

Summary Report

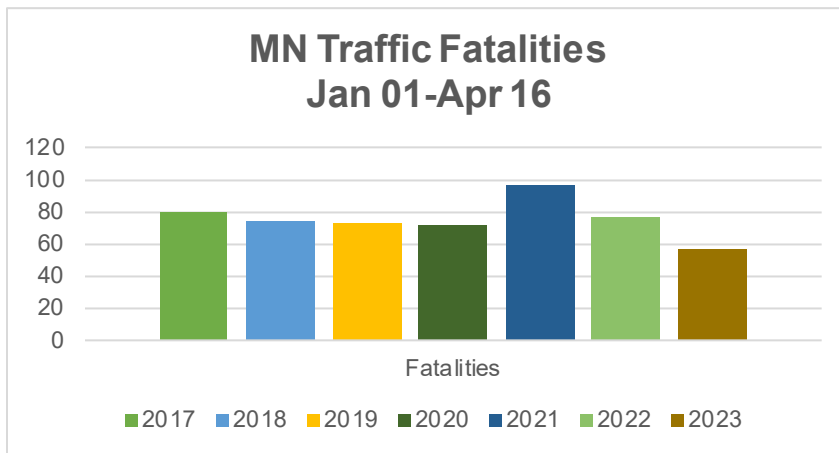
Transportation Advisory Board



Meeting Date: April 19, 2023

Reports

1. **Chair's Report** – Chair Hovland welcomed Glen Johnson officially as a TAB representative; he had been serving as an alternate. Hovland reported on the TAB Executive Committee discussions. An item will be coming forward to the May TAB meeting regarding the shifting of program years for projects tied to larger projects; Highway 252 and Blue Line.
2. **MnDOT Report** – Barnes reported that MnDOT is moving into construction season. Barnes reported that through April 16, 2023, there were 57 traffic-related deaths on Minnesota roadways. This is 26 percent less than at this time last year, and at least 21 percent less than any of the previous five years (2017-21).



Barnes announced a Toward Zero Deaths workshop will be held on May 9. Registration deadline is April 25. Information on the workshop can be found at the following link, <https://www.minnesotatzd.org/events/workshop/metro/2023>.

3. **MPCA** – Biewen provided an update on the VW program. Minnesota received \$47 million to offset emissions. They have completed two phases of the 7-year program. Phase 3 is starting and will go through 2027. MPCA is applying for a \$3 million planning grant from the Inflation Reduction Act. All municipalities will be covered by the grant.
4. **MAC Report** – Crimmins reported that boardings were 43,000 on March 30. There is a 10 percent increase in seats. Airlines are using larger planes. There are 224 routes this summer compared to 177 last year.
5. **Metropolitan Council Report** – Barber reported that FTA awarded the Full Funding Grant Agreement for Gold Line BRT. The B Line construction contract was signed. Construction will begin spring 2023, with opening in 2024. The Council held several listening sessions for the Transportation Policy Plan.

6. **Suburban Transit Association** – Hansen reported that motor vehicle sales tax receipts are underperforming and transit providers making adjustments. MVTA demo project wrapped up. Results showed lower maintenance costs. MVTA ridership is increasing and is at 60 percent. Maple Grove express ridership is growing and is exploring micro transit. SW Transit is preparing for summer service and younger riders.

Business

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

1. 2023-18: Streamlined 2023-2026 TIP Amendment – Three Projects Changes (April 24, 2023, Transportation Committee)

The Transportation Advisory Board recommended adoption of an amendment to the 2023-2026 TIP to amend three projects:

- MnDOT – cost increases to three of its purchases in the Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities program (Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310).
- MnDOT – a change in scope – removing drainage and adding transportation management systems (TMS) and a cost increase for its MN 62 noise wall project (SP 2763-60).
- SouthWest Transit – a cost increase to its electric bus charging station project along with removal of the buses and addition of a new station.

2. 2023-19: Streamlined 2023-2026 TIP Amendment – Add three projects (April 24, 2023, Transportation Committee)

The Transportation Advisory Board recommended adoption of an amendment to the 2023-2026 TIP to add three projects:

- Dakota County – addition of preliminary engineering for the I-35/CSAH 50 Interchange. The county was awarded Congressional Directed Spending in 2023 for this project.
- Hennepin County – complete streets projects on CSAH 3 (Lake Street).
- Metro Transit – that its Blue Line Extension New Start Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) project be added. Funding is being moved from 2026. The project is funded with FTA section 5309 (capital improvement) funds.

Information

1. Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Discretionary Grants

Todd Clarkowski, MnDOT, and Jody Martinson, SRF, presented the item.

2. Potential Changes for 2024 Regional Solicitation

Steve Peterson presented the item. TAB members had discussion on the following items:

- Overall seemed to be ok with making few changes until the evaluation for the 2026 Regional Solicitation.
- Criteria and weighting – discussed making a modest point increase to safety; acknowledged that additional discussion is needed to know the impact; continue discussion in evaluation for the 2026 Regional Solicitation.
- Maximum federal awards – TAB would like the technical committees to review the categories and provide feedback on whether changes are needed regarding inflation of project costs. Acknowledged that changing the maximums will affect the number of projects funded.
- Breaking ties – TAB was fine using safety as the tie breaker when determining funding of tied projects. Also suggested allowing an applicant with two projects with a tied



score to decide which project to fund.

- BRT rule – This wasn't discussed.

3. 2050 Transportation Policy Plan Goals Engagement Themes and Next Steps

Craig Vaughn, Transportation Collaborative; Stephanie Devitt, SDK Communications; Cole Hiniker, MTS presented the item.

Link to April 19, 2023, TAB agenda and materials, [041923 Agenda - Transportation Advisory Board \(metro council.org\)](#).

