

# Summary Report

Transportation Advisory Board



Meeting Date: April 17, 2024

## Reports

1. **Chair's Report** – Hovland reported that TAB Executive Committee met prior to TAB. The Committee discussed the challenges of scoring the Unique Projects, especially studies.
2. **MnDOT Report** – No report. It is national work zone awareness week.
3. **MPCA** – Kohlasch reported the MPCA is working with six Port Authorities and eight private companies to develop a grant application for the Inflation Reduction Act's Clean Grants Program, which is an electrification opportunity focused on port operations throughout the state. There is \$2 billion available throughout the country. MPCA will apply before the May 2024 deadline to replace diesel with electrification. Kohlasch responded to a question regarding a plan to place EV charging stations at rest stops that is something MnDOT is working on. MPCA is working on placing EV charging stations through the state on major corridors.
4. **MAC Report** – No report.
5. **Metropolitan Council Report** – Barber reported that the region began receiving funds as part of the federal IIJA bill for Carbon Reduction activities. The Council approved using the Carbon Reduction funding in the 2022 Regional Solicitation for years 2023, 2024, and 2025 for almost \$24 million. The Council formed the Climate Action Workgroup. The Council recommends allocating the Carbon Reduction funds for the years 2026 and 2027 in the 2024 Regional Solicitation. The funding totals approximately \$16 million. For the years 2028 and beyond, the Council requests that the funding be considered a part of the Regional Solicitation Evaluation and a specific process be designed to allocation the funds.
6. **Suburban Transit Association** – Hanson reported The Suburban Transit Association Board appointed Burnsville City Council Member and Minnesota Valley Transit Authority Board Chair Dan Kealey STA's TAB alternate. Suburban transit providers report MVST receipts as expected to slightly higher. Maple Grove Transit MYRIDE microtransit service remains strong, and capacity and service hours will be expanded on May 1. MVTA's fixed route ridership is up 16% and Connect microtransit ridership is up 24% compared to 2023. MVTA 4FUN Bus and Concert Series special service have successfully started including, for the first time, to Xcel Energy Center.
7. **Advisory Council for Traffic Safety** – Jeppson reported on the work of the Advisory Council; created in 2023, to advise the governor and commissioners on transportation safety and health. Jeppson presented information a new product created through MN IT Services that shows the types and locations of crash data in Minnesota. The application will go public soon.
8. **TAC Report** – Jeni Hager reported that TAC postponed the action on the Greenhouse Gas targets at the request of FHWA.

## Business

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

1. 2024-18: Streamlined TIP Amendment Request – Two Project Adjustments (April 22, 2024, Transportation Committee)

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

- Increase the cost of Inver Grove Heights's CSAH 32 reconstruction (SP# 178-020-032) and change the project sponsor to Dakota County (new SP# 019-632-051);
- Increase the cost of MnDOT's I-94 bridge repair project (SP# 2781-544).

2. 2024-16: Scope Change Request – Hennepin County CSAH 52 (Nicollet Ave) and CSAH 66 (Golden Valley Rd) Improvement

The Transportation Advisory Board approved Hennepin County's scope change request to remove planned safety improvements at CSAH 52 (Nicollet Avenue) and 67th Street with full retention of federal funds.

3. 2024-17: Program Year Extension Request: MnDOT US 8 HSIP Project

The Transportation Advisory Board approved the program year extension request for MnDOT's US 8 intersection access project (SP # 1308-29S) to move from 2025 to 2026.

## Information

1. Regional Solicitation Updates

The first meeting of the Policymaker Workgroup for the Regional Solicitation Evaluation has been scheduled for April 25.

The Active Transportation Workgroup recommended that up to \$15 million of Active Transportation funds be added to the 2024 Regional Solicitation funding scenarios, with at least one project in the Trails, Pedestrian, and Safe Routes to Schools categories, fund higher ranking projects that can be implemented in 2025 and 2026, and a maximum of request of \$2 million. The AT Workgroup will continue meeting to discuss the option of a 2025 solicitation for AT projects.

The Unique Projects scoring committee provided recommendations for future consideration; codify and describe the scoring methodology that was used, consider a separate category for studies, develop grant writing assistance, and TAB be specific on what they are looking for in this category.

The results of the Regional Solicitation survey were presented.

A base scenario with \$200 million allocated to the midpoint of the modal categories was presented. TAB recommended that Council staff include the Carbon Reduction funding, up to \$15 million of Active Transportation funds following the recommendations of the Active Transportation Workgroup, along with consideration of geographic distribution, and add in some overprogramming. Additional scenarios include consideration of safety projects in the roadway categories and a bike/pedestrian heavy category.

2. Transportation Funding Overview

Amy Vennewitz presented information on Transportation Finance in the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), revenue and spending by MnDOT Metro District and Regional Transit. The presentation on local government and regional revenue and spending will carry over into the May meeting.

Link to April 17, 2024, TAB agenda and materials, [041724 Agenda - Transportation Advisory Board \(metrocouncil.org\)](https://www.metrocouncil.org/Agenda/041724-Agenda-Transportation-Advisory-Board).

