

# Minutes

Transportation Advisory Board



**Meeting date:** June 18, 2025

**Time:** 12:30 PM

**Location:** 390 Robert Street

## Members present:

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

Mary Liz Holberg  
Taylor Hubbard  
Mark Jenkins  
Julie Jeppson  
~~Glen Johnson~~ (Brandon Wagenfeld)  
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

## Call to order

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Hovland called the regular meeting of the Transportation Advisory Board to order at 12:30 p.m.

## Agenda approved

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

## Public invitation

There was no one from the public who wished to speak to the TAB.

## Reports

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

Goettel reported the 2025 state legislative session included changes to the Corridors of Commerce Program regarding the geographic balance targets for this funding source. MnDOT was in the middle of a solicitation process for \$22M in Readiness grants and an action was originally on the TAB agenda for today. Based on the new legislative language, the process will need to restart to allow for "Metro Projects" (those touching the I-494/694 Beltway and inward) a chance to apply. Given the percentages in the law, the "Metro Projects" area will be awarded between 25% and 27.5% of the \$22M available for Corridors of Commerce Readiness funding or between \$5.5M and \$6.05M. This funding can be used on planning and engineering type activities on future projects. Item 2025-20 that was removed from the agenda will come back to TAB in August or September. TAB Executive

Committee met prior to TAB and discussed what was happening at the federal level and the reduction of staff. There will be continued monitoring to see if this impacts approvals that are submitted.

2. Agency Reports – Minnesota Department of Transportation, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Metropolitan Airports Commission, Metropolitan Council, Suburban Transit Association

#### MnDOT

Sahebjam provided an update on safety trends; to date there were 140 fatalities statewide compared to 188 in 2024. Metro area has 40 percent of the fatalities. There have been 16 pedestrian fatalities, 12 in the metro area; 10 motorcycle fatalities, 4 in metro area; and 5 bike fatalities, 1 in the metro area. Sahebjam provided a summary of legislation and projects funded. Sahebjam reported the Metro portion of the Corridors of Commerce Readiness Advancement nomination process is now open for nominations.

#### MPCA

Kohlasch reported that in late May, there was a Congressional Review Act Resolution to revoke California's Clean Air Act Waivers for Advanced Clean Cars II, Advanced Clean Trucks, and Omnibus NOx Rule; no state can use the standards to reduce GHG. Litigation likely as to whether the CRA can apply to these waivers (GAO and Senate Parliamentarian said they are not subject to the CRA). MPCA is tracking Proposed Reconciliation Bill Recissions. There is a proposal to revert to previous more lenient emissions standards. MPCA is continuing the Climate Action Framework Update: next round of public engagement opportunities will begin next week with sector-based conversations.

Climate-Smart Food System Grant (Climate Pollution Reduction Grant) continues to move forward, as well as Electric School Bus grant from EPA and VW Settlement Funding Round 3 of projects.

#### MAC

Crimmins reported that MAC received seven Telly awards out of 13,000 submissions. We are in peak summer travel; there were 468 average daily departures. Passenger levels are flat compared to 2024. There is one runway down for construction, so they are receiving noise complaints from areas they usually don't hear from. The construction should be completed around August. There are a lot of summer events planned at the metro area airports.

#### Met Council

Barber reported that Metro Transit launched the B Line on June 14. The Council's Committee of the Whole meeting is on the road and will meet in Chaska today.

#### Legislative Update (Hannah Pallmeyer, Met Council Intergovernmental Relations)

Pallmeyer reported on actions of the Minnesota Legislative session. TAB members commented on the \$2 million from active transportation funds and discussed action around the legislation and the preference for the TAB not to take action if not necessary.

#### STA

Hansen reported

Maple Grove Transit is installing bike lockers at its transit stations to help promote active transportation. Final recommendations from their joint transit needs assessment study with Plymouth Metrolink are being formulated for anticipated implementation of service changes this summer. SouthWest Transit's new 494 corridor service essentially converted microtransit service into a fixed route, doubling ridership and reducing ride time while removing transit vehicles from the road. Southwest's autonomous vehicle service booked nearly 1,700 riders



in May. Minnesota Valley Transit Authority is organizing a business council to foster strategic collaboration between MVTA and regional employers; obtain data and support business needs related to workforce commuting, access, and talent retention; provide regular updates on transit service enhancements and infrastructure investments; and create a two-way communication channel for business-driven transit planning.

3. TAC Report – Joe MacPherson, TAC Chair

The TAC report consisted of items on the agenda.

### Approval of minutes

It was moved by Anderson, seconded by Bailey to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2025, regular meeting of the Transportation Advisory Board. **Motion carried.**

### Consent business

Consent business adopted

1. 2025-21: Streamlined 2025-2028 TIP Amendment Request – Two HSIP Project Adjustments
2. 2025-22: Streamlined 2025-2028 TIP Amendment Request – MnDOT MN 280 Pavement and Bridge Rehabilitation

It was moved by Bradley, seconded by Hubbard. **Motion carried.**

### Non-consent business

1. 2025-17: Recommending of 2050 Transportation Policy Plan Amendment 1: Blue and Gold Line Extensions (*Joe MacPherson, TAC Chair*)

It was moved by Goettel, seconded by Xiong, that the Transportation Advisory Board recommend that the Metropolitan Council release the draft 2050 TPP Amendment 1 for public comment. **Motion carried.**

### Information

1. TMA Certification Results (*Scott Mareck, FHWA*)

TAB members noted county concerns over involvement and applauded Council commendations.

2. Regional Solicitation Evaluation Update

- Active Transportation Work Group (*Glen Johnson, Chair*)
- Special Issue Work Group Workshops (*Steve Peterson, MTS Planning*)

TAB members voiced concerns around the procedure.

3. Aviation System Plan Update (*Joe Widing, MTS Planning*)

TAB members asked for specifics on various aspects of the plan and gave feedback.

### Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 2:13 p.m.

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### Council contact:

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