

Summary Report

Transportation Advisory Board



Meeting Date: September 21, 2022

Reports

- 1. Chair's Report** – Goettel reported that Dan Kealey resigned as the Suburban Transit Association TAB representative and STA appointed Gary Hansen as their representative. Metro Cities is recruiting to fill the city representative position opened with Gary's shift in position.
- 2. MnDOT Report** – Barnes did not have an update.
- 3. MPCA Report** – Biewen reported the Climate Action Framework was released and is online at [Minnesota's Climate Action Framework | Our Minnesota Climate \(state.mn.us\)](https://www.state.mn.us/mn/energy/climate-action-framework). The Framework is organized around six goals: clean transportation, climate-smart natural and working lands, resilient communities, clean and efficient buildings, healthy lives and communities, and clean economy. Planning grants are available for communities with population less than 10,000 for resiliency, upgrading infrastructure, etc.
- 4. MAC Report** – Crimmins reported the airlines are at 80-90% of 2019 passenger levels. There are 34 airlines as MSP airport at both terminals. Transportation Network Companies (e.g., Uber and Lift) have 28,000 licenses from the airport providing rides. Turo is also in use at the airport for peer-to-peer car rental. Turo has a temporary one-year agreement with space at the airport. It is successful, so a licensing agreement is upcoming for long term. Traditional car rentals are 35% behind 2019 level. 91% of concession stands are open. Job fairs continue. International Continental Hotel is at 85% of 2019 level. For the last two months, they were above 2019 level. They sold \$370 million in bonds. They had 92 institutional investors bid on \$2.75 billion worth of bonds. Delta will be remodeling concourse G. Sun Country is set to break their all-time record
- 5. Metropolitan Council Report** – Barber reported that Metro Transit launched the Micro Service pilot program to improve connections in North Minneapolis, primarily to connect riders to the C Line. Transit Equity Policy Workgroup began meeting and is in the process of developing the recommendation for the Council. Gold Line construction is starting and October 19, 2022, is the groundbreaking.
- 6. Suburban Transit Association** – Hansen reported that Maple Grove U of M ridership greater than pre-COVID. Minneapolis express service rebounding with an increase in park & ride usage, as well as the new Route 784 serving downtown Minneapolis East (began in August) which is showing strong early ridership levels. MVTA set several ridership records in August. Highest overall monthly ridership total since beginning of Pandemic. For Microtransit service, Maple Grove (MY RIDE) continues to have strong ridership matching pre-COVID levels. Southwest Transit (SW Prime) continues to grow. Prime Edge service has seen significant increase in ridership due to Normandale Community College and Hennepin Technical College starting their school years. MVTA (MVTA Connect) set another monthly record with over 8,100 rides, leading MVTA to review expansion opportunities. Southwest Transit partnered with District 287 to hire a student to help in the maintenance department. District 287 serves unique learners of 11-member school districts in the West Metro. SWT hopes to continue partnership and add more students to the program in the future.

7. **TAC Report** – Solberg reported that TAC updated the TAC Bylaws to clarify the members who can chair the subcommittees to include TAC alternates.

Business

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

1. 2022-31: 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (September 26, 2022)

The Transportation Advisory Board recommended that the Council adopt the 2023 Unified Planning Work Program.

For the unbudgeted funds in the UPWP, there was a question on whether there was discussion of setting up performance measures or study for local system bridges pavement or crashes. If there is staff capacity, this can be added.

2. 2022-32: Program Year Extension: I-35W Continuous Lighting

The Transportation Advisory Board approved MnDOT's program year extension request to move its I-35 W continuous street lighting project (SP# 1981-147) from fiscal year 2024 to fiscal year 2025.

3. 2022-35: Streamlined 2023-2026 TIP Amendment – Hennepin Avenue BRT Platforms (September 26, 2022, Transportation Committee)

The Transportation Advisory Board recommended that the Council adopt an amendment to the 2023-2026 TIP to remove bus rapid transit (BRT) platforms from the description of its bikeway project (SP # 027-652-042).

4. 2022-36: Streamlined 2023-2026 TIP Amendment – Bruce Vento Trail Extension (September 26, 2022, Transportation Committee)

The Transportation Advisory Board recommended that the Council adopt an amendment to the 2023-2026 TIP to add preliminary engineering for an extension of the Bruce Vento Trail.

5. 2022-37: Streamlined 2023-2026 TIP Amendment – Coon Rapids Boulevard Signal System (September 26, 2022, Transportation Committee)

The Transportation Advisory Board recommended that the Council adopt an amendment to the 2023-2026 TIP to add mill and overlay and a turn lane to its CSAH 1 (Coon Rapids Boulevard) signal system project (SP# 002-601-057).

6. 2022-38: Streamlined 2023-2026 TIP Amendment – MN Highway 36 Ramp Reconstruction (September 26, 2022, Transportation Committee)

The Transportation Advisory Board recommended that the Council adopt an amendment to the 2023-2026 TIP to change the termini, add a retaining wall, and increase the cost for Ramsey County's Highway 36 ramp reconstruction project (SP# 6212-181).

7. 2022-39: Streamlined 2023-2026 TIP Amendment – Southwest Transit Mobility Hub (September 26, 2022, Transportation Committee)

The Transportation Advisory Board recommended that the Council adopt an amendment to the 2023-2026 TIP to add Southwest Transit's transit mobility hub (TRS-TCMT-22F).

Information

1. Arterial Bus Rapid Transit Update

Katie Roth and Kyle Burrows, Metro Transit, presented this item.

2. Regional Solicitation Public Input Tool Results

Bethany Brandt-Sargent, MTS, presented the item.

3. Regional Solicitation Project Ranking and Funding Scenarios

Steve Peterson, MTS, presented this item. Members had the following comments:

There was discussion on the BRT \$7 million maximum and flexibility for funding projects. With the additional funding, the \$7 million maximum could be set aside or an option could be to prorate the \$7 million up.

The increased amount of funding at a later date than when the applications were released may have impacted the categories that applicants applied. Requested staff to indicate projects with original funding expected versus projects added with new funding. This would be about 30% additional funding.

There was discussion on the distribution of funds within the funding modes based on number of applications submitted. TAB was advised that they could make recommendations for distribution of funds within the modal category.

Requested staff to indicate projects that could be funded by adding the Carbon Reduction funding to the scenarios, particularly to the trails category. Recommended not having a separate solicitation for this funding to save applicant resources.

Requested that staff indicate projects that received federal earmark funding, similar to those marked for equity and resubmitted. There was also a question whether earmarked funding on projects could be considered in future scoring.

There were questions on the funding allocated to the bridges. A couple members suggested allocating the original \$10 million targeted to bridges and add the new bridge funding on top to fund all the bridges.

There was discussion on the points that are awarded to projects. There was concern of funding the lowest ranked projects in some of the categories. It was noted that projects are rated against projects that are submitted versus a metric. For some categories, the total points were awarded in the full range and others were not. Requested staff to look at points assigned to measures in next round. Barber recommended that staff set up a virtual workshop to discuss the scoring process.

It was noted that rules don't allow funding projects with both HSIP and Regional Solicitation funding. This will be discussed at the Funding & Programming Committee.

Concern about the option about awarding funding to partially funded projects in the past and the precedent that it would set, as this has not occurred in the past.

Vice-chair Goettel requested that TAB members send in requests for additional scenario recommendations.

Link to September 21, 2022, TAB agenda and materials, [092122 Agenda - Transportation Advisory Board \(metrocouncil.org\)](https://www.metrocouncil.org/092122-Agenda-Transportation-Advisory-Board).

