

# Minutes

Transportation Advisory Board



**Meeting Date:** November 16, 2022

**Time:** 12:30 PM

**Location:** 390 Robert Steet

## Members Present:

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

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

~~Ashwat Narayanan~~ (Glen Johnson)  
~~Becky Potryk~~  
George Schember  
Mark Steffenson  
Jon Ulrich  
~~Jeffery Weisenel~~ (Bill Droste)  
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 12:35 p.m.

## Agenda Approved

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

## Public Invitation

Add any notes of conversation here.

## Reports

### 1. TAB Chair's Report – Jim Hovland

Hovland noted that it is time for TAB Executive members to apply for the coming year. Hovland introduced new TAB alternates. Hovland shared the TAB Executive committee discussion about Regional Solicitation.

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

#### MnDOT

Barnes reported that the Corridors of Commerce program has its solicitation ending in November. 395 fatalities is 1-% less than last year but 23% more than pre-COVID. Dugan

## MPCA

Biewen reported that Craig McDonnell has recently left the agency so his position will be filled soon. The biennial report on greenhouse gas emissions will be ready in 2023.

## MAC

Crimmins reported that the airport is getting ready for the holidays, the Delta pilots have now authorized to strike. There have not been recent light rail incidents.

## Metropolitan Council

Chamblis reported that the Metro D Line launches in December, funding from the Regional Solicitation was critical to funding the project.

## STA

Burkhart reported:

**Plymouth:** Fixed route ridership is 50% higher than last year (these are the numbers that Metro Transit uses when talking about ridership data) but we are only at about 20% of pre-Covid-19. Click and Ride on-Demand is at about pre-Covid-levels and continue to show growth. Early next year, we plan to realign and adjust routes to the new reality keeping in mind two factors: ridership numbers and best fleet utilization.

**Maple Grove:** The most important note from Maple Grove Transit is that our MY RIDE microtransit ridership is now well above pre-pandemic levels, and we're looking at adding more buses and increasing the span of service hours from 6 AM to 8 PM. WE now stop at 6 PM. We are seeing increases in our express ridership, but still well below pre-pandemic.

**Southwest:** SW Prime continues to increase ridership, now well above pre-pandemic levels. SWT express services also have experienced ridership increase in the Fall, but are still well below pre-pandemic levels. SWT is working on starting a public-private partnership with Lyft to help supplement SW Prime service and alleviate rapidly growing demand as it continues to experience difficulties in adding vehicles to the service due to a nationwide shortage in small transit vehicles.

**MVTA:** Our Connect service continues to grow and is among our more popular routes. We're looking to work with the City of Burnsville and possibly Metro Transit on a pedestrian bridge over Highway 13, and in the next year will be focusing heavily on our Transform 2028 projects including BBG modernization, multimodal/TOD improvements, and our systemwide redesign – all with a focus towards improving the customer experience.

### 3. TAC Report – Jon Solberg, TAC Chair

Solberg reported that the process for a new TAC Chair has been initiated.

## Consent Business

### Consent Business Adopted

1. Approval of the October 19, 2022, minutes of the regular meeting of the Transportation Advisory Board.
2. **2022-44:** Maple Grove Program Year Extension Request (*Jon Solberg, TAC Chair*)

It was moved by Anderson, seconded by Goettel.

Steffenson noted project support.

Motion carried.

## Non-Consent Business



1. **2022-45:** Regional Solicitation Project Selection (*Jon Solberg, TAC Chair*)

It was moved by MatasCastillo, seconded by Ulrich, that the Transportation Advisory Board should select a program of projects to receive funding through the 2022 Regional Solicitation and to be included in the 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and/or amended into the 2023-2026 TIP and forward to the Metropolitan Council for concurrence.

Ulrich asked about the amount of carbon money being spent. Peterson brought up the MOU between the Council and MnDOT and the carbon money is not written into the MOU so the timing is to ensure alignment with the MnDOT plan. Holberg asked if roadways will qualify for carbon money in the future. Solberg said the State is working to set guidance in place so it could potentially go to roadways but it's likely to be limited in scope. Hovland noted that the money is not regional solicitation money. Windschitl brought up the importance of the regional impact. Goettel said Hennepin County prefers option B but acknowledged other counties are road-heavy and she proposed that the overprogramming or Safe Routes to Schools dollars. Ulrich asked about the carbon money and Hovland noted that a potential solution is moving the money around.

It was moved by Maluchnik, seconded by Goettel, that the Transportation Advisory Board accept the TAC recommendation to increase over-programming from 11% to 12%.

Windschitl asked about the impact to project selection. Anderson noted that historical projects have operated in a relatively stable environment. Geisler brought up the likelihood of the dollars falling off, the point of overprogramming is to make sure the federal funds stay in the region and don't get returned. Ulrich agreed that the uncertainty of the economics is a reason to overprogram since it stands to reason that more programs may fall off.

Motion carried.

It was moved by MatasCastillo, seconded by Ulrich to accept TAC recommendation B1 the bike/ped heavy option.

Members discussed the merits of the options before them.

Roll Call Vote: 17 ayes, 15 nays.

**Ayes:**

Goettel, Bailey, Chamblis, Foster, Burkart, Holberg, Hollinshead, Jalali, Karwoski, Koski, Lewis, Holst, Martinson, MatasCastillo, Johnson, Ulrich, Williams

**Nays:**

Anderson, Barnes, Crimmins, Dugan, Geisler, Giuliani Stephens, Jeppson, Schulte, Maluchnik, Biewen, Sember, Steffenson, Droste, Windschitl, Workman

**Motion carried.**

2. **2022-46:** Carbon Reduction Project Selection (*Jon Solberg, TAC Chair*)

It was moved by Martinson, seconded by Goettel, that TAB select a Carbon Reduction Program funding option consistent with the carbon reduction consistent with B1.

Giesler brought up a concern for project T16. Ulrich brought up overprogramming and the option of taking away the tie.

Motion by Ulrich, seconded by Holberg that the TAB recommend the carbon reduction consistent with B1 and 2 years of carbon and additional 5.5 million to be allocated to the tied project at 16 to fund the 3 Rivers Project in Hennepin County.

Amendment to motion by Workman, second by Schulte that the TAB recommend to the Council that additional carbon reduction funds be used to fund the Carver County project. Amended motion fails.

**Motion carried.**

3. **2022-47:** Highway Safety Investment Plan Project Selection (*Jon Solberg, TAC Chair*)

It was moved by Goettel, seconded by Maluchnik, that the Transportation Advisory Board approve the attached 38 projects for funding through the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) solicitation and inclusion of all Urbanized Area projects in the draft 2024-2027 TIP.

There were no comments or questions from TAB members.

**Motion carried.**

**Information**

1. Congestion Management Process: Twin Cities Congestion Analysis Handbook (*David Burns, MTS, Tim Burkhardt, Alliant Engineering*)

This item was deferred to a future meeting.

**Items of TAB members**

**Other Business**

**Adjournment**

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

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**Council Contact:**

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