

Summary Report

Transportation Advisory Board



Meeting Date: January 15, 2025

Reports

- 1. Chair's Report** – Hovland reported that the Regional Solicitation Evaluation Policymaker Workgroup met prior to TAB. Hovland welcomed new TAB members: Mai Xiong Chong, Ramsey County; Victor Lake (Prior Lake) and Taylor Hubbard (Chaska) appointed by Metro Cities; and Don Do (TAB District E) and Kevin Burkhart (TAB District B alternate), appointed by Metropolitan Council. Hovland recognized Todd Biewen for his six service as the MPCA TAB alternate. The certificate was accepted by Frank Kohlasch.
- 2. MnDOT Report** – Sahebjam reported that the unofficial total fatalities statewide in 2024 was 471, with 130 in the metro area. Of the 130 fatalities, 53 were on the TH system and the rest on the local system; 33 were drug/alcohol related, and 28 speed related. In 2025, there have been 11 fatalities to date.
- 3. MPCA** – Kohlasch reported that MPCA has closed the diesel emissions reduction act grant. MN has been chosen by EPA to receive a \$5 million grant to fund 19 electric school buses and will supplement that with VW funds to deploy additional electric school buses in the state. They are preparing a VW settlement RFP to replace diesel switcher locomotives. For the Volkswagen program, MPCA continues to manage 700 projects across MN implemented over eight years. The Climate Subcabinet working on the Climate Action Framework Update for 2025. MnDOT is leading the stakeholder input process for the Transportation chapter of the Climate Action Framework. On December 30 MPCA and the Department of Commerce will release the GHG Emissions Inventory Report, with data compiled through 2022. Transportation remains the highest GHG emitting sector in Minnesota. The retirement party for Todd Biewen will be at MPCA St. Paul office on January 30 in the afternoon. Contact Kohlasch for additional details.
- 4. MAC Report** – Rief reported that CEO Brian Ryks will be presenting at the Metropolitan Council on January 22 on the status of MAC and MSP. He will present on the latest in operations and routes, sustainability efforts, and other items. Terminal 2 passenger numbers continue to surpass previous numbers. Overall, they haven't reached pre-covid numbers; they don't expect to pass previous numbers until 2026. Operation numbers (takeoffs and landings) continue to go down, as airlines use larger aircraft.
- 5. Metropolitan Council Report** – Chamblis reported that USDOT announced federal Charging and Fueling Infrastructure grant awards. Metropolitan Council was awarded \$15 million grant for EV charging stations in the region. Development of a program to deploy funds will begin along with the Regional Solicitation development. This award was part of \$90 million projects awarded in the region, including projects in Fridley, St. Paul, MnDOT, Minneapolis, Carver County, Anoka, Reconnect Rondo, and the Sioux Community. Metro Transit began service in two new microtransit zones, serving the Roseville and Woodbury areas.

6. **Suburban Transit Association** – Hanson reported that Maple Grove Transit and Plymouth Metrolink expect to have results from their joint transit study within the next few weeks. Minnesota Valley Transit Authority observed ribbon cuttings on January 9 in Shakopee and Prior Lake hosted by local chambers of commerce to celebrate expansion of Connect microtransit service to those areas beginning on January 13. MVTA is working with Canterbury Park to finalize event shuttle services for the Canterbury Park Social District and to provide overflow parking shuttles when large events occur at the park’s new 19,000-seat amphitheater that will host its first concert in August. SouthWest Transit reported a more than 20% increase in ridership over the prior year. SouthWest is working on fixed route service to the Mall of America and the airport, and continues to sort through regulatory matters to launch autonomous vehicle service.
7. **TAC Chair** – MacPherson reported that TAC met on January 8 as a follow-up to the December 18 TAB workshop. TAC Executive Committee selected Molly McCartney, MnDOT, as TAC vice-chair, Jim Kosluchar, Fridley, as chair of TAC Funding & Programming Committee, and Gina Mitteco, Dakota County, as chair of TAC Planning Committee.
8. **MTS Deputy Director** – Amy Vennewitz introduced the Metropolitan Transportation Services staff.

Business

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

1. 2025-01: Selection of TAB Executive Committee for 2025

The Transportation Advisory Board approved the TAB Executive Committee for 2025.

The committee shall be composed of ten Board members as follows:

- the Board Chair – Jim Hovland
- the Member representing the MnDOT – Khani Sahebjam
- the Member representing the Metropolitan Council – Deb Barber
- two members representing the county Board members – Debbie Goettel (Hennepin County) and Mary Liz Holberg (Dakota County)
- one member representing the Board members from the cities of the first class – Aurin Chawdhury (Minneapolis)
- two members representing the Board members from the remaining cities – Victor Lake (Prior Lake) and Mark Steffenson (Maple Grove)
- one member representing the citizen Board members (Peter Dugan)
- one member representing the modal and remaining agency Board members – Chris Vaughan (transit)

2. 2025-02: Recommendation of the Imagine 2050 Transportation Policy Plan (January 27, 2025, Transportation Committee)

The Transportation Advisory Board accepted the public comment report and recommended that the Metropolitan Council adopt the Imagine 2050 Transportation Policy Plan.

3. 2025-03: Streamlined 2025-2028 TIP Amendment Request – MnDOT’s I-94 & I-35E Bridge Improvements Project Cost Reduction (January 27, 2025, Transportation Committee)

The Transportation Advisory Board recommended approval of an amendment to the 2025-2028 TIP to reduce the cost and combine the scopes of MnDOT’s I-94 and I-35E bridge improvements projects.



4. 2025-04: Streamlined 2025-2028 TIP Amendment Request – MnDOT’s Section 5310 Bus Purchase (January 27, 2025, Transportation Committee)

The Transportation Advisory Board recommended approval of an amendment to the 2025-2028 TIP to add six new projects to purchase a total of 15 transit vehicles.

Information

1. Regional Solicitation Evaluation Updates

Hovland reported on the Policymaker Workgroup that met prior to TAB. Steve Peterson provided an update on the outcomes of the Regional Solicitation Evaluation workshop. Joe MacPherson provided feedback from the TAC meeting. The Policymaker Workgroup will next meet on February 19 prior to the TAB Executive Committee meeting. TAB members requested a copy of the presentation that was discussed at the Working Group meeting, information on historical geographical distribution of regional solicitation funding, and examples of goals based approach applications from other regions.

Johnson presented on the background of the Active Transportation Workgroup.

2. Arterial Bus Rapid Transit Update

Katie Roth and Kyle O’Donnell Burrows, Metro Transit, presented the item.

3. Minneapolis Vision Zero

Ethan Fawley, Minneapolis, presented the item.

Link to January 15, 2025, TAB agenda and materials, [011525 Agenda - Transportation Advisory Board](#).

