

# Minutes

Transportation Advisory Board



**Meeting date:** September 18, 2024

**Time:** 12:30 PM

**Location:** 390 Robert Street

## Members present:

Chair, James Hovland  
1st Vice Chair, Mark Windschitl  
2nd Vice Chair, Debbie Goettel  
Doug Anderson  
~~Myron Bailey~~  
Deb Barber  
Husniyah Bradley  
~~Kevin Burkart~~  
~~Aurin Chowdhury~~  
~~Carl Crimmins~~  
Peter Dugan  
~~John Fahey~~  
Amity Foster  
Chris Geisler

Gary Hansen  
Mary Liz Holberg  
Mark Jenkins  
Julie Jeppson  
Glen Johnson  
~~Stan Karwoski~~  
~~HwaJeong Kim~~  
Frank Kohlasch  
~~William Lindeke~~ (Rich Holst)  
Mary Jo McGuire  
John Morast  
~~Brian Martinson~~ (Alexander Ask)  
Becky Petryk

~~Jess Robertson~~  
Khani Sahebjam  
George Schember  
Mark Steffenson  
Jon Ulrich  
~~Christopher Vaughan~~ (Nathan Hemann)  
Jeffery Weisensel

## Staff

Elaine Koutsoukos, TAB  
Jeni Hager, 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 McGuire to approve the agenda. Committee members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda. **Motion carried.**

## Public invitation

There were no members of the public who wished to speak to the TAB.

## Reports

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

Hovland reported that the Regional Solicitation Policymaker Work Group met prior to the TAB meeting. Discussion is on how to accomplish the most for the region and what to bring to the full TAB as approach. TAB has been using a modality approach. Should we be thinking more about an outcome-based approach. The underlying question is how we can best accomplish the most for the region through the regional solicitation process that aligns with the 2050 TPP.

### 2. Agency Reports – MnDOT, MPCA, MAC, Metropolitan Council, Suburban Transit Providers MnDOT

Sahebjam reported that construction will begin toning down. They are expecting a snowy season, so they would not be able to continue construction late into the year like last year. There was significant increase in fatalities from last month; in August there were 271 fatalities reported and in September total is 320. This compares to 280 at this time in 2023.

#### MPCA

Kohlasch reported that MPCA is in the process of working out the details of the \$200 million climate action grants that Minnesota was awarded under the inflation reduction act. The climate smart food system grant will cover the entire food system from the restoration of agricultural lands to proper agricultural processes equipment used to process industrial decarbonization in the food processing in Minnesota and the trucks that are used to transport through goods throughout Minnesota. Five other agencies are receiving funds: the Department Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture, Board of Water and Soil Resources, Department of Health, and Department of Employment and Economic Development. MPCA has grants open right now for Volkswagen settlement for heavy duty vehicles that is available on the MPCA website. MPCA also has a grant opportunity for reducing the emissions of train engines.

#### MAC

The MAC report was deferred to a future meeting.  
Metropolitan Council

Barber reported on Network Now. Network Now is Metro Transit's plan to design transit service that best meets the needs of the region, grows transit ridership, and expands access to jobs. The plan outlines service changes that Metro Transit would be prioritized through 2027. The plan also accounts for four new bus rapid transit lines – the Gold Line, B Line, E Line and G Line – and the Green Line Extension that will be in service by the end of 2027. The Metropolitan Council authorized the start of the public comment period on the plan. Feedback is being sought through November 15. After the comment period ends, staff will revise the plan and bring it back to the Met Council for adoption in early 2025.

#### Suburban Transit Providers

Hansen reported: Maple Grove Transit provided State Fair service on weekends and Labor Day, setting a single-day service record on Sunday, September 1st. Minnesota Valley Transit Authority set a record for State Fair ridership, providing more than 127,000 rides – a 15% increase over MVTA's previous record set last year. MVTA set a new daily record on Sunday, September 1st, with 18,414 rides. MVTA's service to the Renaissance Festival continues to grow. To date, 21,000 rides have been provided – a 25% increase over last year. Plymouth Metrolink ridership is up 20% on regular routes, while ride-on-demand is up 36%. Plymouth Metrolink will coordinate with Maple Grove Transit on a Northwest Service study for 2025 service. SouthWest Transit reported its largest State Fair ridership ever. SouthWest is working on its autonomous vehicle project, with launch expected in the first half of November.

#### 3. TAC Report – Jeni Hager, TAC Chair

Hager reported

#### Approval of minutes

It was moved by Anderson, seconded by Windschitl to approve the amended minutes of the August 21, 2024, regular meeting of the Transportation Advisory Board. **Motion carried.**

#### Consent business

There were no items on the consent agenda.

#### Non-consent business



1. 2024-37: 2025 Unified Planning Working Program (UPWP) (*Jeni Hager, TAC Chair; David Burns, MTS*)

It was moved by Barber, seconded by Windschitl, that the TAB recommend that the Metropolitan Council:

- Adopt the 2025 Unified Planning Work Program with a budget of \$8,151,320 to be updated to reflect the staff salary and benefit adjustments included in recent union contract settlements, and
- Authorize the Regional Administrator to enter into an agreement with the State of Minnesota Department of Transportation for distribution of Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) planning funds.

**Motion carried.**

2. 2024-39: Scope Change Request – SouthWest Transit Mall of America Service (*Jeni Hager, TAC Chair*)

It was moved by Windschitl, seconded by Goettel, that the Transportation Advisory Board approve SouthWest Transit’s scope change request to adjust the service area to remove the Golden Triangle, add the Airport, and increase the operating time for its Mall of America service with retention of all federal funds.

**Motion carried.**

3. 2024-40: Scope Change Policy Update (*Jeni Hager, TAC Chair; Joe Barbeau, MTS*)

It was moved by Anderson, seconded by Hansen, that the Transportation Advisory Board recommend approval of the updated Scope Change Policy

TAB members discussed the policy change and whether a cap should be a percentage or an amount.

**Motion failed.**

It was moved by Anderson, seconded by Geisler, that the Transportation Advisory Board send the item back to the TAC for further input.

**Motion carried.**

## Information

1. Regional Solicitation Evaluation Updates

Chair Hovland and TAB Member Johnson provided the TAB with an update.

2. Program Year Policy Update (*Joe Barbeau, MTS; Jeni Hager, TAC Chair*)

TAB members discussed the policy update and potential impacts and exceptions.

3. Local Forecasts to 2050 (*Todd Graham, Research*)

TAB members shared comments and questions about local forecasting and comprehensive plans.

## Items of TAB members

## Other business

## Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 2:44 p.m.



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**Council contact:**

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