

Summary Report

Transportation Advisory Board



Meeting Date: May 15, 2024

Reports

1. **Chair's Report** – Hovland reported that the Legislature did not propose changes to Metropolitan Council governance. It is Police Recognition Week. Sustainable Eagan Advisory Commission (SEAC) Chair, Peter Dugan has been named the 2023 Minnesota Recreation and Parks Association (MRPA) Board and Commissioner Award recipient. Chair Dugan was selected through a committee scoring process that included peers from across the state who have improved the field of parks and recreation through volunteerism or support. Chair Dugan has served ten consecutive years on the SEAC including several years as the Commission Chair and ten years prior on the Advisory Planning Commission.
2. **MnDOT Report** – Sahebjam reported that construction season has started and wants assistance in reminding the public that the work is being done for them, not to them.
3. **MPCA** – No report.
4. **MAC Report** – Crimmins reported that Aer Lingus is flying four flights per week to Dublin. Delta airlines has added direct flights to Dublin also. Dublin is a hub for connecting international flights. Airline passengers are now exceeding 2019 passenger levels. There are more international flights and Sun County has expanded flights.
5. **Metropolitan Council Report** – Barber reported that first quarter ridership was 12.5 million passengers, an increase of 15 percent. ABRT ridership is up 31 percent and express ridership is up 16 percent. The last TPP Advisory Work Group meeting will be on Friday, May 17.
6. **Suburban Transit Association** – Hanson reported that Maple Grove Transit MYRIDE microtransit service capacity and hours were expanded effective May 1. The expansion will assist in reducing trip denials and in providing a wide variety of trip purposes and will be especially beneficial in providing employment-based trips. Minnesota Valley Transit Authority Connect microtransit ridership is up 31% over a year ago and is at its highest level ever. Plans are to add zero-emission and autonomous vehicles to expand the service further into Scott County (Prior Lake and Shakopee) by late 2024/early 2025. MVTA is updating bus stop signs that will enable riders to get real-time information on routes via unique stop IDs and QR codes.

Business

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

1. 2024-20: Program Year Extension Request – Washington County's CSAH 17 (Lake Elmo Ave) and MN 36 Intersection Improvement Project
The Transportation Advisory Board approved the program year extension request for Washington County's CSAH 17 (Lake Elmo Ave) and MN 36 intersection improvement project from 2025 to 2026.

2. 2024-21: Regional Significant TIP Amendment Request – US 10 Expansion Project

The Transportation Advisory Board released an amendment to the 2024-2027 TIP to add a regionally significant project expanding US 10 from two lanes to three lanes in Coon Rapids for public comment.

3. 2024-22: Scope Change Request – Metro Transit Regional Mobility Hubs

The Transportation Advisory Board approved Metro Transit’s scope change request to two hub locations and shift budget from technology amenities to multimodal amenities.

4. 2024-23: Streamlined TIP Amendment Request – Two New Projects (June 10, 2024, Transportation Committee)

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

- Design consultant agreement for a MN 65 from 37th Avenue and I 694 in Columbia Heights and Hilltop project (SP# 0207-132, 0207-132(26), 0207-132(27), and 0207-132(28));
- Bituminous mill and overlay and added turn lanes on MN 316 (Red Wing Blvd) from US 61 in Welch Township to Tuttle Avenue in Hastings (SP# 1926-23 and 1926-23S).

5. 2024-25: Streamlined TIP Amendment Request – Six New NEVI Projects (June 10, 2024, Transportation Committee)

The Transportation Advisory Board recommended that the Metropolitan Council adopt an amendment to the 2024-2027 TIP to add installation of six new National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program-funded charging stations:

- Within 1 mile from exit 205, 207, or 213 on I 94 (SP# 8825-1274);
- Within 1 mile from exit 30, 31 or 33 on I 94 (SP# 8825-1275);
- Within 1 mile from exit 17C, 234C or 235A on I 94 and I 35 (SP# 8825-1276);
- Within 1 mile from exit 235B, 237, 238, 239A, 239B, 240 or 241A on I 94 (SP# 8825-1277);
- Within 1 mile from exit 147 on I 35 (SP# 8825-1278);
- Within 1 mile from exit 88B, 86, 85, 84 or 81 on I 35 (SP# 8825-1279).

with the amendment that project number 8825-1274 be reduced to a total project cost of \$750,000 and a federal cost of \$225,000.

6. 2024-26: Release of the Draft 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for a Public Comment Period

The Transportation Advisory Board recommended release of the draft 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program for public comment.

Information

1. Regional Solicitation Evaluation Updates

Hovland reported on the Policymaker Workgroup for the Regional Solicitation Evaluation

- The meeting covered the role of the working group, refresher of the history of the regional solicitation and current process, an overview of the Regional Solicitation evaluation process, discussion of evaluation goals, an update on the peer review and listening sessions that are being conducted as part of the evaluation, and future project planning.



- Members offered potential questions to ask peer agencies in upcoming peer interviews including, but not limited to:
 - How are other MPOs spending GHG reduction money?
 - How are other regions addressing emerging themes such as resiliency?
 - How are they balancing suburban, urban, and rural needs, specifically where rural and urban areas are very close in proximity?
 - What are agencies' guiding principles? Regional vision or Regional Solicitation? How do they interact?
- On the discussion of the Regional Solicitation Evaluation goals, members emphasized the need to coordinate as the updated TPP and 2050 Regional Development Guides are developed.
- Other suggestions and questions to consider during the evaluation included:
 - The solicitation should express a clear intent on where to spend money and why it's important to fund.
 - The solicitation should clearly explain why certain data points are critical for application performance. Some categories have very high scoring criteria – why do they matter so much?
 - Make sure that all metrics are valuable and help achieve goals.

Johnson reported on the Active Transportation Workgroup. The workgroup met four times. With the feedback they received from TAB, they left their recommendation at spending \$15 million of Active Transportation with project selection. The group discussed what geographic equity looks like. They reviewed maps of where projects are located that are proposed to receive AT funding. Minneapolis has four projects qualifying for the AT funding and volunteers that two receive federal funding to provide more entities to receive AT funding for the pilot projects. The group will be talking about the requirements of the legislation, especially the complete streets requirement, as not all current Regional Solicitation applicants have streets. TAC recommends that they consider more than \$15 million. Work going forward will be discussing a potential 2025 application and also the 2026 solicitation. The group will be reviewing the MnDOT applications.

2. 2024 Regional Solicitation Scenarios

Steve Peterson presented information on three funding scenarios and requested feedback. Hennepin County noted that there was not much deviation for the safety scenario versus the midpoint scenario and that more overprogramming funding added more trail projects versus pedestrian and Safe Routes to School projects.

3. Transportation Funding Overview – Item was not covered.
4. Scope Change Policy Update – Item was not covered.

Link to May 15, 2024, TAB agenda and materials, [051524 Agenda - Transportation Advisory Board \(metrocouncil.org\)](https://www.metrocouncil.org/051524-Agenda-Transportation-Advisory-Board).

