

MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday | December 15, 2021
12:30 PM

REPORTS

1. **Chair's Report** – Hovland reported that the Executive Committee met before TAB. Hovland thanked outgoing members Sue Sanger, Frank Boyles, and Kevin Reich for their service on TAB. Hovland asked for additional volunteers for the TAB Executive Committee in 2022.

Ten letters of interest were submitted for the Unique Projects category. They are being reviewed for federal eligibility and staff will meet with applicants in January to discuss their projects prior to full application. Summary of Unique Projects letters of interest:

- Innovative ways to connect destinations
- Stormwater resiliency management
- Electric vehicles and charging
- Mobility hubs, shared mobility, and curb management
- Winter mobility improvements

A survey form will be sent out following the TAB meeting for members to identify topics of interest for next year to be added to the agendas as information items.

2. **MnDOT Report** – Barnes reported that a workshop will be held December 16, hosted by the Transportation Alliance in the new Infrastructure bill, Transportation Alliance event: <https://www.transportationalliance.com/event/federal-infrastructure-plan-workshop>. Crews were out clearing snow last week. Hollinshead asked what formula will be used to distribute the new transportation funding in the infrastructure bill. The details are still being worked out.

MPCA Report – Biewen had no report.

MAC Report – Crimmins reported that they are continuing the vaccine testing sites at the airport.

On a recent day, there was a 35-minute wait to go through security at the north checkpoint. Recommend using pre-approved parking to guarantee a spot, www.mspairport.com/parking. Teamsters Local 320 authorized a strike vote for plow drivers and maintenance workers. They are going to mediation December 28 and still negotiating in good faith. They can't strike until January 20. The strike authorization is part of the negotiation process. Airline travel is up to 80% of 2019 level.

Metropolitan Council Report – Barber introduced Charles Carlson, new Executive Director of Metropolitan Transportation Services and thanked Amy Vennewitz for working as acting director in the interim. Barber also reported on the opening of the Orange Line on December 4. The Travel Behavior Inventory has been getting good responses, so far have received over 6,500 responses and projected to exceed the sample target of 7,500 households. The survey continues through the end of February. The Transit On-board Survey will follow this and will be launched in the first quarter of 2022. Purple Line, which will operate between downtown St. Paul and White Bear Lake, has received approval to enter the project development phase as a New Starts Program. The project will transition from Ramsey County to Metropolitan Council. In 2023, federal approval will be sought to enter into engineering, allowing the design work to be complete. Opening planned for 2026. The Metro Blue Line extension program released the draft route modification report. Information can be found at www.bluelineext.org. Accepting public comment ending January 2022. The final route modification report will be released in March 2022.

BUSINESS

TAB approved the following items (*forwarded to the Transportation Committee*).

1. **2021-55:** Streamlined 2022-2025 TIP Amendment Request for MnDOT: MN 55 Intersection and Drainage Repairs in Rosemount (*January 10, 2021, Transportation Committee*)

Transportation Advisory Board recommended adoption of an amendment to the 2022-2025 TIP to adjust the cost of MnDOT's MN 55/Doyle Path intersection improvement and drainage repair projects (SP # 1910-56 and 1910-56S)

2. **2021-56:** Streamlined 2022-2025 TIP Amendment Request for MnDOT: MN 55 Preservation in Minneapolis (*January 10, Transportation Committee*)

Transportation Advisory Board recommended adoption of an amendment to the 2022-2025 TIP to reduce the cost and scope of MnDOT's MN 55 preservation project in Minneapolis (SP # 2724-126)

3. **2021-57:** Streamlined 2022-2025 TIP Amendment Request for Woodbury: Lake Road Project Expansion (*January 10, Transportation Committee*)

Transportation Advisory Board recommended adoption of an amendment to the 2022-2025 TIP to extend the length of Woodbury's Lake Road 4-lane-to-3-lane conversion and add mill and overlay, signals, and ADA improvements (SP # 192-108-028).

4. **2021-54:** Metropolitan Airports Committee Capital Improvements Program (*January 10, Transportation Committee*)

Solberg presented the item. Bridget Rief, MAC, added that MAC deferred over \$300 million of work in the last two years because of covid and is catching up with maintaining the assets they have. There are two major projects in 2024. One is adding two gates to Terminal 2 and work to allow additional gates at a later time. The other new project is the construction of a safety and security building that will house their airport police and an airport operations center, which will include a new fire station for the airfield. Rief responded to a question on funding for airports in infrastructure bill. For the first two years, they are being allocated around \$35 million and that amount is based on passenger enplanement in 2019. Going into 2024 and 2025, amounts of allocation will be based on enplanements in 2022 and 2023. There are additional funds and MAC will submit applications to complete for those funds. There are several pots of money that MAC is still working through.

Transportation Advisory Board recommended acceptance of the staff analysis of the MAC 2022-2028 CIP and forward these comments to the Metropolitan Council for its consideration.

INFORMATION

1. Sustainable Transportation Advisory Council

Tim Sexton, MnDOT Sustainability and Public Health, presented the item. Narayanan emphasized one point that VMT reduction shouldn't mean reducing travel or access to places, but rather giving people access to more opportunities.

The oped by MnDOT Commissioner Margaret Anderson Kelliher, Chris Clark, Ash Narayanan and Emma Struss was shared at the meeting: <https://www.startribune.com/transportation-policy-must-lead-way-to-low-carbon-future/600099157/>

2. MnDOT Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan Update

Ashley Zidon, MnDOT, presented the item. The draft plan will be available in the springtime, with adoption of the final plan in July. Zidon will send the draft document to Koutsoukos to share with the TAB members.

3. 2020 Census

Todd Graham, Metropolitan Council Community Development, presented the item.

Information presented at the meeting can be found online; 2020 Census data tables, reports, webmaps at <https://metro council.org/Census2020>.

Link to December 15, 2021, TAB agenda and materials - [121521 Agenda - Transportation Advisory Board \(metro council.org\)](#).