

Summary Report

Transportation Advisory Board



Meeting Date: October 18, 2023

Reports

1. **Chair's Report** – Hovland reported that the Metropolitan Governance Task Force is currently doing backgrounding. Next they will reach out to other MPOs for information on their governance structure. Hollinshead recommended that TAB members testify to the Task Force.
2. **MnDOT Report** – Kauppi reported that in 2023 through October 15th, there were 311 traffic-related deaths on Minnesota roadways. In the Metro area, there were 111. Speed is a factor in accidents. MnDOT will be holding interviews in November for the Metro District Engineer. MnDOT is holding public hearings on MnSHIP, with one being held following the TAB meeting.
3. **MPCA** – Biewen submitted a report.

Background: MPCA received a \$3M grant to develop plans and analyses that will support our state in reducing GHG emissions. Developing a plan under this grant unlocks the opportunity for the state, local governments, and Tribes to apply for GHG reduction implementation funding. Note that Met Council received \$1M to do similar work and we are coordinating. To be eligible for applying for implementation funds, local governments will just need to point to the state or Met Council plans. We want to hear from local governments on what they want to see in the state plan.

Updates:

- EPA released details of the implementation grant opportunity. \$4.6B in nationally competitive grants to reduce GHG emissions. Eligible entities are state, local, and Tribal governments or coalitions of governments. They anticipate funding 30-115 grants nationally. Applications are due April 1, 2024. EPA anticipates funding grants between \$2M and \$200M. There is also a Tribal competition. <https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/climate-pollution-reduction-grants>
- NOTE: These are large grants and EPA isn't planning to issue a lot of them. Local gov's may want to consider forming coalitions to be more competitive. MPCA is open to discussing the possibility of a state-local coalition as well.
- Visit our website for more information and to sign up for emails: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/business-with-us/climate-pollution-reduction-grants>
- Over the coming weeks we are hosting topic-based webinars to discuss what people might want to see in the state's plan. We have already held several webinars on CPRG generally. The webinars were recorded and are available on our website.
- We are also seeking input through an engagement portal on that webpage. We also welcome written letters and requests to meet to discuss priorities, projects people have in mind to apply for funding, and opportunities for collaboration. Check out the website. Requests for meetings can be sent to Faith Krogstad (faith.krogstad@state.mn.us)

- Stay tuned for more upcoming RFP for grants to help communities plan for climate change impacts. Our next grant opportunity for stormwater, wastewater, and community resilience planning will be opening soon. <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/business-with-us/grants-loans-and-contracts>
4. **MAC Report** – Crimmins reported that they will be exceeding 2019 passenger levels this year. Sun Country is growing and they will be adding two more gates. A workgroup is being created to work on sustainable airport fuel.
 5. **Metropolitan Council Report** – Barber reported that Council staff have produced an interactive map of the 2024-2027 draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) as a way to more easily find and learn about transportation projects across the region, [Interactive TIP map](#). This map has similar project-level information as the tables that are displayed in the official TIP document, but it is easier to navigate and find projects planned in your area. We intend to update this map each year. The Council is hosting a set of 2050 Transportation Policy Plan workshops for technical staff from TAC and its subcommittees as well as other groups that are helping review draft materials for the TPP. Metro Mobility staff hosted its first in-person community conversation since 2020. Staff and riders gathered to share experiences with Metro Mobility, including areas of concern, fresh new ideas, and strategies for improving service. As a large group, they discussed recent developments, trends, and service updates.
 6. **Suburban Transit Association** – Hansen reported Maple Grove Transit's MY RIDE microtransit service continues to grow, but service expansion is challenged by difficulty in procuring small buses. Driver recruitment for both express and microtransit services is improving. In December, Maple Grove Transit will get back into the reverse commute market, adding two round trips to and from the MG Transit Station. Minnesota Valley Transit Authority microtransit ridership continues to grow. September was the highest ridership month ever, providing nearly 10,000 rides – 2,000 more than in September last year. MVTA provided more than 48,000 rides to the Renaissance Festival, more than tripling last year's numbers. MVTA is currently working with Canterbury Park on expanding service offerings as Canterbury continues to develop its surrounding properties – including a 19,000-seat amphitheater to which MVTA will assist in providing public transit. MVTA will receive the Minnesota Public Transportation Association Management Innovation award at the MN / WI Public Transit Conference in La Crosse next week. The award recognizes MVTA's Sustainability Plan, which also was recognized nationally by the FTA as Most Transformative. Southwest Transit Prime microtransit service is up 33% over a year ago, while express service is up 18%. Southwest has scope change and TIP amendment requests on the TAB agenda.

Business

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

1. 2023-49: Four Streamlined TIP Amendment Requests - Project Adjustments (TBD, following federal approval of 2024-2027 TIP)

The Transportation Advisory Board recommended adoption of an amendment to the 2024-2027 TIP to amend four projects:

- Expand length and add mill & overlay to Woodbury's Lake Road 4-to-3-lane conversion (SP# 192-108-029);
- Remove an intersection from and decrease the cost of Minneapolis's traffic signal replacement project (SP# 141-030-058);
- Increase cost of and add mill & overlay to Dakota County's CSAH 63 multiuse trail (SP# 019-663-008); and
- Add an additional bridge to MnDOT's MN 65 bridge replacement project (SP# 0208-165).



2. 2023-50: Streamlined TIP Amendment - St. Michael Multiuse Trail (TBD, following federal approval of 2024-2027 TIP)

The Transportation Advisory Board recommended adoption of an amendment to the 2024-2027 TIP to add construction of a multiuse trail to Wright CSAH 35 in St. Michael.

3. 2023-45: TIP Amendment for new TPP Projects (November 27, 2023, Transportation Committee)

The Transportation Advisory Board released for public comment an amendment to the 2024-2027 TIP to add two regionally significant projects:

- Corridors of Commerce-funded I-94 lane expansion from Albertville to Monticello in Wright County (SP# 8680-189) and
- Construction of US 169 interchange at CSAH 59 in Scott County (SP# 070-659-001)

4. 2023-46: Scope Change Request – SW Transit Mobility Hub

The Transportation Advisory Board approved SouthWest Transit's scope change request to remove procurement, operation, and maintenance of carshare vehicles from its Transit Mobility Hub project at SouthWest Station with no reduction in federal funds.

5. 2023-47: TIP Amendment Request – SW Transit Mobility Hub (TBD, following federal approval of 2024-2027 TIP)

The Transportation Advisory Board recommended approval of SouthWest Transit's request to add its Transit Mobility Hub project at SouthWest Station (TRS-TCMT-22F) to the 2024-2027 TIP.

6. 2023-48: Program Year Extension Request – Blaine, TH 65

The Transportation Advisory Board approved Blaine's request to move the Regional Solicitation funding for its Trunk Highway (TH) 65 at 99th Avenue grade separation (SP 106-010-020) from 2024 to 2026.

Information

7. METRO Transitway Construction Update

Nick Thompson, Metro Transit, presented this item.

8. Regional Solicitation Survey Kickoff

Bethany Brandt-Sargent, MTS, and Dan Edgerton, ZAN, presented this item.

Link to October 18, 2023, TAB agenda and materials, [101823 Agenda - Transportation Advisory Board \(metrocouncil.org\)](https://www.metrocouncil.org/101823-Agenda-Transportation-Advisory-Board).