

# Summary Report

Transportation Advisory Board



Meeting Date: October 19, 2022

## Reports

1. **Chair's Report** – Hovland reported that the Executive Committee met and reviewed the TAB materials. Hovland emphasized that there will be polling during the Regional Solicitation presentation to reduce the scenarios for staff to bring back next month. Jeff Weisensel, Rosemount City Council, has been appointed by Metro Cities to fill the position that opened when Gary Hansen was appointed the Suburban Transit Association TAB representative.

A Scott County project in downtown Prior Lake, funded through the Regional Solicitation, received a 2021 ITE Transportation Achievement award for Traffic Engineering. The project was highlighted in the September 2022 *ite journal*.

2. **MnDOT and MPCA** – No updates to report.
3. **MAC Report** – Crimmins reported JD Powers awarded MSP as #1 airport. The airport is expecting 40,000 passengers for MEA weekend. Delta opened a route to Seoul, South Korea. In March 2023, Delta will add a route to Japan. The Expo 2027 group toured MSP airport to determine whether it could handle the capacity for attendees flying into MSP. Bloomington, MN, is the US candidate for the 2027 Expo.
4. **Metropolitan Council Report** – Barber reported that the groundbreaking for the Gold Line was that morning. The D Line opening event will be December 3, 2022. Ridership numbers are at the highest monthly total since the COVID pandemic began over two years ago. Ridership was more than 3.8 million in September. Ridership is up 15% compared to same time last year. Universal transit pass at U of M has boosted ridership. Local ridership is down by one-third and LRT ridership is down by half. ABRT ridership has reached pre-pandemic levels.
5. **Suburban Transit Association** – Hansen reported that for SW Transit, SW Prime continues to grow. SW Prime's Mall of America and airport service has grown to account for 20% of overall SW Prime ridership. SWT has begun an Investment Grade Audit of its facilities and a Fleet Telematics Study to determine infrastructure improvements and a vehicle replacement plan that are needed as the agency pursues its sustainability goals for electrifying its fleet and using renewable energies to power both its facilities and fleet in the future. Plymouth Metrolink Click-and-Ride On-demand service is nearly back to pre-pandemic levels. Awarded \$15M in DOT RAISE funds for Station 73 Transit and Regional Improvement Project. MVTA System ridership continues to grow, setting another COVID-era record in September. YTD ridership up 72% compared to last year. Similar to SW Prime, MVTA Connect continues to grow at a record pace with an average daily ridership over 300 rides on weekdays. SWT and MVTA see unmet demand for services and are constrained by vehicle availability.

## Business

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

1. 2022-40: Streamlined 2023-2026 TIP Amendment – Dakota County, Minnesota River

Greenway (TBD, Transportation Committee)

The Transportation Advisory Board recommended that the Council adopt an amendment to the 2023-2026 TIP to add a pedestrian bridge to, and increase the cost of, its Minnesota River Greenway project (SP # 019-090-024).

2. 2022-41: Streamlined 2023-2026 TIP Amendment – SouthWest Transit Electric Buses and Charging Station (TBD, Transportation Committee)

The Transportation Advisory Board recommended that the Council adopt an amendment to the 2023-2026 TIP to add the purchase of two electric buses and a charging station for SouthWest Transit (SP # TRS-TCMT-22G).

3. 2022-42: Streamlined 2023-2026 TIP Amendment – Metro Transit Electric Bus Purchase (TBD, Transportation Committee)

The Transportation Advisory Board recommended that the Council adopt an amendment to the 2023-2026 TIP to add the purchase of electric buses (SP # TRS-TCMT-22G).

## Information

1. MnDOT and Anoka County Small Business ADA Initiative

Renee Raduenz and Mindy Heinkel, MnDOT, Brandon Ulvenes, Anoka County, presented this item.

TAB member requested information be shared on the study of ADA deficiencies.

2. Highway Safety Improvement Program

Kaare Festvog, MnDOT, presented the item. The ranked list of projects shows funding split for 60% proactive projects and 40% reactive projects. TAB requested that Festvog come back and present of the safety improvements that have been seen with the previously funded projects. This information is included in the Before and After Study.

3. Regional Solicitation Funding Scenarios

Steve Peterson, MTS, presented this item. TAB members were polled on several items to give staff direction on preparing scenarios to bring back to the November meeting. TAB members favored keeping the BRT rule to fund a maximum of \$32 M for BRT projects. They did not think it was fair to applicants to change the rules after the applications were submitted. TAB members discussed where to program the extra funds in the transit modal category. Members favored shifting the funding to bike/ped category and roadway categories. For the Unique projects, TAB members indicated interest in funding only the TBI, funding the TBI and one project, and funding the TBI and two projects. Through polling, funding the TBI and two projects received the highest recommendation. TAB members did not indicate where they wanted to shift the additional funds without knowing which of the two scenarios (midpoint or bike/pedestrian heavy) would be selected. For the Carbon Reduction funds, TAB favored selecting smaller projects, specifically mentioning funding the Safe Routes to Schools projects.

## Other

Hovland announced that Janet Williams received the League of Minnesota Cities award for outstanding public service.

Link to October 19, 2022, TAB agenda and materials, [101922 Agenda - Transportation Advisory Board \(metrocouncil.org\)](https://www.metrocouncil.org/101922-Agenda-Transportation-Advisory-Board).

