

# Summary Report

Transportation Advisory Board



Meeting Date: November 20, 2024

## Reports

1. **Chair's Report** – Hovland reported that TAB will be selecting the TAB Executive Committee membership at the January TAB meeting to serve in 2025. TAB members interested in serving on the TAB Executive Committee in 2025 email their interest to Elaine Koutsoukos.
2. **MnDOT Report** – Kauppi reported that it is now snow and ice season. 511 is a good resource to find out travel conditions of roads. As of November 19, there were 409 fatalities compared to 402 in 2023; 39 pedestrian fatalities, six bike crashes that resulted in fatalities, motorcycle crashes are 18 percent of all crashes with 74 fatalities. ATVs are 7 percent of the crashes. Looking forward to partnering with the Metropolitan Council on the Regional Safety Action Plan. Recently had a Toward Zero Death (TZD) Conference.
3. **MPCA** – Biewen reported MPCA has a number of grants to help prepare communities for climate change impacts and take climate action. RFPs that are currently open are resilience planning grants, implementation grants for community resilience, and local climate action grants. Learn more about the RFPs and what is eligible here, [Grants to prepare Minnesota for climate change | Minnesota Pollution Control Agency](#). Biewen will be retiring in early 2025.
4. **MAC Report** – Rief reported that they are anticipating elevated activity at the airport with the approaching holidays. MAC will be kicking off a series of Surprise and Delight events at MSP. The events are coordinated with their Strategy and Stakeholder Engagement staff and with the Airport Foundation. The MAC CIP will come before TAB in December for approval. MAC held a second annual construction progress preview meeting, where they invite contractors (prime, sub, TGB, DBE) to come in to hear what projects they are doing, so that they can prepare and plan on what projects they want to bid on. They had 180 people participate in the meeting. They have an accessibility program at the airport with IRA that assists sight impaired via phone or glasses with camera travel through the airport. The hours of service are being expanded to 24 hours. Will be enhancing signage to the cell phone lots in 2025.
5. **Metropolitan Council Report** – Barber reported that the Federal Highway and Federal Transit Administrations conducted a Planning Certification Review Wednesday and Thursday of last week.
  - This is required of all MPOs with a population greater than 200,000 every four years.
  - During the review the federal agencies examine our transportation planning process and ensure we are adhering to federal requirements. All aspects of the transportation planning process are examined.

Federal partners may issue:

- A recommendation, areas that the MPO could consider altering or improving upon
- A commendation, areas where the MPO is performing exceptional work that is

often considered a best practice nationally

- A corrective action, areas in which the MPO are not meeting minimum federal requirements and must make immediate changes

Preliminary Findings:

- There were NO corrective actions.
- Eight work efforts receiving potential commendations included many items familiar to TAB:
  - The TIP online interactive map
  - The establishment of a Travel Demand Management program and hiring of a program manager
  - Our work with tribal officials and the hiring of a tribal liaison
  - The Council's Title II online submittal and LEP call system, which has six different language options
  - Our equity related planning and outreach efforts, including the equity heat maps included in the 2050 TPP and the work performed by the Equity Policy Group
  - Our Congestion Management Process activities
  - Our strong partnership with MnDOT
  - The Financial Plan within our TPP
- Among five potential recommendations is a need to formally approve a Metropolitan Planning Area Boundary:
  - This boundary is related to the Smoothed urban area boundary was approved by the Council in September of 2023 after recommendation by TAB.
- By state law, the Council must include all seven counties in its MPO Planning Area Boundary.
- MPA must include at least all urban areas identified by the U.S. Census Bureau and the smoothed urban area boundary.
- The MPA boundary thus includes the seven-county area plus the urbanized areas of Wright and Sherburne counties.
  - The Council will adopt this map on December 11. Because the areas included have either already been recommended by TAB (urban area) or are required by state law (planning area), the Council will take quick action to adopt the map so it can be complete when the federal agencies prepare their certification report in 2025.

We'll share this update with the TAC and its subcommittees. As the review is completed and reported, we will bring additional details to the TAB.

The Metropolitan Council will be recruiting for four TAB citizen member positions in Districts E, F, G, and H, whose terms are up at the end of the year. Applications should be submitted by December 13. Transit fares will be reduced on January 1 to \$2.00 for regular service bus, BRT, and LRT. It is a fare simplification removing different fare for peak service, as transit ridership has smoothed throughout the day.

6. **Suburban Transit Association** – Hanson reported that Maple Grove Transit and Plymouth Metrolink are proceeding with their joint transit study to improve service connections in the northwest metro. Minnesota Valley Transit Authority is one of five agencies selected by the Federal Transit Administration to participate in its Environmental and Sustainability Management System training and technical assistance program. MVTA will benefit from virtual training workshops, on-site technical support visits, and access to forms, templates, and expert consultation to help develop a program at the Eagan Bus Garage. MVTA has received delivery of five e-Jest electric buses to help meet growing demand for Connect microtransit service. These are MVTA's first electric buses to go into regular service, which is expected to start next month. SouthWest Transit reported that ridership is up 25% overall from last year, driven by special events service. SouthWest's autonomous vehicle service is expected to launch within a few weeks.

## Business

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

1. 2024-46: 2025-2028 Streamlined TIP Amendment: Six 2024 Regional Solicitation Projects (November 25, 2024, Transportation Committee)

The Transportation Advisory Board recommended adoption of an amendment to the 2025-2028 TIP to add the following six projects funded through the 2024 Regional Solicitation:

- The City of Anoka's MN 47 reconstruction and railroad grade separation (SP# 103-010-022);
- Carver County's MN 5 and MN 41 reconstruction (SP# 010-596-020);
- Metro Transit's micro on-demand transit service in and around Minnetonka (SP# TRS-TCMT-26E and TRS-TCMT-28A);
- Metro Transit Blue Line Franklin Station renovation (SP# TRS-TCMT-26F);
- Bloomington's Normandale Blvd sidewalk project (SP# 107-020-075CRP);
- MVTA's Eagan Bus Garage modernization (SP# TRS-TCMT-26G).

2. 2024-47: 2025-2028 Streamlined TIP Amendment: Rest in Red Ramsey County Traffic Signal Proof of Concept Project (November 25, 2024, Transportation Committee)

The Transportation Advisory Board recommended adoption of an amendment to the 2025-2028 TIP to add a "Rest in Red" signal study pilot professional technical services contract in Ramsey County.

3. 2024-48: Regional Significant 2025-2028 TIP Amendment – I-494 E-ZPass Extension and Improvements (After public comment, the item will be acted on at December 18, 2024, TAB and December 18, 2024, Transportation Committee)

The Transportation Advisory Board recommended adoption of an amendment to the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add a regionally significant project to extend E-ZPass, reconstruct mainline pavement, improve drainage, rehabilitation bridges, and add ADA improvements on I-494 from Penn Avenue to 34<sup>th</sup> Avenue, I-494 from US 169 to MN 100, and I-35W from 86<sup>th</sup> St to 76<sup>th</sup> Street for the purpose of release for public comment.

## Information

1. Regional Solicitation Evaluation Updates

Hovland reported on the Policymaker Workgroup. A workshop is scheduled on December 18 after the TAB meeting, starting at 1:30 pm. TAB members, alternates, and Council Transportation Committee members are invited. The group is looking at how to align the allocation of the region's federal transportation funds to achieve the goals, objectives, and policies of the 2050 TPP and Imagine 2050. The five goals are equitable and inclusive, healthy and safe, dynamic and resilient, climate change, and natural systems. The workgroup reviewed the current solicitation structure and discussed whether we should think about updating and improving the current modal-focused structure or whether we should change to a goal-focused structure.

Johnson reported on the Active Transportation Workgroup. The next meeting will be in early December. They are currently doing information gathering to figure out how counties are doing their financing, what MnDOT is doing, and what is happening with the Regional Solicitation overall.

2. Target Setting: Minnesota Greenhouse Gas Reduction Legislation

Anna Pierce, MnDOT, presented the item.



3. 2050 Transportation Policy Plan Public Comments

Jed Hanson, MTS, presented the item.

Link to November 20, 2024, TAB agenda and materials, [November 20 2024 Transportation Advisory Board](#).

