

Summary Report

Transportation Advisory Board



Meeting Date: March 20, 2024

Reports

1. **Chair's Report** – Hovland reported the Governance Task Force sent in their report to the legislature and nothing has happened with it yet.
2. **MnDOT Report** – Sahebjam reported Minnesota received funding through the Reconnecting Communities grant for TH 55 (Olson Memorial Highway). Two entities applied for and received funding; MnDOT received \$3.6 million, and Our Streets received \$1.6 million.
3. **MPCA** – Biewen did not have a report.
4. **MAC Report** – Crimmins reported MSP airport was awarded " Best airport in North America" for 2023. This is the third year in a row and the 7th out of the last eight years. Spring Break is in full flow. March 21 & 22 are expected to be the busiest. The MSP LTCP has been approved and is going to the full MET Council for approval. Flying Cloud airport in Eden Prairie has received FAA approval to build a new air control tower. The MAC and Lake Elmo are working together to place a Civil Air Patrol hanger on the airport property.
5. **Metropolitan Council Report** – Barber reported that the Council is holding 30 listening sessions throughout the region for revisioning the next Regional Solicitation. The State of the Region event is scheduled in Hopkins on March 22.
6. **Suburban Transit Association** – Hanson reported Minnesota Valley Transit Authority implemented a schedule change effective March 16, including reintroduction of 4FUN seasonal service connecting to attractions such as Eagan Outlet Mall (new to this year's 4FUN service), Canterbury Park, Mystic Lake, and Valleyfair (once open). Vehicles were added to MVTA's current Connect zones to serve increased demand. MVTA is looking to purchase additional Connect vehicles to expand service to meet growing demand for microtransit. MVTA assisted in providing transportation to the Burnsville first responders' memorial service. In coordination with other transit and private providers, MVTA provided transportation to the service for several of its member cities' first responders, staff, and their families. MVTA started its 2024 Concert Series Special Service by providing service to Olivia Rodrigo at Xcel Energy Center on March 15. This is the first of eight planned concert services in 2024. SouthWest Transit's February ridership was up 14% in express bus service and 13% in Prime microtransit over a year ago. SWT will expand services and launch a fixed-route bus service along the I-494 corridor between Eden Prairie and the airport later in the year. SWT is working with Carver County to expand Prime microtransit to Waconia beginning early in 2025. SWT also will expand special events service to include the Renaissance Festival services in 2024.

Business

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

1. 2024-13: Streamlined TIP Amendment Request – MnDOT Robert Street Project Cost Increase and Jurisdictional Transfer (March 25, 2024, Transportation Committee)

The Transportation Advisory Board recommended that the Metropolitan Council adopt an amendment to the 2024-2027 TIP to increase the project cost of MnDOT's Robert Street project (SP # 6217-51), move the project from 2025 to 2024, and reassign the project to the City of Saint Paul.

2. 2024-14: Streamlined TIP Amendment Request – Three Project Adjustments (March 25, 2024, Transportation Committee)

The Transportation Advisory Board recommended that the Metropolitan Council adopt an amendment to the 2024-2027 TIP to add three new MnDOT projects:

- Add median cable barriers to two sections of MN 5 in Chanhassen (SP# 1002-130);
- Districtwide signal cabinet improvements (SP# 8825-1190);
- Lighting replacements on Interstate 494 and MN 52 in various locations (SP# 8825-1201).

Information

1. Regional Solicitation Workgroup Updates

Active Transportation Workgroup – This update was presented by Glen Johnson, TAB. The workgroup is discussing options for the Active Transportation funding, including whether to use some of the funding with the 2024 project selection, a 2025 application, and 2026 and future applications. Information on the workgroup can be found on the Regional Solicitation website, [Regional Solicitation Evaluation: Active Transportation - Metropolitan Council \(metro council.org\)](https://metro council.org/Regional-Solicitation-Evaluation-Active-Transportation)

2024 Regional Solicitation update – Steve Peterson, MTS, reported that the Funding and Programming Committee will be finalizing scores March 21 and TAB will receive the ranked list of project at the April meeting.

Policymaker Workgroup – Steve Peterson, MTS, reported that 18 members from TAB and the Council volunteered for the workgroup. The meetings will start in April.

2. State-Aid Federal Project Update

The item was presented by Dan Erickson, MnDOT. The number of projects and federal funds managed have increased from an average of 39 projects and \$83M in 2021-2023 to an average of 77 projects and \$169M in 2024 and 2025. Technical assistance is available to grant recipients, [Grant Assistance - State Aid - MNDOT](https://www.mndot.gov/Grant-Assistance-State-Aid).

3. Arterial Bus Rapid Transit Update

The item was presented by Katie Roth, Metro Transit. A, C, and D Lines are in operation. Lines B and E are under construction. Line F (Central Avenue) received funding in 2021 Regional Solicitation. G Line (Rice/Robert) received funding in 2022 Solicitation. H Line (Como/Maryland) was submitted for funding in 2024.

4. 2050 Transportation Policy Plan Update

The item was presented by Cole Hiniker, MTS. Chapters are being sent out for review by technical committee and TAB members.

5. Transportation GHG Emissions Impact Mitigation Working Group Report

The item was presented by Chris Berrens and Jon Solberg, MnDOT.

Link to March 20, 2024, TAB agenda and materials, [032024 Agenda - Transportation Advisory Board \(metro council.org\)](https://metro council.org/032024-Agenda-Transportation-Advisory-Board).

