

Summary Report

Transportation Advisory Board



Meeting Date: September 20, 2023

Reports

1. **Chair's Report** – Hovland reported on the Metropolitan Council Governance Task Force, made up of legislators, county representatives, and one city representative (Hovland). Hovland attended the US Conference of Mayors Leadership meeting. Hovland reported as the chair of the standing committee on Transportation. One of USDOT's areas of emphasis is Vision Zero. If anyone is interested in a Vision Zero project in your community, let him know and he will pass on to USDOT for resources. Hovland will be visiting with MnDOT regarding IIJA funding opportunities for communities for assistance in grant writing.
2. **MnDOT Report** – Barnes reported on statewide and metro area traffic fatalities. To date in 2023, there have been 283 deaths statewide compared to 324 in 2022. In the metro area, there have been 92 deaths, compared to a three-year average of 104. This week is Child Passenger Safety Week. For the Minnesota Freight Program, application submittals are due October 13. There is approximately \$21 million per year for 2026, 2027, and 2028. MnDOT is submitting a grant application for Hwy. 55 corridor for Reconnecting Communities and Neighbors grant program. IIJA federal grant released on September 13 on electric vehicle charging reliability. Deadline is November 13. Barnes is retiring on October 10.

There was a request for information from law enforcement on driver behavior that is causing accidents. In the 2023 legislative session, there was an Advisory Council on Traffic Safety set up, made up of 30 members, including Commissioner Jeppson. The Advisory Council will serve as a lead to the TZD program. The first meeting is September 21.

3. **MPCA** – Biewen reported that the EPA released two Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFOs) announcing competitions for \$4.6 billion in implementation grant funding under the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) program. The \$4.3 billion general competition is open to states, municipalities, tribes, and territories, and will close on April 1, 2024. There is a \$300 million competition available for tribes and territories that will close on May 1, 2024. EPA will hold two informational webinars about the general competition on September 21 and October 3, and two informational webinars about the tribes and territories competition on September 27 and October 5. These one-hour webinars will provide more detailed information on the implementation grants competitions. Recordings of the webinars will be posted to the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants webpage.
4. **MAC Report** – no report.
5. **Metropolitan Council Report** – Barber reported the Council approved the release of the Regional Solicitation. Members from Chesapeake Connect, a program of the Baltimore Metropolitan Council, will visit our metro area. Metro Transit provided 241,000 express rides to the State Fair; a hundred buses per day, which is a 33 percent increase over 2022. The A Line had 50 percent growth over 2022.

- 6. Suburban Transit Association** – Hansen reported that Maple Grove’s micro transit service My Ride is thriving. Maple Grove is using funds allocated by the legislature for the addition of more micro transit vehicles. My Ride is performing stronger than pre-pandemic, a 12 percent increase. Express service is up 20 percent of 2022, but still lower than pre-pandemic. U of M ridership level is back to regular ridership numbers. SW Transit express service is up 23 percent from 2022; Prime is up 39 percent. State Fair ridership was up over 2022, with over 76,000 riders. MVTA had State Fair ridership of nearly 113,000 riders, an agency record. Renaissance Festival ridership is over 2,000 rides each weekend. MVTA is ordering expansion micro transit buses to meet demand. MVTA is hiring a chief operating officer.

Business

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

1. 2023-44: Adoption of 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (October 9, 2023, Transportation Committee)

The Transportation Advisory Board recommended adoption of the 2024 Unified Planning Work Program.

Information

1. Urban Freight Distribution Study

Steve Elmer, MTS, presented this item. For this study, E-commerce focused on the last-mile delivery of parcels.

2. Transportation Policy Plan Objectives and Background

Cole Hiniker, MTS, presented this item. Goals and objectives have been developed and now are moving into the policy development phase. Eight policy development teams have been formed: safety, public health and wellness, equity and ability, climate action, natural systems, resilience, travel time and reliability, transportation options. A workshop will be held later this year for all the technical staff from the committees to review the list and make changes.

Link to September 20, 2023, TAB agenda and materials, [092023 Agenda - Transportation Advisory Board \(metro council.org\)](https://www.metrocouncil.org/092023%20Agenda%20-%20Transportation%20Advisory%20Board).

