

Minutes

Transportation Advisory Board



Meeting date: September 17, 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~~
~~Carl Grimmins~~
Peter Dugan
Don Do
~~Amity Foster~~ (Tim Marino)
Torin Gustafson
Gary Hansen

~~Mary Liz Holberg~~
~~Taylor Hubbard~~
~~Mark Jenkins~~
~~Julie Jeppson~~
Glen Johnson
~~Saura Jost~~
Stan Karwoski (Karla Bigham)
Frank Kohlasch (Amanda Jarrett Smith)
~~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 12:31 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 was no one from the public who wished to speak to the TAB.

Reports

1. TAB Chair's Report – Chair James Hovland

Hovland **reported** that Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgement will be discussed at the October TAB Executive Committee meeting and reported at TAB. Hovland met at Mystic Lake for a meeting with tribal leadership for a preview of a movie “The 7th” being filmed in Minnesota. There was a webinar that included the US Conference of Mayors for discussion on transportation funding and infrastructure. There is more pressure on local roads with changing travel behavior with the increase of delivery trucks.

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

Association

MnDOT

Sahebjam reported that in August there were seven traffic fatalities in the 8-county area as reported by Dept of Public Safety. The metro area continues to have about 1/3 of all statewide traffic fatalities, but about 2/3 of statewide pedestrian traffic fatalities. Statewide, there were 28 traffic fatalities in August (much less than 45 in July), and the state has 59 fewer traffic related deaths at the end of August this year compared to 2024. As of September 16, there were 261 traffic deaths in Minnesota (321 at this time in 2024). The legislature appropriated \$47,000,000 in general obligation (GO) bonds in the 2025 session for the Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP). LRIP provides funding for capital construction costs only. The application opened September 16 and closes December 12. Grants will be awarded up to \$1.5 million per project. House and Senate committees working through appropriation bills and a continuing resolution was introduced on Sept 16 to fund the federal government into the new fiscal year and hold off a federal government shutdown. Transportation Alliance DC Fly-In happening this week. Commissioner.

MPCA

Jarrett Smith reported on MPCA's open grants. There *is* a grant open for EV Fast Chargers along highway corridors through December 9 for \$1.89 million. There is an open grant for freight switch locomotives until October 22. MPCA is working on updating the Climate Action Framework. It will be available for public comment in a few months.

MAC

Crimmins was not present. Hovland reported that MSP was named the best mega airport for customer and traveler satisfaction by JD Powers. There is a State of the Airport meeting on September 18.

Met Council

Barber has been appointed Chair of the Met Council by Governor Walz.

STA

Hansen reported: Suburban transit providers report continued overall ridership increases. Maple Grove Transit's State Fair ridership was up 10% over the prior year, setting a record. Plymouth Metrolink is evaluating potential service improvements resulting from its joint transit needs assessment study with Maple Grove. SouthWest Transit's airport route ridership continues to increase, totaling more than 4,100 riders in August – up 146% since the April launch. SouthWest's State Fair ridership was more than 110,000 – their second largest total ever, and Renaissance Festival ridership was up 20%. Minnesota Valley Transit Authority Connect microtransit ridership was up more than 36% over last year to nearly 140,000. State Fair ridership increased 17% to a record nearly 150,000, and Renaissance Festival ridership through Labor Day was up 15%, also setting a record high.

TAC Report – Joe MacPherson, TAC Chair

TAC did not meet in September.

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Anderson, seconded by Bailey to approve the minutes of the August 20, 2025, regular meeting of the Transportation Advisory Board. **Motion carried.**

Consent business

1. There were no items on the consent agenda.



Non-consent business

1. There were no items on the non-consent agenda.

Information

1. Blue Line Extension & Gold Line Extension TPP Amendment Comment Report and Final Amendment (*Bradley Bobbitt, MTS*)
TAB members asked for the public comment report to be disseminated.
2. Electric Vehicle Public Charging Needs Analysis (*Tony Fischer, MTS, and Siri Simons, HDR*)
TAB members asked for information about the data's current and future use, and charger reliability, and potential partners. TAB members shared personal experiences with Electric Vehicles and asked clarifying questions about EV use in the state and peer regions. Hansen mentioned that the legislature established the Electricity as Vehicle Fuel Working Group. Their task is to study options for equitable assessment of the use of electric vehicles on roads. The working group must submit a report by February.
3. Travel Demand Management Update (*Wendy Duren, MTS*)
TAB members asked about community outreach.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Council contact:

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