Metropolitan Council

Meeting Notes

2050 TPP Technical Working Group



Meeting Date: September 8, 2022 Time: 1:35 PM Location: Virtual

Members Present:

- ⊠ 7W Andrew Whitter
- ☐ Anoka Co Jack Forslund
- ⊠ Burnsville Regina Dean
- □ Carver Co Angie Stenson (Vice Chair)
- ☐ Centerville Mark Statz
- □ Chanhassen Charlie Howley
- □ Dakota Co Gina Mitteco
- ☐ FHWA Vacant
- □ Council Community Development -Michael Larson
- ☐ Council MTS Dave Burns
- ⊠ Council, MTS Planning Director -Amy Vennewitz
- ☐ Council, Parks Emmett Mullin

- □ Council, Research Todd Graham
- Metropolitan Airports Commission -**Bridget Rief**
- Metro Transit Steve Mahowald
- ☐ Minneapolis Jasna Hadzic-Stanek
- ⊠ DEED Ed Hodder
- ☐ MDH Ellen Pillsbury
- ⊠ MnDOT Freight Andrew Andrusko
- MnDOT Metro District Michael Corbett
- ☑ MnDOT Sustainability Nissa

- alternate for Tiffany Orth
- ⊠ Ramsey Co Scott Mareck (Chair)
- ☐ Roseville Marc Culver
- St. Paul Bill Dermody
- Stillwater Tim Gladhill
- ☐ Suburban Transit Assoc Ben Picone
- ☐ TAB Coordinator Elaine Koutsoukos
- Will Schroeer

- ⊠= present

Opening

Chair Scott Mareck opened the meeting at 1:37 p.m.

TPP Goals Review, Engagement and Update Study Overview

Cole Hiniker, MTS Planning, presented regional plan terminology, a phased approach to goals and objectives development, and the study scope of work.

Jon Solberg, TAC Chair, asked how staff intends to balance engagement when there may be many cities or advocacy groups interested in participating. Cole Hiniker said it will be important for staff to put context on the feedback we receive, and this could be informed by future conversations with the Technical Working Group.

Lyssa Leitner, Washington County, requested that presentations that are brought to the Advisory Work Group be brought to the Technical Working Group first to allow staff preparation when possible. Cole Hiniker answered staff will try to align topics in the future, noting the less frequent meeting schedule of the Advisory Work Group.

Lyssa Leitner asked if staff from cities or counties participate in consultant selection processes. Cole Hiniker answered this selection panel will be limited to internal staff and is using a streamlined procurement process, though external evaluators do participate in consultant selection for some other studies.

Lyssa Leitner asked if a list of listening sessions or workshops will be brought to the Technical Working Group for review. Cole Hiniker answered that a high-level description of workshop themes may be brought to the Technical Working Group.



Chair Mareck asked how existing studies or needs assessments will inform goals and objectives engagement. Cole Hiniker answered that staff are trying to balance the amount of review activities for the consultant in this study. He said there are a number of studies that may inform this engagement study, though their project timelines may not fully align. He said information from other studies will be shared with the engagement study consultant as becomes available.

Regional Transportation and Climate Change Multimodal Measures Study

Tony Fischer, MTS Planning, presented the study scope of work and timeline.

Adam Harrington, Metro Transit, asked if the scope of work could include a cumulative goal of regional carbon dioxide reduction and descriptive outcomes of those goals. Tony Fischer answered that tying goals to outcomes may be difficult due to the global scale of climate change, though the state carbon dioxide reduction goals may be considered in the study.

Andrew Andrusko, MnDOT Freight, expressed interest in participating on the study's technical advisory committee. He also asked if projects beyond the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) in the scoping or planning phases will be evaluated. Tony Fischer answered MnDOT will be involved in the study, and that the study will look at TIP projects, TPP projects, and projects proposed for the Regional Solicitation. Jon Solberg, TAC Chair, said there may be competing economic benefits with projects that have large greenhouse gas impacts. He said acceptance of the process may require consideration of mitigating factors. Tony Fischer said the study will provide the technical support to those types of conversations. Jonathan Ehrlich, MTS Planning, said the study is not looking at individual projects but rather types of projects, and that may include projects that have not been thought of yet and are not in the TIP.

KC Atkins, Hennepin County, asked if this study will evaluate greenhouse gases related to vehicle delay and idling. Tony Fischer indicated this will be evaluated, but the level of evaluation may vary with project scale. He said induced demand and delay will be topics in the project.

Innocent Eyoh, MPCA, said we have not yet been able to meet the state greenhouse gas reduction goals set in 2007. He said this study will help document performance relative to these goals. Chair Mareck said it can be a struggle identifying actionable steps.

Chair Mareck asked how the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) will tie to this study. Tony Fischer said greenhouse gas measures may inform project selection. Steve Peterson, MTS Planning, answered the CRP will send about \$8 million per year through the MPO funding process, and other funds through other state and regional processes. He said this study may inform the direction of those funds. Jonathan Ehrlich said this study is doing the foundational work of measuring greenhouse gases effectively and does not develop policy.

Cole Hiniker asked if the study will anticipate projects we may have in the future, like unique projects in the Regional Solicitation, and if the study technical advisory committee will include related perspectives. Tony Fisher said the study will not directly look at unique projects and will be focused on transit, bicycle, pedestrian, and highway mobility projects.

Transportation System Performance Evaluation (TSPE) – Outline and Interesting Results to Date

Jonathan Ehrlich presented on TSPE progress, its organization around TPP Goals and Objectives, streamlining measures, and key results to date.

Will Schoeer, Twin Cities Shared Mobility Collaborative, asked when the TSPE will be published. Jonathan Ehrlich answered publication is expected in about six weeks.

Travel Behavior Inventory and Regional Model

Jonathan Ehrlich presented on transportation and land use regional models and their relationships, considerations, outputs, and issues.

Chair Mareck asked how the model considers changes in telework and work travel. Jonathan

Ehrlich said there is not good data since the beginning of the pandemic to describe change over time, so the models do not reflect that, though these policy issues will need to be addressed both inside and outside the model, including human observation.

Andrew Andrusko asked if the model analyzes freight movements. Jonathan Ehrlich answered that the model does analyze freight movements, but it needs improvements that will not be complete within the TPP timeframe.

Will Schroeer asked if car sharing is considered as a modal choice. Dennis Farmer, MTS Planning, said outside the travel model, the MOVES model can consider fuels and technology types. He said there are people working on models that may be implementable in a couple years that look at household type and vehicle ownership and fleet.

Closing

Chair Mareck closed the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Council Contact:

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