Summary Report

Transportation Advisory Board

Meeting Date: April 16, 2025

Reports

1. ***Chair's Report*** – Hovland reported that TAB Executive Committee met prior to TAB. The Committee reviewed the meeting materials and had a status update on the Regional Solicitation. The Active Transportation Work Group will meet on April 28. Hovland announced new TAB member and alternates:

   St. Paul TAB member – Saura Jost, alternate – Matt Privratsky

   District H alternate – Rachel Chinitz

   MPCA alternate – Amanda Jarrett Smith

2. ***MnDOT Report*** – Sahebjam reported a safety update. Statewide there were 76 fatalities through April 16. In 2024 there were 95 fatalities at the same time. In the metro region, there were 30 fatalities at the end of March (6 pedestrian,). Summary MnDOT is revising documents, determining how to balance state goals and federal goals. Formula funds are continuing; the gas tax that the state sends in is redistributed back to the states. Some competitive grants are on hold. For a construction update, they are fixing bridges along I-94. MnDOT is doing a traffic analysis before and during construction. MnDOT will report on the study of what happened before and during the I-94 construction.

3. ***MPCA*** – Smith reported that the VW program has two open Request for Proposals; one to replace old diesel switcher locomotives with electric alternatives and another to replace old diesel school buses with new cleaner diesel school buses It is a three-phase program and they are in phase 3. There are four to five years left to work with the funding. MPCA has issued 210 grants and processing 720 individual projects.

4. ***MAC Report*** – There was no MAC report.

5. ***Metropolitan Council Report*** – Barber reported that Districts 12 and 15 seats are open. A nominating committee has been formed. The Council hopes to fill the seats by May. Karwoski reported that the Gold Line opening was successful. Washington County and Ramsey County provided free rides for the first week of service.

6. ***Suburban Transit Association*** – Hansen reported Maple Grove Transit and Plymouth Metrolink expect that draft reports on their joint transit needs assessment study will be ready soon. SouthWest Transit reported a 9.8% increase in ridership over the prior year, with fixed route ridership especially strong. 494 fixed route service to the Mall of America and the airport launched at the end of March. Park ($5 per day) and fly service has been strong. Autonomous vehicle service around the SouthWest Transit station began on April 15. Minnesota Valley Transit Authority Connect microtransit ridership is up 56% year-to-date. Burnsville Bus Garage updates are underway and already resulting in improved operating efficiency. Seasonal 4FUN service commenced on March 20 serving the Mall of America, Eagan Outlet Shops, Valleyfair (once open), Canterbury Park, and Mystic Lake.

Business

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

1. 2025-11: 2025-2028 Streamlined TIP Amendment: CSAH 34 Sidewalk, Curb Ramp, and Signal Project (April 28, 2025, Transportation Committee)

   The Transportation Advisory Board recommended approval of an amendment to the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program to add a multi-use trail and intersection improvements to the City of Bloomington's CSAH 34 (Normandale Blvd) sidewalk, curb ramp, and signal project.

2. 2025-12: 2025-2028 Streamlined TIP Amendment: MnDOT's 5310 Bus Purchases (April 28, 2025, Transportation Committee)

   The Transportation Advisory Board recommended approval of an amendment to the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program to reduce the cost of four Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities program (FTA Section 5310) projects.

3. 2025-13: 2025-2028 Streamlined TIP Amendment: CFI Grant Program (April 28, Transportation Committee)

   The Transportation Advisory Board recommended approval of an amendment to the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program to add charging and fueling infrastructure.

4. 2025-10: Program Year Extension - Washington County CR 19A Realignment Project

   The Transportation Advisory Board approved Washington County's program year extension request for its County Road 19A (Keats Avenue) realignment from 2026 to 2027.

Information

1. Introduction to the Highway System Harms, Impacts, and Mitigation Priorities Study

   Bethany Brandt-Sargent, MTS; Haila Maze, Bolton & Menk; and Abdullahi Abdulle, Humanize MN, presented this item.

2. Washington County Safety Planning and Implementation

   Kevin Peterson and Maddie Dahlheimer, Washington County, presented this item.

3. Arterial Bus Rapid Transit Plan Update (*Katie Roth and Kyle Burrows, Metro Transit*)

   Katie Roth and Kyle Burrows, Metro Transit, presented this item.

4. Regional Solicitation Evaluation Updates

   Peterson reported the seven special issue technical groups had their first meeting. There will be two workshops for each group to determine the criteria and measures for applications.

Link to April 16, 2025, TAB agenda and materials, 041625 Agenda - Transportation Advisory Board.