

Summary Report

Transportation Advisory Board



Meeting Date: May 17, 2023

Reports

1. **Chair's Report** – Chair Hovland reported on the May 8 meeting of US Conference of Mayor, on changes of transit with use during the day increasing.
2. **MnDOT Report** – Barnes reported that the Metro TZD workshop had over 100 participants. MnDOT has 20 years of TZD efforts. To date, there were 88 fatalities on the roads in Minnesota, 28 in the metro area.
3. **MPCA** – Kohlasch reported MPCA received a \$3 million planning grant from the Inflation Reduction Act to access funding through EPA for implementation projects. Solicitations from the EPA are expected to open in early 2024. The Metropolitan Council received \$1M for a planning grant for the metro area. Tribal governments are also accessing the funding.
4. **MAC Report** – Crimmins reported that airline seats are up 15% over last year and are at 90% of the pre-pandemic level. Twenty-two new domestic routes have started. At the St. Paul airport, the flood wall was removed and runways are at standard length.
5. **Metropolitan Council Report** – Barber reported the groundbreaking for the B Line BRT on May 8, which will replace Route 21. Construction will be completed and service operational in 2024. Tours were provided to federal officials on the Blue and Green Lines. Barber requested that TAB members complete the TPP survey by May 24.
6. **Suburban Transit Association** – Hansen reported that for the suburban providers through March, the monthly motor vehicle sales tax receipts are overperforming, projection on average by 11.6%. From a revenue standpoint, it is good news. The suburban providers are working on improving efficiencies by working together, for example, a vehicle parts sharing arrangement, as well as knowledge sharing for vehicle types. MVTA quarterly ridership is up 42% over a year ago. MVTA is reviewing lower performing service to change to microtransit. SW Transit on-demand partnership with LYFT has completed 175 rides. They are budgeted for 1,200 rides. Plymouth is preparing for a service change at the end of May, which includes reducing express service and reallocating to microtransit. Maple Grove service is peaking on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

Business

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

1. 2023-28: Streamlined 2023-2026 TIP Amendment – New Projects (May 22, 2023, Transportation Committee)

The Transportation Advisory Board recommended adoption of an amendment to the 2023-2026 TIP to add 18 new projects as follows:

- One MnDOT project for traffic study consultant services
- 17 projects selected in the 2022 Regional Solicitation for program year 2024

2. 2023-29: Streamlined 2023-2026 TIP Amendment – Fare Collection Equipment Cost Increase (May 22, 2023, Transportation Committee)

The Transportation Advisory Board recommended adoption of an amendment to the 2023-2026 TIP to increase the cost of Metro Transit's bus and rail fare collection capital equipment project.

3. 2023-20: Scope Change for Hennepin County CSAH 153

The Transportation Advisory Board approved Hennepin County's scope change request to remove the MN 65 intersection improvements from its CSAH 153 reconstruction project (SP # 027-753-020) with no federal funding reduction.

4. 2023-21: Highway Safety Improvement Program HSIP

The Transportation Advisory Board approved the draft 2024 Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) application for release for public comment.

5. 2023-22: Regional Solicitation – Criteria and Weighing

The Transportation Advisory Board approved the weighting of the criteria and measures for the 2024 Regional Solicitation with the following adjustments from 2022:

- Adding 100 points to safety-related criteria for all application categories except Transit Expansion and Transit Modernization.
- Distributing the additional 100 safety points based on current measure weighting within the safety criterion in the Roadway Categories, except in Bridges with 50 points going to National Bridge Inventory Condition and 50 points going to Multimodal Elements and Existing Connections.

6. 2023-23: Regional Solicitation – Minimum and Maximum Awards

The Transportation Advisory Board adopted no changes to the minimum and maximum federal funding amounts for the 2024 Regional Solicitation and to revisit the issue going into the 2026 Regional Solicitation.

7. 2023-24: Regional Solicitation – Mode Splits

The Transportation Advisory Board adopted no changes to the modal funding ranges for the 2024 Regional Solicitation.

8. 2023-25: Regional Solicitation – Policies, Qualifying Criteria, and Eligibility

The Transportation Advisory Board adopted the policies, qualifying criteria, and project eligibility for the 2024 Regional Solicitation including use of Tie Breaker Option 2 with the provision that an applicant with two tied projects in the same application category can break the tie themselves, retention of the \$32M bus rapid transit federal maximum rule and a qualifying requirement that operators of the facility confirm with a check box that they will remove snow and ice for year-round bicycle and pedestrian use for any bicycle or pedestrian facility, including in roadway projects.

9. 2023-26: Regional Solicitation – Measures and Scoring Criteria

The Transportation Advisory Board approved the measures and scoring guidance for the 2024 Regional Solicitation.

Changes approved include:

- Transit ridership and route coverage: Shift from 2019 to 2022. In the 2022 Regional Solicitation, 2019 data was used because of uncertainty early in the COVID-19 pandemic. The Transit Technical Working Group recommends using 2022 data. This applies to the transit categories as well as person throughput measures in roadways categories.
- Clarification that a Safe Routes to School Plan does not have to be MnDOT sponsored.
- Allow Bridge Rehabilitation/Replacement project applications on collector roadways (minor collector and above in the urban areas or a major collector and above in the rural areas) to



apply for funding to ensure that the bridges with the worst condition on the transportation system are being funded regardless of functional classification.

- In the Bridge funding category Measure 1A, Distance to nearest parallel bridge, TAC's recommendation included changing the nearest crossing from A-minor or principal arterial to any federal aid-eligible roadway.
- In the Unique funding category, added language to clarify the project's significance to the region for the Unique Projects application.

10. 2023-27: Regional Solicitation – Release for Public Comment

The Transportation Advisory Board approved the draft 2024 Regional Solicitation application package (inclusive of the approvals made in Action Transmittals 2023-22 through 2023-27) for release for public comment.

11. 2023-34: Release 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program for Public Comment

The Transportation Advisory Board released the draft 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program for public comment. Public comments will be accepted through June 20, 2023, and presented to TAB on July 19, 2023.

Information

1. MSP Airport Long-Term Plan and Stakeholder Engagement Update

Eric Gilles, MAC, presented the item.

2. PROTECT

Steve Peterson, MTS, presented the item.

Link to May 17, 2023, TAB agenda and materials, [051723 Agenda - Transportation Advisory Board \(metro council.org\)](#).

