Buell |
| ☒ Plymouth – Michael Thompson (Vice Chair) | ☒ DNR – Nancy Spooner-Walsh | ☒ Ramsey Co. – Codie Leseman |
| ☒ Eagan – Russ Matthys | ☒ Suburban Transit Assoc. – Heidi Scholl | ☒ Scott Co. – Craig Jenson (Alt) |
| ☒ St. Paul – Anne Weber | ☒ TAB Coordinator – Elaine Koutsoukos | ☒ Wash Co. – Madeline Dahlheimer |
| ☒ Met Council – Steven Peterson (Alt) | | ☐ FHWA – Scott Mareck (ex-officio) |
| ☒ Metro Transit – Scott Janowiak | | ☒ = present, E = excused |

Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

The Metropolitan Council acknowledges that the land we currently call Minnesota and specifically the seven-county region is the ancestral homeland of the Dakota Oyate who are present and active contributors to our thriving region. As part of the Metropolitan Council's commitment to address the unresolved legacy of genocide, dispossession, and settler colonialism and the fact that government institutions, including the Metropolitan Council, benefitted economically, politically, and institutionally after the forceable removal of the Dakota Oyate, the Metropolitan Council is dedicated to instilling Land, Water, and People Commitments in regional policy. These commitments support the Dakota Oyate, the eleven federally recognized Tribes in Minnesota, Ho-Chunk Nation, and the American Indian Communities representing over 150 diverse Tribal Nations that call the seven-county region home.

Call to order

A quorum being present, Michael Thompson, due to Chair Kosluchar having technical difficulties, called the regular meeting of the TAC Funding & Programming Committee to order at 1:00 p.m.

Agenda approved

Committee members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda, rendering it approved.

Approval of minutes

Cody Leseman, Ramsey County, stated that he will be the Ramsey County representative. Paul Oehme, Lakeville, stated that he should not be listed as vice chair; it should be Thompson.

It was moved by Elaine Koutsoukos, TAB Coordinator, and seconded by Oehme, to approve the minutes of December 18, 2026, regular meeting of the TAC Funding and Programming Committee with the removal of the "alt" designation from Leseman's name and movement of vice chair from

Oehme's name to Thompson's name. **Motion carried.**

Public comment on committee business

TAB report

Elaine Koutsoukos, TAB Coordinator, gave an update of the December 17, 2025, regular TAB Meeting.

Business

2026-14: Scope Change Request – City of Minneapolis' Elliot Park Neighborhood Pedestrian Improvement (Joe Barbeau, MTS Planning)

Joe Barbeau, MTS Planning, presented. The proposed revised design incorporates a protected bikeway along 11th Avenue, which was determined to be necessary for the safe and functional operation of the project intersections and is consistent with planned corridor improvements. Two intersections are to be removed from the project scope due to those locations being programmed for future improvements by Hennepin County.

Staff reviewed the Scope Change Policy and clarified that the request does not allow for increased federal funding and that shifting funds within the project is permissible when removed elements are addressed through other programmed projects. Staff offered three options to go along with approval of the request:

1. The applicant returns \$1,087,320 (e.g., retention of \$912,680) in federal funds, reflective of 78% of the funding attached to the intersections being removed. This would effectively keep the funds with the remaining original project elements only.
2. The applicant returns \$752,281, retaining \$1,247,719. This allows federal spending on all intersection elements (new and original) but not the bikeway.
3. The applicant returns \$489,000, retaining \$1,511,000 as requested, enabling federal funding to be spent on all updated project elements.

The committee discussed policy interpretation, cost impacts, and precedent, and acknowledged that design refinement is expected as projects advance. Committee members supported moving Option 3 forward.

It was moved by Colleen Brown, Metro District State Aid, and seconded by Emily Buell, Hennepin Co., that the Funding & Programming Committee recommend that the Technical Advisory Committee recommend approval of the City of Minneapolis's scope change request to remove improvements at two intersections along Park and Portland avenues from its four-intersection pedestrian improvement project, expand improvements at the remaining 11th Avenue intersections, and add a two-way protected bikeway along 11th Avenue South while returning \$489,000 in federal funds. Motion carried.

Information

Reports

Steve Peterson, MTS Planning, provided an update on TAC's actions related to last month's Regional Solicitation Evaluation actions. TAC moved everything forward with slight changes along with providing TAB options on score weighting particular to community considerations.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 2:06 p.m.

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