

Minutes

Transportation Advisory Board



Meeting Date: June 15, 2022

Time: 12:30 PM

Location: 390 Robert Street

Members Present:

Chair, James Hovland
V. Chair Debbie Goettel
Doug Anderson
Myron Bailey
Deb Barber
Michael Barnes
Carl Crimmins
Peter Dugan
~~Amity Foster~~ (Evan Rowe)
Christopher Geisler
Mary Giuliani Stephens
Gary Hansen
Mary Liz Holberg

Mathews Hollinshead
Mitra Jalali
~~Julie Jeppson~~
Stan Karwoski
~~Dan Kealey~~
Emily Koski
Andy Lewis
William Lindeke
~~Matt Look~~
Randy Maluchnik
Brian Martinson
~~Trista MatasCastillo~~
~~Craig McDonnell~~ (Todd Biewen)

Ashwat Narayanan
~~Becky Petryk~~
~~George Schember~~
Mark Steffenson
~~Jon Ulrich~~
Janet Williams
~~Mark Windschitl~~
Tom Workman

Absent

Staff

Elaine Koutsoukos, TAB
Jon Solberg, TAC
Charles Carlson, MTS Director

Call to Order

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Hovland called the regular meeting of the Transportation Advisory Board to order at 12:36 p.m.

Agenda Approved

It was moved by Anderson, seconded by Maluchnik to approve the agenda. Committee members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda. **Motion carried.**

Reports

1. TAB Chair's Report – Jim Hovland

Hovland reported that absent objections, the TAB will not meet in July 2022. Hovland asked for TAB members to send in topics they are interested in having before the TAB.

2. Agency Reports - MnDOT, MPCA, MAC, and Metropolitan Council

Add recap of reports discussion

MnDOT

Barnes reported on the new MnDOT Commissioner Nancy Daubenberger and appointment of Deputy Commissioner and Chief Engineer Jean Wallace, the IIJA funds, and the Corridors of Commerce program. The matching funds for the IIJA did not pass by the end of session. Lindeke asked about matching federal money, Barnes said most have a 10-20% match. Hollinshead brought up the distinction with transit matching money. Hollinshead asked about connecting with the legislative leaders.

MPCA

Biewen reported on grant opportunities, that can be found on the MPCA website.

MAC

Crimmins reported on the MN National Air Guard has had an increase in their takeoffs and landings, Sun Country is launching a Canadian route to Vancouver, COVID testing is no longer required to enter the country, international travel is expected to increase by 12% by removing this restriction. Crimmins reported on recent awards and positive ratings. Condor is now coming back to MSP as an international carrier. Spirit is postponing the merger between JetBlue and Frontier until the end of June to see the final offers. The flight numbers are now within 5% of previous flight numbers. Goettel asked about job fairs, Crimmins noted there is a list of jobs available and job fair information on the website.

Metropolitan Council

Barber reported on negotiations with the BNSF railway. For the Blue Line, the route was chosen on West Broadway. Barber also reported that the final corridor plan has been approved by the Transportation Committee for the E Line. Barber shared recent ridership data, noting there is an increase in commuter ridership.

STA

Heidi Scholl, MVTA, reported on behalf of Dan Kealey. On-Demand service is strong; SWT Prime has surpassed pre-covid levels. Commuter ridership is up. MVTA expects substantial completion of Phase I of the Burnsville Bus Garage by November 2022. SWT procured two on-demand electric vehicles. Hovland reported that Rotary clubs are working with Afghan refugees and have a meeting set up with MVTA, SWT, and Metro Transit to devise a strategy to assist refugees to getting to meetings.

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Anderson, seconded by Geisler to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2022 regular meeting of the Transportation Advisory Board. **Motion carried.**

Consent Business

Consent Business Adopted

1. There were no items on the consent agenda.

Non-Consent Business

1. **2022-27:** Streamlined 2022-2025 TIP Amendment – MnDOT I-35W / I-494 Interchange Bridge, and Reconstruction (Jon Solberg, TAC Chair)

It was moved by Goettel, seconded by Geisler, that the Technical Advisory Committee recommend that the Transportation Advisory Board recommend adoption of an amendment to the 2022-2025 TIP to increase the total cost of and add two new funding sources to, MnDOT and Bloomington's I-494 reconstruction, interchange construction, and bridge replacement projects (SP # 2784-424, 2785-424C, 85-424G, 107-010-013, and 107-010-013AC).

Jalali asked for process clarification. Solberg said the projects were evaluated on merits, and now the other components have been added in. Jalali asked about greenhouse gas final estimates. Solberg said the greenhouse gas modeling that is used looks at the operations (vehicles traveling) and construction impacts, and it looks at current and projected changes. The greenhouse gas analysis only looks at the corridor it does not look at anything that may parallel or intersect the corridor. Jalali asked what the 16% estimate is based on, Solberg said it is based on EPA and FHWA models. Lindeke commented on commuter travel patterns. Barber asked if the greenhouse gas analysis factored in the airport area. Solberg said it is not mature enough to look at corridor makeup such as additional transit services. Narayanan

commented that fuel efficiencies are lost by vehicle sizes and increased driving and asked about the STAC recommendation. Solberg said the SMTP process would incorporate the STAC recommendations. Jalali asked if the investment is forward facing or a sunk-cost, Solberg said EZPass is a large piece of it and allowing HOV is a major goal. Giuliani Stephens, Barber, Geisler, and Goettel spoke in support of the project. Hollinshead asked about EZPass Lane congestion. Solberg clarified that there are no Regional Solicitation dollars in the project.

Motion carried.

2. **2022-26:** Program Year Extension Request: Hennepin County University Avenue / 4th St. Bikeway (Jon Solberg, TAC Chair)

It was moved by Goettel, seconded by Lindeke, that the Transportation Advisory Board approve Hennepin County's program year extension request to move its University Avenue and 4th Street Bikeway (SP# 027-636-012) from fiscal year 2022 to fiscal year 2023.

Goettel and Lindeke spoke in support of the project to increase safety.

Motion carried.

Information

1. Overview of 2050 Regional Development Guide and Transportation Policy Plan Development (*Dan Marckel and Michael Larson, Community Development; Cole Hiniker, MTS*)

Holberg asked about timing, Marckel noted that some aspects persist over time regardless of the change in leadership. Hovland asked about workforce impacts. Larson said the Council adopted a regional economic framework and that process addressed workforce impacts. Holberg asked if there has been an evaluation of Thrive reflecting various regions' reactions. Larson commented that the plan is being set up so that evaluation is easier. Barber said that communities are presenting to the Council's Committee of the Whole and discussing how the process has worked for the various cities. Martinson asked about the priority of safety. Giuliani Stephens contrasted Thrive 2040 with Thrive 2050. Hiniker noted that the planning process does utilize comments given. Karwoski pointed out the importance of the usage of the documents created.

2. Regional Traffic Safety Update (*Heidi Schallberg, MTS, Derek Leuer and Eric DeVoe, MnDOT*)

Martinson commented on the emphasis on individual behavior.

3. Regional Solicitation Grant Awards Project Update (*Heidi Scholl, MVTA*)

There were no comments or questions from TAB members.

Items of TAB members

TAB Members discussed again the concerns about asking the legislature to have a special session.

Other Business

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

Council Contact:

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