

Minutes

Transportation Advisory Board



Meeting date: July 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~~ (Torin Gustafson)
~~Julie Jeppson~~ (Mike Gamache)
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 Weisense~~
~~Tom Workman~~
~~Mai Chong Xiong~~

Staff

Elaine Koutsoukos, TAB
Jeni Hager, 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 12:33 p.m.

Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

The Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment was read by Chair Hovland.

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 was no member of the public who wished to speak to the TAB.

Reports

1. TAB Chair's Report – Jim Hovland

Hovland provided background information on the Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment that is now posted on the agenda. Barber introduced Allison Waukau, the Council's Tribal Liaison, and she will be part of ongoing discussions as TAB engages with this work. Hovland reported that the Regional Solicitation Policymaker Work Group met prior to the TAB meeting. Hovland introduced Torin Gustafson. Gustafson has been the alternate in District F and will become the TAB representative with Mark Jenkins appointed to the Metropolitan Council.

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

MnDOT

Sahebjam reported that statewide there have been 177 fatalities and metro wide there have been 74 (14 pedestrian, 9 motorcycles). The Minnesota Highway Freight Program Solicitation is open until September 3; \$51.2 million is available with half for each year 2029 and 2030. There will be an interactive webinar on July 23 at 1:00 pm. The Teams meeting link is on the website, [Minnesota Highway Freight Program - MnDOT](#).

MPCA

Kohlasch reported on the update of the Climate Action Framework. Another opportunity for stakeholder input will be in September with completion of the Plan at the end of 2025. A Freight Switcher Locomotive grant is open until October 22, 2025. The Electric School Bus grant is combining VW settlement funding and federal grant from the Inflation Reduction Act and will receive nine electric school buses in Minnesota. MPCA is working with nine agencies on extreme heat guidance for outdoor workers. On Monday, July 21, there will be a national sustainable aviation fuel workshop in downtown Minneapolis hosted by Greater MSP.

MAC

Rief reported on new commissioners, the federal government deciding that shoes no longer need to be removed at security, MSP is starting to use Enhanced Passenger Processing (EPP) This uses facial recognition for incoming US citizens arriving on international flights. This will reduce time going through Customs. EPP is used at 12 airports in North America. MSP has been ranked 4th best airport in the US by the Washington Post.

Metropolitan Council

Barber reported that the Council appointed two new Council members; Mark Jenkins and Victor Obisakin. The last Committee of the Whole meeting met in Chaska. Metro Transit provided transportation for the Hortman memorial service. B Line has been in operation for almost a month. In three-week ridership report, ridership is up 23 percent over previous route 21, with almost 8,000 riders per day. A future update on the details of boardings along the B Line was requested.

Suburban Transit Association

Hansen reported: Maple Grove Transit is offering MYRIDE microtransit service for youth who are not yet licensed to drive to get them to events and appointments when family or friends are not able to provide transportation. Maple Grove Transit and Plymouth Metrolink are coordinating technology changes resulting from final recommendations in their joint transit needs assessment study which will result in implementation of service changes this summer. SouthWest Transit fixed route rider surveys of reasons that riders are coming back indicate primary reasons are the costs of driving and parking. Only 15% cite changed work schedules.



Southwest will test automated passenger counts on buses using AI in place of manual counting. Installation and validation are anticipated to be completed by State Fair time. Minnesota Valley Transit Authority has received two of four trolley buses ordered primarily to provide special services in the area of Canterbury Park, but also for use on local routes. MVTA started an outreach and marketing campaign called MVTA Moves Commuters to increase commuter express ridership. Express riders were surveyed to learn more about why they commute, what they enjoy about MVTA's express trips, and what can be improved.

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 Do to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2025, regular meeting of the Transportation Advisory Board. **Motion carried.**

Consent business

Consent business adopted

1. 2025-24: 2025-2028 Streamlined TIP Amendment: MnDOT's I-494 Sign Replacement
2. 2025-25: 2025-2028 Streamlined TIP Amendment: Two MnDOT Signal Replacement Cost Increases

It was moved by Hansen, seconded by Goettel.

Motion carried.

Non-consent business

1. 2025-23: Review of Flying Cloud Airport 2040 Long Term Comprehensive Plan (*Joe MacPherson, TAC Chair*)

It was moved by Goettel, seconded by Lake, that Recommend to the TAB that the Metropolitan Council find that the Final Draft Flying Cloud Airport 2040 LTCP has a multi-city impact as well as conforms to the regional systems and is consistent with regional policies.

TAB members asked for information on demographics.

Motion carried.

Information

1. E-ZPass Update (*Brad Larson, MnDOT*)

TAB members asked questions about specific corridors, tools used, and how Minnesota compares with other states.

2. Transportation GHG Emissions Impact Assessment (*Chris Berrens and Maurice Roers, MnDOT*)

TAB members asked about metrics used and future changes.

3. Regional Solicitation Evaluation Update

- Policymaker Work Group (*Jim Hovland, Chair*)
- Active Transportation Work Group (*Glen Johnson, Chair*)

4. Transit Funding Allocation (Charles Carlson, MTS Executive Director)

TAB members asked clarifying questions.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 2:48 p.m.

Council contact:

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