

Minutes

Transportation Advisory Board



Meeting date: April 16, 2025

Time: 12:30 PM

Location: 390 Robert Street

Members present:

Chair, James Hovland
1st Vice Chair Debbie Goettel
2nd Vice Chair Victor Lake
Doug Anderson
Myron Bailey
Deb Barber
Husniyah Bradley
Aurin Chowdhury (Katie
Cashman)
Carl Crimmins
Peter Dugan
Don Do
Amity Foster
Gary Hansen

Mary Liz Holberg
Taylor Hubbard
Mark Jenkins
~~Julie Jeppson~~ (Mike Gamache)
Glen Johnson
Saura Jost
Stan Karwoski
~~Frank Kohlasch~~ (Amanda
Smith)
~~William Lindeke~~
John Morast
Brian Martinson
Becky Petryk

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

Staff

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

Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

The Metropolitan Council acknowledges that the land we currently call Minnesota and specifically the seven-county region is the ancestral homeland of the Dakota Oyate who are present and active contributors to our thriving region. As part of the Metropolitan Council's commitment to address the unresolved legacy of genocide, dispossession, and settler colonialism and the fact that government institutions, including the Metropolitan Council, benefitted economically, politically, and institutionally after the forceable removal of the Dakota Oyate, the Metropolitan Council is dedicated to instilling Land, Water, and People Commitments in regional policy. These commitments support the Dakota Oyate, the eleven federally recognized Tribes in Minnesota, Ho-Chunk Nation, and the American Indian Communities representing over 150 diverse Tribal Nations that call the seven-county region home.

Call to order

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Hovland called the regular meeting of the Transportation Advisory Board to order at 12:38 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

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

Reports

1. TAB Chair's Report – Jim Hovland

Chair Hovland reported that TAB Executive Committee met prior to TAB. The Committee reviewed the meeting materials and had a status update on the Regional Solicitation. The Active Transportation Work Group will meet on April 28. Hovland announced new TAB member and alternates:

St. Paul TAB member – Saura Jost, alternate – Matt Privratsky

District H alternate – Rachel Chinitz

MPCA alternate – Amanda Jarrett Smith

Agency Reports – MnDOT, MPCA, MAC, Metropolitan Council, Suburban Transit Association
MnDOT

Sahebjam reported a safety update. Statewide there were 76 fatalities through April 16. In 2024 there were 95 fatalities at the same time. In the metro region, there were 30 fatalities at the end of March (6 non-motorized type). Hennepin County had 10; Anoka, Dakota, and Ramsey Counties each had 5, Chisago and Scott Counties 2, and Washington County had 1. MnDOT is revising documents, determining how to balance state goals and federal goals. Formula funds are continuing; the gas tax that the state sends in is redistributed back to the states. Some competitive grants are on hold. For a construction update, they are fixing bridges along I-94. MnDOT is doing a traffic analysis before and during construction. MnDOT will report on the study of what happened before and during the I-94 construction.

MPCA

Smith reported that the VW program has two open Request for Proposals; one to replace old diesel switcher locomotives with electric alternatives and another to replace old diesel school buses with new cleaner diesel school buses. It is a three-phase program and they are in phase 3. There are four to five years left to work with the funding. MPCA has issued 210 grants and processing 720 individual projects.

MAC

There was no MAC report.

Metropolitan Council

Barber reported that Districts 12 and 15 seats are open. A nominating committee has been formed. The Council hopes to fill the seats by May. Karwoski reported that the Gold Line opening was successful. Washington County and Ramsey County provided free rides for the first week of service.

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 soon. SouthWest Transit reported a 9.8% increase in ridership over the prior year, with fixed route ridership especially strong. 494 fixed route service to the Mall of America and the airport launched at the end of March. Park (\$5 per day) and fly service has been strong. Autonomous vehicle service around the SouthWest Transit station began on April 15. Minnesota Valley Transit Authority Connect microtransit ridership is up 56% year-to-date. Burnsville Bus Garage updates are underway and already resulting in improved operating efficiency. Seasonal 4FUN service commenced on March 20 serving the Mall of America, Eagan Outlet Shops, Valleyfair (once open), Canterbury Park, and Mystic Lake.

2. TAC Report – Molly McCartney, TAC Vice-Chair

There was no TAC report.

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Anderson, seconded by Hansen to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2025,

regular meeting of the Transportation Advisory Board. **Motion carried.**

Consent business

Consent business adopted

1. 2025-11: 2025-2028 Streamlined TIP Amendment: CSAH 34 Sidewalk, Curb Ramp, and Signal Project
2. 2025-12: 2025-2028 Streamlined TIP Amendment: MnDOT's 5310 Bus Purchases
3. 2025-13: 2025-2028 Streamlined TIP Amendment: CFI Grant Program

It was moved by Jenkins, seconded by Morast.

Motion carried.

Non-consent business

1. 2025-10: Program Year Extension - Washington County CR 19A Realignment Project (Molly McCartney, *TAC Chair*)

It was moved by Karwoski, seconded by Petryk, that the Transportation Advisory Board approve Washington County's program year extension request for its County Road 19A (Keats Avenue) realignment from 2026 to 2027.

Motion carried.

Information

1. Introduction to the Highway System Harms, Impacts, and Mitigation Priorities Study (Bethany Brandt-Sargent and Amy Vennewitz, MTS; Haila Maze, Bolton & Menk; Abdullahi Abdulle, Humanize MN)

TAB members discussed the study and asked clarifying questions.

2. Washington County Safety Planning and Implementation (Kevin Peterson and Maddie Dahlheimer, Washington County)

TAB members provided feedback on the item.

3. Arterial Bus Rapid Transit Plan Update (Katie Roth and Kyle Burrows, Metro Transit)

TAB members asked for details on the study and offered suggestions.

4. Regional Solicitation Evaluation Update (Steve Peterson, MTS)

TAB members had no comments or questions on the update.

Items of TAB members

Other business

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 2:32 p.m.

Council contact:

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