

Minutes

Transportation Advisory Board



Meeting date: May 21, 2025

Time: 12:30 PM

Location: 390 Robert Street

Members present:

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

~~Mary Liz Holberg~~ (Bill Droste)
Taylor Hubbard
Mark Jenkins
Julie Jeppson
Glen Johnson
Saura Jost
Stan Karwoski
~~Frank Kohlasch~~
William Lindeke
John Morast
Brian Martinson
~~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
Joe MacPherson, TAC
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 12:32 p.m.

Agenda approved

It was moved by Anderson, seconded by Xiong 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 on the federal level reconciliation is going on and looking forward to transportation reauthorization bill in September 2026. Currently there is review of the federal funding that may have some impact of DEI upcoming in trunk highway funds (formula funds).

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

Sahebjam reported on safety updates; in the metro area, there were 42 fatalities at the end of April (10 pedestrian, 4 motorcycle, and 1 bicycle). Statewide there were 115 fatalities as of May 20. This is down from 138 fatalities in 2024 at the same time. Sahebjam reported on changes on the federal level. There used to be DEI on the federal level and now it is just on the state level. Documents sent to the federal government follow the federal process. FHWA staff in Minnesota has been cut in half. Minnesota FHWA director is now overseeing North Dakota and South Dakota as well.

MPCA

There was no MPCA report.

MAC

There was no MAC report.

Metropolitan Council

Chamblis reported that Metro Transit will be launching the B Line on June 14. The B Line runs between Minneapolis and St. Paul along Lake Street and Selby Avenue. B-Line Opening Activities include the ribbon cutting at Union Depot. Other transit service improvements will also go into effect on June 14.

Suburban Transit Association

Hansen reported: Maple Grove Transit reported growth in ridership, mainly Tuesday through Thursday. University of Minnesota ridership is strong and consistent. Microtransit ridership is growing and much of Maple Grove Transit's capacity is maxed out due to demand for these rides. Maple Grove Transit and Plymouth Metrolink expect that final reports on their joint transit needs assessment study should be available by mid-July. SouthWest Transit's 494 corridor service, Route 686, is fully operational, and their new autonomous vehicle service has booked about 1,600 rides since launching on April 15. Minnesota Valley Transit Authority Connect microtransit ridership is up 45% year-to-date, but continued expansion is challenged due to funding uncertainty. MVTA will offer expanded hours for its State Fair service, beginning two hours earlier at 7:00 A.M. from Eagan and Shakopee.

2. TAC Report – Joe MacPherson, TAC Chair

The TAC report was that items are included in the TAB agenda.

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Anderson, Doug, seconded by Anderson, Kevin to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2025, regular meeting of the Transportation Advisory Board. **Motion carried.**

Consent business

Consent business adopted

1. 2025-14: 2025-2028 Streamlined TIP Amendment: Wright County's I-94, CR 137, and CSAH 37 Reconstruction and Roundabouts
2. 2025-15: 2025-2028 Streamlined TIP Amendment: MVTA's Apple Valley Transit Station Modernization

It was moved by Jenkins, seconded by Hansen.

Motion carried.

Non-consent business

1. 2025-16: Release 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program for Public Comment (Joe Barbeau, MTS Staff)

It was moved by Xiong, seconded by Morast, that the Transportation Advisory Board release the draft 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program for public comment.

Motion carried.

Information

1. Blue Line Extension and Gold Line Extension Transitway Project Updates (Nick Thompson, Metro Transit and Bradley Bobbitt, MTS Planning)

TAB members asked about station details, public engagement specifics, lessons learned from other projects, anti-displacement plans, and federal reimbursement.

2. Regional Solicitation Evaluation Update (Steve Peterson, MTS Planning)

TAB members commented on workshop details, incorporation of projects, and support of a hybrid structure. TAB members discussed current legislative proposals for project funding.

3. Regional Safety Action Plan (Heidi Schallberg, MTS Planning)

TAB members noted the intersection with local safety action plans, noted the need for tracking, geographical balance, data collection and formulation, information dissemination, and considering additional physical barriers. TAB members asked about the Regional High Injury Streets map and other maps. They can be found on the website for the Regional Safety Action Plan, <https://metrocouncil.org/Transportation/Goals/Safety-and-Security/Regional-Safety-Action-Plan.aspx>.

Items of TAB members

Other business

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Council contact:

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