

# Minutes

## Transportation Advisory Board



**Meeting date:** March 19, 2025

**Time:** 12:30 PM

**Location:** 390 Robert Street

### Members present:

Chair, James Hovland  
1st Vice Chair, Debbie Goettel  
2nd Vice Chair, Victor Lake  
TAB Liaison, Peter Dugan  
Doug Anderson  
Myron Bailey  
Deb Barber  
Husniyah Bradley  
~~Aurin Chowdhury~~  
Carl Crimmins  
Don Do  
Amity Foster

Gary Hansen  
~~Mary Liz Holberg~~  
Taylor Hubbard  
~~Mark Jenkins~~ (Torin Gustafson)  
Julie Jeppson  
Glen Johnson  
Stan Karwoski  
~~HwaJeong Kim~~  
Frank Kohlasch  
~~William Lindeke~~  
~~Brian Martinson~~  
~~John Morast~~  
~~Becky Petryk~~

~~Jess Robertson~~  
Khani Sahebjam  
~~George Schember~~  
Mark Steffenson  
~~Jon Ulrich~~  
Christopher Vaughan  
~~Jeffery Weisensel~~  
~~Tom Workman~~  
Mai Chong Xiong

### Staff

Elaine Koutsoukos, TAB  
Molly McCartney, TAC Vice-Chair  
Charles Carlson, MTS Director

### Call to order

A quorum being present, Committee Vice Chair Goettel 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 Bailey 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 committee.

### Reports

#### 1. TAB Chair's Report – Debbie Goettel

Goettel reported that two projects in Minnesota have had federal funding frozen, in Bemidji and Duluth. There is discussion about municipal bonds not having tax exempt status anymore.

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

##### MnDOT

Sahebjam reported the Minnesota legislature is in session. Green House Gas Emissions is being revisited. Cost participation between counties and cities on transportation projects is being looked at. Regarding safety, in the metro area, there were 18 fatalities at the end of February. Statewide, as of March 18, there were 56 fatalities. In 2024 at the same time, there

were 71 fatalities.

## MPCA

Kohlasch reported that last Wednesday, there was a major announcement from EPA on 31 regulatory rollbacks. Transportation related, they are going to reconsider the endangerment finding for greenhouse gases from motor vehicles, which was created in 2009. It opened up the Clean Air Act as a tool for the EPA to use the tools to regulate and reduce Green House Gas emissions. If revoked the tools will not be available to be used. They are reconsidering motor vehicle emission standards. They expect there to be weakened standards. They may remove the GHG standards. They may also revoke the California waiver. This has also been submitted to Congress for review. The 30-year-old Office of Equity and Environmental Justice has been removed. They are no longer considering environmental justice in their enforcement actions. Under the Climate Pollution Reduction Act, MPCA is starting to make drawdowns on the Climate Food Systems grant. The electric school bus grant is still in place.

## MAC

Crimmins reported that spring break has started. TSA has 45,000-50,000 screenings a day. Terminal 1 has highest activity at TSA between 5:00 – 9:00 am. Terminal 2 has highest activity at TSA between 4:00 – 5:00 am. TSA officers begin work at 2:00 am. Passengers can reserve TSA screening time up to seven days in advance, MSP Reserve | MSP Airport. There will be construction joining the halves of the G concourse (G infill) through 2028. There are 10 international gates on the G concourse now. Three additional international gates will be added, plus seven gates for general use. Aeronautical grants are moving ok; as formula grants are ok. Discretionary grants are frozen. Travel is up 5% from last year. There is lower international travel.

## Metropolitan Council

Barber reported that federal funding in projects in a grant agreement are proceeding. Projects with federal funding not in an agreement are on hold until they receive further guidance. The Council received TMA certification from FHWA and FTA to continue their work as an MPO. Gold Line is opening on March 22. This is Transit Employee Appreciation Week.

## Suburban Transit Association

### Hansen reported

Maple Grove Transit and Plymouth Metrolink expect that draft reports on their joint transit needs assessment study will be ready in April. SouthWest Transit reported a 9% increase in ridership over the prior year, driven by express ridership. SouthWest's 494 fixed route service to the Mall of America and the airport is set to launch at the end of March. Minnesota Valley Transit Authority's seasonal 4FUN service returns March 20 on Thursday through Sunday serving the Mall of America, Eagan Outlet Shops, Valleyfair (once open), Canterbury Park, and Mystic Lake. MVTA, the City of Burnsville, the National League of Cities, and Enterprise Mobility sponsored on March 5 a Mobility Matters discussion of public transit partnerships, mobility solutions for accessing transportation and transit options, and microtransit as a solution to suburban access. Discussion focused on the need to fill gaps in the region's transportation and transit network.

### 3. TAC Report – Molly McCartney, TAC Vice-Chair

There was no TAC report.

## Approval of minutes

It was moved by Anderson, seconded by Hubbard to approve the amended minutes of the February 19, 2025, 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. There were no items on the non-consent agenda.

### Information

1. Safe System Approach at MnDOT (*Derek Leuer, MnDOT*)

TAB members asked questions about the data collection and analysis, the design process, the education component, and shared projects from their community.

2. Regional Transportation and Climate Change Multimodal Measures Study (*Tony Fischer, MTS Planning*)

There were no comments or questions from TAB Members.

3. Regional Solicitation Evaluation (*Steve Peterson, MTS Planning; Glen Johnson, Workgroup Chair*)

TAB Members voiced appreciation for the ongoing work.

### Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 2:08 p.m.

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#### Council contact:

Jenna Ernst, Recording Secretary  
[Jenna.Ernst@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:Jenna.Ernst@metc.state.mn.us)

