

MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday | March 17, 2021
12:30 PM

REPORTS

1. Chair's Report – Hovland welcomed incoming TAB alternates.

- Jessica Robertson, Blaine (alternate for Julie Jeppson)
- Bob Coughlen, Savage (alternate for Janet Williams)

The Unique Projects work group is being formed and Hovland announced the need for county volunteers. Holberg, Karwoski, Goettel, Ulrich, and alternate Matascastillo volunteered.

2. MnDOT Report – Barnes reported that they are still waiting for guidance on the federal COVID relief funds that are coming. INFRA grant information has been posted online (<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/02/25/2021-03885/notice-of-funding-opportunity-for-the-department-of-transportations-infrastructure-for-rebuilding>). MnDOT will be applying for an I-494 project. The notice for Build grant is coming out soon (<https://www.transportation.gov/BUILDgrants/about>). For major projects, this is the final year for work on I-35W and there will be a concrete repair project on I-94 and I-35E through fall 2022.

Narayanan added that the Minnesota Department of Transportation announced today that the agency has adopted recommendations proposed by the Sustainable Transportation Advisory Council. <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/news/2021/03/15-statewide-stac.html>

MPCA Report – Biewen reported on the status of the Clean Car Minnesota Rulemaking; the public comment period ended, and they received 10,000 comments. MPCA has a week to respond to the comments. Biewen responded to a question on the VW settlement and that they are planning a corridor of charging stations in Greater Minnesota.

MAC Report – Koutsoukos presented the report that Crimmins submitted. TSA reports a high of 26,000 passengers a day through security during 2021 "Spring Break" time. In 2019 the daily total was a high around 45,000. In March there is an average of 339 daily flights and in April there is a plan for 343 daily flights. There are currently 146 active domestic routes and 20 International routes

The MAC has opened a Rapid COVID Test site on the connector bridge between "F" and "G" concourse. Test results take from 15 to 30 minutes and the test costs \$99.00. The test site will accept cash, credit card or an insurance card. Payment by the insurance card is dependent on your insurance plan. Some destinations and airlines require the test before boarding. Travelers should check with their airlines ahead of time and allow the extra time for the test. Delta's Rapid Test site at G 17 is now closed.

Metropolitan Council Report – Barber reported that the Council is anticipated to adopt Network Next BRT recommendations this month. On March 8th, the Council's Transportation Committee approved a business item designating these next lines. This action will advance to the Metropolitan Council next Wednesday. Since TAB's update on the project in December:

- All four candidate corridors that TAB reviewed received strong public support- Metro Transit received over 4,000 online survey responses and over 100 in-person surveys
- The Central Avenue corridor is recommended for F Line based on key differentiators - high existing ridership and lower operating and capital costs
- The Council will also name the G Line on the Rice/Robert corridor and the H Line on the Como/Maryland corridor
- Naming these two additional lines will facilitate project coordination ahead of specific BRT project planning

- Together, the new lines represent 40 miles of new BRT corridors serving four counties
- Next month the TAB is anticipated to select the F Line for \$25M of 2020 regional solicitation funds. The committee process for that action begins tomorrow.

Public transit operators have begun receiving vaccinations. This will be expanded to the remainder of Metro Transit staff, suburban providers, and contractor operators

TAC Chair Report – Solberg reported that in addition to items on the TAB agenda, TAC had presentations on MnDOT’s Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan that is being updated. There are multiple ways to provide input, <https://minnesotago.org/>. There was a presentation on the process being developed to make changes to RBTN. Updates will be presented at an upcoming TAB meeting.

BUSINESS

TAB approved the following items and they were forwarded to the Transportation Committee.

1. **2021-13:** 2021-2024 Streamlined TIP Amendment for MnDOT: MN 95 Drainage Repair (*March 22, 2021, Transportation Committee*)

Transportation Advisory Board recommended that the Metropolitan Council adopt an amendment to the 2021-2024 TIP to increase the project length and cost for MnDOT’s drainage project on Minnesota Highway 95 (SP# 8210-114).

2. **2021-14:** 2021-2024 Streamlined TIP Amendment for MnDOT: FTA Section 5310, Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities (*March 22, 2021, Transportation Committee*)

Transportation Advisory Board recommended that the Metropolitan Council adopt an amendment to the 2021-2024 TIP to include funding for two “Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities” projects, sponsored by MnDOT.

3. **2021-12:** Federal PM2 and PM3 Performance Measure Targets (*March 22, 2021, Transportation Committee*)

Transportation Advisory Board recommended Council adoption of the PM2 and PM3 performance measure targets.

INFORMATION

1. Regional Solicitation Feedback and Preparation

Joe Barbeau, Metropolitan Transportation Services, presented this item.

2. Equity – Rethinking Areas of Concentrated Poverty

Heidi Schallberg, Metropolitan Transportation Services, introduced this item. Presentations were made by:

- Dr. Edward Goetz, Director of the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, U MN,
- Matt Schroeder, Principal Researcher, Community Development Research,
- Krysten Ryba-Tures, Senior Researcher, Community Development Research,

The links to Equity Considerations data, its user guide, and the Rethinking Areas of Concentrated Poverty digital report are all available at: <https://metrocouncil.org/research/place-basedequity>.

The presentations are linked to the agenda link below.

Link to March 17, 2021, TAB agenda and materials - <https://metrocouncil.org/Council-Meetings/Committees/Transportation-Advisory-Board-TAB.aspx>