

Transportation Advisory Board
of the Metropolitan Council of the Twin Cities

ACTION TRANSMITTAL

No. 2007-45

DATE: August 8, 2007
TO: Transportation Advisory Board
FROM: Technical Advisory Committee
SUBJECT: Public Comment Report for the 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

MOTION: That the Transportation Advisory Board accept the Public Comment Report for the Final 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF ACTION: On Wednesday, June 20, 2007, the Transportation Advisory Board held a public hearing on the draft 2008-2011 Transportation improvement Program for the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. In addition to comments provided at the hearing by TAB members and the public, comments were also collected over a 45-day public comment period.

The Public Comment Report is attached. The TIP has been modified to address comments, as appropriate.

ROUTING

TO	ACTION REQUESTED	DATE COMPLETED
TAC Funding & Programming Committee	Review & Recommend	July 19, 2007
Technical Advisory Committee	Review & Recommend	August 1, 2007
TAB Programming Committee	Review & Recommend	
Transportation Advisory Board	Review & Accept	
Metropolitan Council	Concurrence	

Transportation Advisory Board

of the Metropolitan Council of the Twin Cities

Donn R. Wiskl
Chair

July 13, 2007

County Commissioners

Dennis Berg
Anoka County

Tom Workman
Carver County

Paul Krause
Dakota County

Linda Koblick
Hennepin County

Janice Rettman
Ramsey County

Jon Ulrich
Scott County

Myra Peterson
Washington County

Municipal Officials

Dan Bostrom
St. Paul City Council

Liz Workman
Burnsville City Council

William Hargis
Mayor of Woodbury

Sandy Hewitt
Plymouth City Council

James Hovland
Mayor of Edina

Robert Lillgren
Minneapolis City Council

David Luick
Lakeville City Council

Craig Peterson
Chanhassen City Council

Dick Swanson
Blaine City Council

Julia Whalen
Champlin City Council

Citizen Members - Precinct

Vacant - A

Joseph McCarthy - B

James Meyers - C

Chuck Haik - D

Bart Ward - E

Donn Wiski - F

Jill Smith - G

Ken Johnson - H

Agency Representatives

Peggy Leppik
Metropolitan Council

Khani Sahebham
Minnesota DOT

Vacant
M.A.C.

David Thornton
M.P.C.A.

Modal Representatives

Vacant
Transit

Glenn Olson
Transit

Ron Lifson
Freight

David Gepner
Non-motorized

Metropolitan Area Transportation Stakeholders and Citizens:

RE: Draft 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program for the Twin Cities
Metropolitan Area.

In accordance with federal requirements and its desire to gain effective public participation in the preparation of the region's Transportation Improvement Program, the Transportation Advisory Board held a public hearing on the draft 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program for the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area at 3:00 PM on Wednesday July 18th. This document and the attached material comprise the public comment report on the Draft 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program for the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area.

This public comment report includes the following:

Appendix A

The public hearing notice that appeared in the State Register, area newspapers and other Metropolitan Council public information publications.

Appendix B

The public hearing report summarizing the verbal and written comments provided at the public hearing held on Wednesday, July 18th, 2007.

Appendix C

All comments received during the public comment period other than those from the public hearing.

Appendix D

Summary of all public comments and staff responses or recommendations to the public comments.

Sincerely,

Kevin Roggenbuck
TAB Coordinator

Appendix A

PUBLIC HEARING
ON THE PROPOSED 2008-2011
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)
FOR THE TWIN CITIES METROPOLITAN AREA

The Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) of the Metropolitan Council will hold a public hearing on June 20, 2007 to receive public reaction to the proposed 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. The program will include highway, transit, bikeway and pedestrian enhancements and air quality projects that are proposed for federal funding in the seven-county metropolitan area in the next four years. The TIP includes the recommended projects selected through the 2005 Regional Solicitation process for federal transportation funds. The program is prepared annually in accordance with federal requirements and must contain all projects that are to be implemented with federal transportation funding assistance. This TIP also contains Metropolitan Council's program of projects (POP) which includes transit projects for Metro Transit, Metro Mobility, contracted services and Opt Outs. This hearing fulfills Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) public participation requirements for the POP.

- **Public Hearing for comments on TIP**

Wednesday, June 20, 2007 – 3:00 p.m.

Metropolitan Council Chambers

390 North Robert Street

St. Paul, Minnesota

The TIP is prepared jointly by the Metropolitan Council and the Minnesota Department of Transportation. Projects contained in the TIP reflect the region's priorities and help implement the region's transportation plan. All specific projects are assumed to have independent utility and are fully funded unless noted otherwise in the project description. The projects in aggregate have been analyzed to determine impact on regional air quality. Progress made on implementing the region's transportation plan

will be reported in the TIP and at the public hearing. The program will be adopted by the Transportation Advisory Board and approved by the Metropolitan Council.

Upon request, the Council will provide reasonable accommodations to persons with disabilities. In addition to providing oral or written comments at the public hearing, comments may be made several ways:

- Written comments to: Kevin Roggenbuck, Metropolitan Council
390 North Robert St., St. Paul, MN 55101
- Fax comments to Kevin Roggenbuck, (651) 602-1739
- Record comments on the Council's Public Information Line: (651) 602-1500
- Send comments electronically to : data.center@metc.state.mn.us

Comments must be received by **4:00 p.m., Monday, July 2, 2007**. Free copies of the draft 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program will be available on May 16, 2007, at the Council's Regional Data Center. Call (651) 602-1140 or TTY (651) 291-0904 to request a copy. The main body of the TIP will be available for review on May 18, 2007 at the Metropolitan Council's website at www.metrocouncil.org/services/transportation.htm. Schematic location maps are included on the website of the regionally recommended projects to be programmed in 2009 and 2010 with federal funds and the major transportation projects funded in the TIP. Other background materials describing the Council's transportation planning and programming efforts also are available.

Questions about the hearings or transportation assumptions and technical materials may be directed to Kevin Roggenbuck, (651) 602-1728, or Carl Ohrn (651) 602-1719, Metropolitan Council, 390 North Robert St., St. Paul, MN 55101.

Appendix B

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

390 North Robert St., St. Paul, MN

PUBLIC HEARING OF THE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD TO RECEIVE COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT 2007-2010 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

Wednesday June 22, 2007, 3:00 PM
Metropolitan Council Chambers

Public Hearing on the Draft 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program for the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area

Public Attendance: Scott Halstead, Shoreview; Anne Bartz, St. Paul and Peter Berglund, St. Paul.

TAB and staff Attendance: Donn Wiski, TAB Chair; David Thornton, MPCA and TAB member; Pat Bursaw, MN/DOT Metro District; Carl Ohrn, Metropolitan Council Transportation Services; James Andrew, Metropolitan Council Transportation Services; Kevin Roggenbuck, TAB Coordinator.

Transportation Advisory Board Chair Donn Wiski opened the public hearing at 3:00 PM, Metropolitan Council Offices, 390 North Robert St., St. Paul, MN. Mr. Wiski explained the informal process that the TAB will follow for the Public Hearing and gave a brief overview of the draft 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TAB will receive comments from the public until Friday, July 2, 2007. D. Wiski stated that comments will be accepted via e-mail, fax, letter and voice mail and telephone.

D. Wiski invited the members of the audience to sit at the guest speaker tables and describe their concerns or issues.

Public comments:

Scott Halstead, Shoreview,

- Suggested a metro-wide income tax to collect revenue from people living outside the region who use the transportation system.
- Concerned about safety on the University of Minnesota campus because of limited transit options and lack of adequate roads. Suggested looking into re-routing traffic through the campus on one-way roads.
- A transit hub should be built in downtown St. Paul for the Central Corridor LRT.
- Suggested that employers should stagger work hours and Metro transit should stagger transit service to correspond to reduce traffic in the peak hours.

Anne Bartz, St. Paul,

- Suggested tolling one or more of the river bridges to Wisconsin.
- Expressed desire for more park and ride lots and transit service.
- Suggested marketing the bus-only shoulder lanes by providing a virtual bus ride on the Council's website.
- Recommended that Metro Transit research what other metropolitan transit agencies are doing to provide security for riders at bus stops and on the vehicles.

Peter Berglund, St. Paul,

- Suggested that transit service be focused more toward large employers to reduce the number of transfers.
- Suggested dedicated bus service from downtown St. Paul to the 3M campus.
- Suggested constructing large transit centers in downtown Minneapolis and St. Paul with office space above the first floor so passengers could transfer indoors.

There were no other comments from the public present.

TAB Chair Donn Wiski closed the Public Hearing at 3:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Kevin Roggenbuck, TAB Coordinator

Appendix C



Minnesota Department of Transportation

Metropolitan District

Waters Edge
1500 West County Road B-2
Roseville MN 55113-3174

July 2, 2007

Donn Wiski, Chair
Transportation Advisory Board
Metropolitan Council
390 North Robert Street
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

Dear Mr. Wiski:

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) has worked closely with the staff of the Metropolitan Council and the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) in development of the draft 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Information was supplied in March and April, 2007 for development of the project tables. Several minor changes have occurred since that time, including end-of-year changes affecting a number of individual projects.

The attached four tables identify the individual proposed changes to the draft 2008-2011 TIP. These changes are, for the most part, end of fiscal year balancing changes, and projects shifting among years of the TIP along with any additions or deletions.. In addition to changes in these tables, some changes have been made to "Advance Construction" and "Advance Construction" paybacks due to projects moving between years of the TIP, and actual project letting costs have been updated. Several "Safe Routes to School" and "Non-Motorized Pilot Program" projects will be added to the TIP tables, but they are not noted in these proposed changes.

With the proposed changes, we believe that the TIP remains fiscally balanced in the first two years, and generally balanced in the remaining years. These proposed changes do not affect the air quality conformity analysis of the TIP, as we have discussed with staff of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the Metropolitan Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 2008-2011 TIP for the Twin Cities area by providing these proposed changes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Khani Sahebjam', is written over a horizontal line.

Khani Sahebjam, P.E.
Metro District Engineer

cc:

Arlene McCarthy

Carl Ohrn

✓Kevin Roggenbuck

Allen Lovejoy

Tim Mayasich

Innocent Eyoh

Abigail McKenzie

Marv Lunceford

Pat Bursaw

Susan Moe

Susan Mulvihill

PROPOSED CHANGES TO TWIN CITIES DRAFT TIP 2008-2011

June 30, 2007

CHANGES Since the April 2007 Draft TIP

Projects Deferred

Table	Proj. No.	Route	Description	Total Cost	Deferral Year	AQ
A-2	164-595-03	EN	Harvest States Head House & Sack House, Adaptive Reuse of GTA	1,798,680	2007 to 2008	09
A-3	141-090-22	Ped/Bike	Royalston Ave. to W. River Pkwy in Mpls, Cedar Lake Trail (Phase 3)	5,650,000	2008 to 2009	AQ2
A-6	164-070-07	City	**MN219** Planning and PreDesign for Twin Cities Bioscience Corridor in St. Paul	641,604	2007 to 2008	02
A-6	179-020-29	CR 5	**MN190** At TH 13 in Burnsville-Preliminary Engineering for Reconstruction of Intersection	513,284	2007 to 2008	04
A-6	62-616-02	CSAH 16	**MN149** Vadnais Blvd at Rice St./I-694 Interchange in Vadnais Hts-Construction of Realignment (AC project-Payback in 2009)	2,700,000	2007 to 2008	E3
A-10	0214-35	TH 10	From Co. Rd. J to I-35W in Mounds View-Extension of Noise Walls	300,000	2007 to 2008	03
A-10	2714-139	TH 12	0.5 Mi. W. of Wayzata Blvd. to 0.5 Mi. E. of I-494 Bituminous Mill & Overlay	4,685,000	2008 to 2009	S10
A-10	2713-97	TH 12	On North Side from Howard Ave. to CSAH 29 in Maple Plain-Construct Frontage Rd.	300,000	2008 to 2010	NC
A-11	02-609-14	CSAH 9	Round Lake Blvd. (CSAH 9) at Northdale Blvd. (CR 79) in Coon Rapids, Dual Left Turn Lanes, Traffic Signal Revision, etc.	166,200	2007 to 2008	S2

Project Deletions

Table	Proj. No.	Route	Description	Total Cost	Deleted From	AQ
A-6	62-616-004AC2	CSAH 16	**MN149** Vadnais Blvd at Rice St./I-694 Interchange in Vadnais Hts.-Construction of realignment (AC Payback)	136,000	2009	E3
A-9	2713-83AC2	TH 12	Co. Rd. 6 to Wayzata Blvd.-Construct Interchanges, etc. (AC Payback)	3,000,000	2008	A10
A-10	0205-86	TH 47	On the E Side from 73 rd Ave. NE to Osborne Rd. NE in Fridley-Construct Noise Wall	900,000	2008	03
A-10	7008-51	TH 169	At CSAH 32 (Meridian St.) in Belle Plaine-Construct Indirect Left Turn Lanes	200,000	2008	E1
A-10	8207-59	TH 61	From 2 nd Ave. SE to 2 nd Ave NE in Forest Lake-Construct Roundabout & Bituminous Mill & Overlay for Roundabout	696,532	2008	E1
A-10	1981-109	I-35W	From TH 13 to Cliff Rd. in Burnsville-Erosion Repairs	220,000	2009	S9
A-10	0215-67	TH 10	From Hanson Blvd. to Egret Blvd. in Coon Rapids-Construct 3 rd Lane each Direction	3,000,000	2009	S6

A-10	0207-85	TH 65	On West Side of TH 65 from 73 rd Ave. NE to North Circle NE in Fridley-Noise Wall	700,000	2010	03
A-10	0215-63	TH 10	At NB Exit to SB Foley Blvd. in Coon Rapids-Remove Free Right, Add Dual Right Turn Lanes, Revise Signal, etc.	440,000	2011	E1
A-10	2755-83	TH 100	From CSAH 152 to Humboldt Ave. Entrance in Brooklyn Center-Install Continuous Lighting	450,000	2011	S18
A-19	TRS-RCRRA-06	BB	Sect 1301: Union Depot Multimodal Transit Facility in St. Paul (other \$\$ include \$3.5M of 2006 State Bonds)	19,437,500	2008	T8
A-19	TRS-RCRRA-07	BB	Sect 1301: Union Depot Multimodal Transit Facility in St. Paul	13,281,250	2008	T8

Advanced Projects

Table	Proj. No.	Route	Description	Total Cost	Advance From	AQ
A-3	157-090-01	City	On 76 th St. from Emerson Ave. to Humboldt Ave. over I-35W in Richfield-Add pedestrian/bicycle bridge to new roadway bridge	462,000	2009 to 2008	AQ2
A-7	6280-320	I-35E	TH 5 to Kellogg Blvd., Mill and Bituminous Overlay	4,500,000	2009 to 2008	S10
A-21	1013-82	TH 212	From 1 st St. to Creek Rd. in Chaska-Access Closure @ 1 st St. Channelization @ CR140/Hickory, etc.	800,000	2008 to 2007	E1
A-21	1907-71	TH 52	From Inver Grove Trail to Concord Blvd in Inver Grove Hts-Access Closures, Construct East Fr. Rd., etc.	594,000	2008 to 2007	NC

Additions - New Projects Added to the Draft 2007-2010 TIP

Table	Proj. No.	Route	Description	Total Cost	Added To	AQ
A-6	1985-132HPP	I-494	**MN34** From Maxwell Ave. in Newport to Hardman Ave. in So. St. Paul-EB Br. 82855 over Mississippi River (Rep. Br. 5993) & Approaches; Includes On-ramp from Hardman and Off-ramp to Maxwell (HPP Portion)	2,500,000	2008	A15
A-6	8205-101	TH 61	**MN34** At Glen Rd. Interchange & Pocket Parks at N Ped Br in Newport-Landscaping	300,000	2008	06
A-6	62-616-02AC	CSAH 16	**MN149** Vadnais Blvd at Rice St./I-694 Interchange in Vadnais Hts-Construction of realignment (AC Payback)	136,000	2009	E3

A-6	8205-114	TH 61	**MN34** At St. Paul Park Interchange (CSAH 22) in St. Paul Park-Landscaping	200,000	2009	06
A-9	1928-19025	TH 52	Ped. Br. @ Lewis St. over Concord, Ped. Br. @ Winifred, & over Eaton St. - Paint Brs. 19025, 62045, 62023, & 62026	1,610,000	2011	S10
A-9	6244-62026	TH 52	Over Eaton & UP RR, & Over Concord St. in St. Paul - Redeck Brs. 62026 & 62045	6,290,000	2011	S10
A-9	6244-62027	TH 52	Over Plato Blvd. in St. Paul-Redeck Br. 62027	1,000,000	2011	S10
A-10	2782-302	I-35W	On Lyndale Ave. from TH 62 to Richfield Lake in Richfield - Agreement on MnDOT's Behalf for Construction of Part of the Crosstown Project (Phase 2)	1,000,000	2008	A10
A-10	8285-90	I-494	At Sandy Draw on I-494 in Newport - Erosion and Outlet Repair	160,000	2008	S9
A-10	8286-68	I-694	On the West Side of 694 from 0.5 Mi. North of 15 th St. to 0.1 M. North of 15 th St. in Oakdale - Noise Wall Construction	750,000	2008	03
A-10	8282-105	I-94	At Radio Drive Interchange in Woodbury - Construct South Frontage Road & Ramp Connection	550,000	2008	NC
A-10	1921-79	TH 3	At 195 th St. in Farmington-Construct Roundabout	450,000	2008	E1
A-10	1907-72	TH 52	Clark Rd. to Briggs Drive in Inver Grove Hts-Access Closures & Construct W. Fr. Rd.	594,000	2008	NC
A-10	8285-89	I-494	At TH 61 Interchange in Newport-Landscaping	300,000	2010	06
A-19	62-595-01AC	BB	Sect 1301: Union Depot Multimodal Transit Facility in St. Paul-Right of Way Acquisition (AC Payback)	0	2009	T8

Appendix D

Transportation Advisory Board of the Metropolitan Council of the Twin Cities

TO: Metropolitan Area Transportation Stakeholders and Citizens:
FROM: Kevin Roggenbuck, Transportation Coordinator
DATE: July 13, 2007
RE: Draft 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program for the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area: Summary of public comments with staff responses and recommendations submitted during the 45 day public comment period.

A public hearing was held by the Transportation Advisory Board on Wednesday, July 13, 2007 on the draft 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program for the Twin Cities. Below are the comments received at the hearing with staff response and recommendations. A full report on the public hearing is contained in Appendix B.

Scott Halstead, Shoreview, comments at the July 13 public hearing.

- Suggested a metro-wide income tax to collect revenue from people living outside the region who use the transportation system.
- Concerned about safety on the University of Minnesota campus because of limited transit options and lack of adequate roads. Suggested looking into re-routing traffic through the campus on one-way roads.
- A transit hub should be built in downtown St. Paul for the Central Corridor LRT.
- Suggested that employers should stagger work hours and Metro transit should stagger transit service to correspond to reduce traffic in the peak hours.

Staff response and recommendations: The TAB agrees that more revenue is needed for the metro region's transportation system, the question is what is the most appropriate source(s). Other metropolitan areas are using a regional sales tax to fund light rail construction projects. Pedestrian safety will be a major component in the design of the Central Corridor light rail line stations and routing through the University of Minnesota campus. Construction of the rail line may prompt changes in vehicle traffic patterns in and around the campus. The TAB agrees that downtown St. Paul should be a hub for the Central Corridor light rail line. Staggered work hours and other demand management strategies are good ways to reduce peak period travel. Metro Transit Rideshare does promote staggered work hours along with other strategies to reduce peak period commuter travel.

Anne Bartz, St. Paul, comments at the July 13 public hearing.

- Suggested tolling one or more of the river bridges to Wisconsin.
- Expressed desire for more park and ride lots and transit service.
- Suggested marketing the bus-only shoulder lanes by providing a virtual bus ride on the Council's website.
- Recommended that Metro Transit research what other metropolitan transit agencies are doing to provide security for riders at bus stops and on the vehicles.

Staff response and recommendations: Tolling and congestion pricing are two ways to generate revenue from transportation facilities for transportation uses. Equitable regional application of tolling and congestion pricing is always an issue to overcome when implementing these projects. The Metropolitan Council's Transit Master Plan calls for expansion of the region's bus system, including park and ride facilities, to double transit ridership by 2020, provided that funding is available to do so. A virtual bus ride on the shoulders bypassing traffic congestion is a very good marketing idea that Metro Transit should consider using. Metropolitan transit agencies across the country do share ideas, experiences and collaborate on better ways to provide services, maintain vehicles, etc... Metro Transit does participate in national conferences and other forums, and has consulted with other transit agencies on the issue of passenger safety on the bus and at bus stops. The TAB encourages Metro Transit to continue to pursue the current "best practices" regarding passenger safety and security.

Peter Berglund, St. Paul, comments at the July 13 public hearing.

- Suggested that transit service be focused more toward large employers to reduce the number of transfers.
- Suggested dedicated bus service from downtown St. Paul to the 3M campus.
- Suggested constructing large transit centers in downtown Minneapolis and St. Paul with office space above the first floor so passengers could transfer indoors.

Staff response and recommendation: Large employers are a natural trip end for transit service providers. The question is how to integrate the large employers in the overall transit network considering the need to have service routes intersect so riders can transfer to another route. The public cost of providing dedicated bus service to a major employer is prohibitive; however, some employers have taken on that responsibility themselves by providing shuttle service from large parking areas as an employee benefit. A number of mixed use transit facilities have been constructed in suburban locations such as Eagan and Maple Grove. In downtown Minneapolis and St. Paul, many transit routes converge making it difficult to accommodate large numbers of riders at a single transfer location.

Khani Sahebjam, MN/DOT Metro District Engineer, letter dated July 2, 2007.

A letter addressed to the Transportation Advisory Board dated July 2, 2007 requested that a number of changes be made to state and local projects listed in the Public Hearing copy of the draft 2008-2011 TIP, dated April 19, 2007. Attached to the letter was a table listing projects to be deferred, a table listing projects to be deleted, a table listing projects to be advanced and a table of new projects to be added.

Staff response and recommendation: The changes described in the tables sent with Mr. Sahebjam's letter reflect MN/DOT's normal end of fiscal year balancing changes, updated project letting costs, recent TIP amendments, new project funding commitments and projects shifting among program years within the TIP timeframe. One clarification - the two projects identified for the Union Depot Multimodal Transit Facility in St. Paul will be combined into one project and re-listed in Table A-6 of the final 2008-2011 TIP. The staff recommends that these changes be incorporated into the final 2008-2011 TIP.
