

Minutes

TAC Funding and Programming Committee



Meeting date: April 16, 2026,

Time: 1:00 PM

Location: Virtual

Members present:

☒ Plymouth – Michael Thompson (Chair)	☐ MnDOT Metro District – Aaron Tag	☒ Anoka Co. – Jorge Bernal (Alt)
☒ Fridley – Jim Kosluchar	☒ MnDOT Metro District State Aid – Colleen Brown	☒ Carver Co. – Drew Pflaumer (Alt)
☐ Lakeville – Paul Oehme	☐ MnDOT Bike/Ped – Mackenzie Turner Borgen (Alt)	☒ Dakota Co. – Jacob Chapek
☒ Minneapolis – Katie White	☒ MPCA – Lauren Dickerson	☒ Hennepin Co. – Emily Buell
☒ Eden Prairie – Robert Ellis	☐ DNR – Nancy Spooner-Walsh	☒ Ramsey Co. – Codie Leseman
☐ St. Paul – Anne Weber	☒ Suburban Transit Assoc. – Heidi Scholl	☒ Scott Co. – Jon Rudolph
☒ Eagan – Russ Matthys		☒ Wash Co. – Madeline Dahlheimer
☒ Met Council – Cole Hiniker		☐ FHWA – Scott Mareck (ex-officio)
☒ Metro Transit – Scott Janowiak		☒ = present, E = excused
☒ TAB Coordinator – Elaine Koutsoukos		

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, Committee Chair Kosluchar called the regular meeting of the TAC Funding and Programming Committee to order at 1:00 p.m.

Agenda approved

Chair Kosluchar noted that a roll call vote was not needed for approval of the agenda unless a committee member offered an amendment to the agenda. Committee members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda.

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Elaine Koutsoukos, TAB Coordinator, and seconded by Katie White, Minneapolis, to approve the minutes of February 26, 2026, regular meeting of the TAC Funding and Programming Committee. **Motion carried.**

Public comment on committee business

TAB report

Elaine Koutsoukos, TAB Coordinator, reported on April 15, 2026, regular TAB Meeting.

Business

1. **2026-25:** Active Transportation Scope Change – Richfield 73rd St Pedestrian Facilities (Joe Widing, MTS Planning)

Joe Widing, MTS Planning, presented. Madeline Dahlheimer, Washington Co., asked whether the original project application included improvements to the north-side multi-use trail or if the project team is now replacing a planned sidewalk with new trail improvements. Widing clarified that the original application did not include full trail reconstruction. The plan only proposed limited ADA upgrades at a specific intersection, while the rest of the trail would have remained unchanged. He explained that the updated proposal now includes full trail reconstruction and ADA improvements along the entire segment to Cedar Avenue.

Joe Powers added that the team originally planned to build a continuous sidewalk on the south side of the roadway to connect major collector roads. After community engagement, they identified significant right-of-way and tree impacts, and residents expressed a preference for a north-side facility. In response, the team shifted the project scope to reconstruct the north-side trail instead of building the south-side sidewalk. He noted that the city had already identified the trail for future improvements, though not as part of the original project.

Dahlheimer then asked how the committee should handle Active Transportation (AT) funding in relation to the scope change, specifically whether the motion must explicitly address funding amounts or if updated cost estimates automatically determine funding. Widing responded that the motion already includes the adjusted grant funding amount (\$144,840) based on the revised cost estimate. He confirmed that the process mirrors federal funding practices, so the motion should explicitly reflect the updated funding.

Kosluchar asked for clarification about the trail's current layout along Diagonal Boulevard. Widing clarified that the eastern segment of the trail currently exists (from Cedar Avenue to about Bloomington Avenue), while the trail does not continue west of that point. The proposed sidewalk would have extended the connection westward to Portland Avenue.

It was moved by Michael Thompson, Plymouth, and seconded by Dahlheimer, that the TAC Funding and Programming Committee recommend that TAC recommend approval of a scope change request to adjust the proposed pedestrian facilities from the south side of 73rd Street to the north side and remove the proposed sidewalk on the south side of Diagonal Blvd and replace with the improvement an existing multiuse trail, including ADA upgrades, on the north side of Diagonal Blvd. **Motion carried.**

2. **2026-26:** Scope Change: St. Paul's Maryland Avenue Traffic Signal Enhancements Project (Robbie King, MTS Planning)

Robbie King, MTS Planning, presented. Kosluchar asked for clarification on whether the work being removed from the current project would instead be completed by another agency. King confirmed that the removed elements will be delivered through the Metropolitan Council's Bronze Line project. He explained that multiple agencies are involved and that Ramsey County is responsible for this portion and has committed to completing those elements as part of its Bronze Line responsibilities.

Codie Leseman, Ramsey Co., provided further context, explaining that because the Bronze Line project is not federally funded, the county intends to keep it that way. He noted that this approach helps maintain separation between funding sources, preserves flexibility, and reduces administrative burdens associated with federal funding requirements.

Kosluchar then confirmed that Ramsey County had submitted a letter committing to

completing the improvements in coordination with the Bronze Line project timeline, and Leseman affirmed that such a commitment had been provided.

It was moved by Dahlheimer, seconded by Colleen Brown, MnDOT, that the TAC Funding and Programming Committee recommend that the Technical Advisory Committee recommend approval of the City of Saint Paul's scope change request to remove signal improvements at Maryland Avenue and Hazelwood Street and remove traffic signal interconnect on Maryland Avenue between Johnson Parkway and White Bear Avenue from its Maryland Avenue traffic signal enhancements project with full federal funds retention. **Motion carried.**

Information

Elaine Koutsoukos announced that she will schedule an orientation meeting toward the end of April for new TAB alternates and invited any interested committee members to join, noting she will coordinate scheduling based on availability. Jim Kosluchar acknowledged the update and expressed appreciation.

Katie White asked whether the timeline for the regional solicitation—anticipated to run from May 7 to June 25—had been formally confirmed. Koutsoukos responded that the dates are tentatively confirmed and that a formal announcement will be distributed soon, with additional details to follow.

Bethany Brandt-Sargent, MTS Planning, provided further detail, stating that the team plans to open applications on May 7 at 9:00 a.m. and close them on June 25 at 4:00 p.m. She noted that an initial notification email will be sent out with resources and guidance to help applicants prepare, along with registration information. She also offered direct assistance to anyone needing help with the process.

Kosluchar then asked if there was any additional business. Koutsoukos added that a new online application system, Flux, will replace WebGrants, and that training sessions will be offered as the team continues testing the new platform.

Reports

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 1:36 p.m.

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