

Minutes

TAB Technical Advisory Committee



Meeting date: August 6, 2025

Time: 9:00 AM

Location: Virtual

Members present:

- | | | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">☒ Anoka Co – Joe MacPherson (Chair)☒ Carver Co – Lyndon Robjent☒ Dakota Co – Erin Laberee☒ Ramsey Co – Brian Isaacson☒ Hennepin Co – Chad Ellos☒ Scott Co – Craig Jenson☒ Washington Co – Lyssa Leitner☐ Extended Urban Area – Chad Hausmann☒ Council MTS – Cole Hiniker (Alt)☒ Council CD – Patrick Boylan☒ TAB – Elaine Koutsoukos | <ul style="list-style-type: none">☒ Brooklyn Park – Marc Culver☒ Chanhassen – Charlie Howley☒ Eagan – Russ Matthys☒ Eden Prairie – Robert Ellis☒ Fridley – Jim Kosluchar☒ Lakeville – Paul Oehme☐ Plymouth – Michael Thompson☒ Woodbury – Chris Hartzell☒ Minneapolis Engineering – Jenifer Hager☒ Minneapolis Planning – Kathleen Mayell☒ Saint Paul Engineering – Nick Peterson☒ Saint Paul Planning – Reuben Collins | <ul style="list-style-type: none">☒ MnDOT – Molly McCartney (Vice Chair)☒ MPCA – Innocent Eyoh☒ MAC – Bridget Rief☒ STA – Matt Fyten☒ Metro Transit – Jonathan Ahn☐ Freight – Shelly Meyer☒ DEED – Colleen Eddy☐ MnDNR – Vacant☒ Bicycle – Kyle Sobota☐ Pedestrian – Mackenzie Turner Bargaen☐ FHWA – Scott Mareck (ex-officio) |
|---|---|---|
- ☒ = present, ☐ = excused

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 MacPherson called the regular meeting of the TAB Technical Advisory Committee to order at 9:00 a.m.

Agenda approved

Chair MacPherson noted that a roll call vote is not needed for approval of the agenda unless a committee member offers an amendment to the agenda. Committee members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda.

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Chris Hartzell, Woodbury, and seconded by Jim Kosluchar, Fridley, to approve the minutes of the July 2, 2025, regular meeting of the TAB Technical Advisory Committee. **Motion carried**

Public comment on committee business

TAB Report

Elaine Koutsoukos, TAB Coordinator, reported on July 16, 2025, regular meeting of the Transportation Advisory Board.

Business – Committee reports

Executive Committee (Joe MacPherson, Chair)

Chair MacPherson stated that the TAC Executive Committee met and discussed the meeting agenda items. Also discussed was whether the September meeting will be in-person or virtual, which will be decided based on content.

TAC Transit Planning Technical Working Group (Bradley Bobbitt, MTS Planning)

Bradley Bobbitt, MTS Planning, reported on the July 24, 2025, regular meeting of the TAC Transit Planning Technical Working Group.

Planning Committee (Gina Mitteco, Chair)

Committee Chair Mitteco noted that there are no scheduled items for August and that anyone on the TAC Planning Committee should have received a meeting cancellation notice. She added that the committee will likely reconvene in September.

1. **2025-26:** Recommending release of the draft 2050 Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) Amendment 2: Aviation System Plan update for public comment (Joe Widing, MTS Planning)

Joe Widing, MTS Planning, presented. It was moved by Russ Matthys, Eagan, and seconded by Lyssa Leitner, Washington Co., that the Technical Advisory Committee recommend to the Transportation Advisory Board that the Metropolitan Council release the draft 2050 TPP Amendment 2: Aviation System Plan Update for public review and comment.

Motion carried

2. **2025-27:** Recommending adoption of draft 2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and its release for public comment (Bethany Brandt-Sargent, MTS Planning)

Bethany Brandt-Sargent, MTS Planning, presented.

It was moved by Patrick Boylan, Council CD, and seconded by Innocent Eyoh, MPCA, that the Technical Advisory Committee recommend that the Transportation Advisory Board recommend adoption of the attached 2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

Leitner noted that the rural connections work related to the Regional Bicycle Trail Network (RBTN) study has come up in several meetings but is not reflected in the document. She recalled work was being done internally without dedicated funding and asked how such efforts are tracked or commented on by the region. Brandt-Sargent responded that significant internal work should be included and suggested that any expansion of the RBTN update process should have its own line item. Cole Hiniker, MTS Planning, clarified that the work is listed under Task B-4 as “develop a new process to create RBTN connections to rural center communities,” but it is not marked as a major product due to its evolving nature.

Motion carried

Funding and Programming Committee (Jim Kosluchar, Chair)

1. **2025-18:** Scope Change Request – Minnesota Valley Transit Authority’s Technology and ADA Enhancements Project (Joe Barbeau, MTS Planning)

Barbeau presented. Leitner suggested that MVTA be prepared for scrutiny at TAB. Craig Jenson, Scott Co., stated the current transmittal clearly outlines the work being done, unlike the previous version that was referred back to the Funding and Programming Committee. He mentioned that conversations with MVTA confirmed their continued commitment to the previously planned improvements and added that Scott County is satisfied. It was moved by Matthys, and seconded by Charlie Howley, Chanhassen, that the Technical Advisory Committee recommend that TAB approve a scope change request to replace technology and ADA improvements at 53 bus stops/shelters and four MVTA transit hubs with enhanced improvements to eight transit facilities in MVTA’s technology and ADA enhancements project with no reduction in federal funds. **Motion carried**

2. **2025-28:** Saint Paul Arlington Avenue Sidewalk Infill Project Program Year Extension Request (Joe Barbeau, MTS Planning)

Barbeau presented. It was moved by Eyoh, and seconded by Boylan, that the Technical Advisory Committee recommend that TAB approve Saint Paul’s Program year extension request to move its Arlington Avenue sidewalk project from 2026 to 2027. **Motion carried**

Information

1. Minnesota GO Vision Update (Whitney Mason, MnDOT)

Whitney Mason, MnDOT, presented. This presentation included interactive survey questions. Leitner stated that she answered the questions as a Washington County employee and suggested that demographic questions could accommodate such respondents. McCartney asked whether the types of respondents – policymakers, practitioners, or generally public – will be tracked. Mason replied that internal discussions will be held.

Barbeau noted the combination of "safe and reliable" in a question and suggested splitting the two concepts. Barbeau also observed that safety was missing in a subsequent question and emphasized that safety is a major priority for his agency. Mason acknowledged his comment and invited Hally Turner, MnDOT, to elaborate. Turner responded that the feedback was helpful and that their team documented such comments for analysis. While there is no plan to separate "safe" and "reliable" in the current version, Turner emphasized that comments like Barbeau’s help inform scenario planning for an upcoming late fall/early winter workshop. She encouraged continued feedback to capture nuances and improve future iterations.

Hiniker shared concerns about how some policy discussions, including at the TAB, unfairly stereotype certain users such as complaints about cyclists ignoring traffic laws while ignoring the high rate of speeding among drivers. Hiniker urged that the Minnesota GO Vision work to address these biases and promote mutual respect, noting the lack of data to counter such narratives. He added that personal experiences should not be used to make policy decisions. Mason agreed with Hiniker’s concerns and noted the importance of addressing this issue at a high level.

Kyle Sobota, bicycle member, recommended including survey questions that capture trip length and preferred transportation modes. He suggested metrics like the percentage of trips under five or 10 miles and how often respondents use various modes. Turner welcomed this detailed feedback and reiterated that this, along with Hiniker’s comment, would be more effectively addressed in the Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan (SMTP).

Chris Hartzell asked how national trends and federal policy, especially around diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), are influencing Minnesota's transportation planning. Mason responded that MnDOT is currently in a listening phase and will use this engagement to inform scenario planning. The Vision document remains mode-agnostic and aspirational, but the SMTP will offer more tools to address modal and policy-specific issues. Turner stated that stakeholders would hear more about the SMTP in the coming year.

Hartzell asked about whether things like diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) are being influenced by federal direction. Mason said that MnDOT is currently listening to residents. Turner added that MnDOT has not changed its commitment to transportation equity and is continuing to implement the 2022 SMTP, which promotes equity. She cited the recently adopted Strategic Highway Safety Plan as an example of continuing this commitment. Turner noted that the plan was ultimately approved by FHWA. Hartzell expressed appreciation for MnDOT's values-driven approach. Turner clarified that MnDOT has received policy expectations (e.g., don't do DEI) without actionable guidance, so they will continue to proceed until directed otherwise.

Koutsoukos noted the absence of explicit response options related to aging population needs in the public survey. Mason asked if Koutsoukos had used the open-response section to share this feedback, to which Koutsoukos said she had not. She explained that the omission led her to back out of completing the survey entirely and suggested others may do the same. Turner acknowledged the challenge of being exhaustively inclusive in high-level surveys and explained that phrases like "all people" or "all abilities" are intended to be broadly inclusive. She recognized that such generalities could leave out people with unique needs and shared that the project team is conducting targeted engagement—including attending Senior Day at the Brown County Fair—to reach underrepresented groups. She emphasized that open-ended questions, like "What else would you like us to know?", are valuable for capturing such input. Koutsoukos suggested clarifying early in the survey that if respondents don't see an applicable option, they should continue and use the open-ended sections. Mason and Turner confirmed that the survey does include open-ended fields and encouraged further participation.

Mason asked members to encourage people to take the survey. MacPherson said that Barbeau can forward it to members for forwarding.

2. 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program Public Comments (Joe Barbeau, MTS Planning)

Joe Barbeau, MTS Planning Presented.

Other business

Adjournment

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Council contact:

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