

# Summary Report

Transportation Advisory Board



Meeting Date: February 19, 2025

## Reports

- 1. Chair's Report** – Hovland reported that the Regional Solicitation Evaluation Policymaker Workgroup and TAB Executive Committee met prior to TAB. TAB Executive Committee selected Debbie Goettel as 1<sup>st</sup> vice-chair and Victor Lake as 2<sup>nd</sup> vice-chair. Chair Hovland appointed Peter Dugan as TAB Liaison to the Metropolitan Council Transportation Committee.
- 2. MnDOT Report** – Sahebjam reported that MnDOT staff will present MnDOT's Safe System Implementation Plan at the next TAB meeting on March 19th. There have been 35 fatalities so far in 2025, including: four vehicular four pedestrian, two motorcycle, one bicycle, and one snowmobile. MnDOT will release a draft of the Strategic Highway Safety Plan for public comment in March.
- 3. MPCA** – Kohlasch reported that MPCA is monitoring the USDOT Secretary's letter to the Federal Highway Administration, which requests a review of corporate average fuel economy standards. MPCA has confirmed that its federal funding has been released from a pause. This funding includes a Climate Pollution Reduction planning grant, which will support the Climate Action Framework Update. MnDOT is leading the stakeholder input process for the transportation chapter of the framework to help the state meet statutory emissions reduction goals. MPCA and the Environmental Quality Board will lead the Sustainable Aviation Fuel Taskforce, which will focus on recruitment, environmental review, and regulation of sustainable aviation fuel sources. A Taskforce on Extreme Heat and Air Quality has also been formed. The Governor's Advisory Council on Climate Change will meet at MPCA's St. Paul offices on 2/20/2025 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- 4. MAC Report** – Crimmins reported TSA is fully staffed at MSP. MSP served 37.2 million passengers in 2024, a 9.2% increase over 2023. Overall, reliever airports experienced an increase in operations, although Flying Cloud and Crystal Airports experienced decreases. Rief mentioned a new program called MSP Reserve, which is free of charge. Travelers can now reserve a spot in the security line at both terminals.
- 5. Metropolitan Council Report** – Barber reported that the regional development guide, Imagine 2050 was approved by Met Council at their February 12th meeting. System plans, including the Transportation Policy Plan, were also approved. The Gold Line BRT service begins on March 22nd.
- 6. Suburban Transit Association** – Hansen reported that Maple Grove Transit and Plymouth Metrolink expect draft reports on their joint transit needs assessment study will be ready in April. They are particularly interested in seeing how and where their micro transit programs can work together. Minnesota Valley Transit Authority's Connect micro transit service continues to set daily ridership records since the service was expanded to Shakopee and Prior Lake. MVTA will break ground in March on its Burnsville Bus Garage Modernization project, which will include construction of a new maintenance area, office

space, driver training area, and other much-needed improvements. Construction is expected to be completed in early 2026. SouthWest Transit reported a 9% increase in ridership over the prior year. SouthWest's 494 fixed route service to the Mall of America and the airport is expected to launch at the end of March.

7. **TAC Chair** – MacPherson reported that TAC received updates on the Regional Solicitation and recommended business items to TAB.

## Business

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

1. 2025-08: 2025-2028 Streamlined TIP Amendment: MnDOT's CSAH 83 Dual Turn Lane Study Consultant Services (February 24, 2025, Transportation Committee)

The Transportation Advisory Board recommended approval of an amendment to the 2025-2028 TIP to add consultant services for a study of dual turn lanes on CSAH 83 (Canterbury Rd) near US 169 in Shakopee.

2. 2025-09: 2025-2028 Streamlined TIP Amendment: MnDOT's I-394 Auxiliary Lane, Bridge, Retaining Wall, Signal, and Intersection Modification Project (February 24, 2025, Transportation Committee)

The Transportation Advisory Board recommended approval of an amendment to increase the cost of MnDOT's I 394 auxiliary lane, bridge repair, retaining wall, signal, and intersection modification project.

3. 2025-05: Adoption of Adjusted Infrastructure Federal Performance Measures (February 24, Transportation Committee)

The Transportation Advisory Board recommended the adoption of the adjusted federal infrastructure performance measures to the Metropolitan Council, with the following revisions:

- An adjustment of the 2025 target for non-interstate NHS pavement in good condition from 55% to 40%
- An adjustment of the 2025 target for NHS bridges in good condition from 35% to 20%

4. 2025-06: Program Year Extension Request: Columbia Height's Central Avenue Lighting and Pedestrian Improvements

The Transportation Advisory Board approved Columbia Heights's program year extension request for its MN 65 (Central Avenue) lighting and pedestrian improvement from 2025 to 2028.

5. 2025-07: Program Year Extension Request: Minneapolis' Whittier Neighborhood Safety Improvements

The Transportation Advisory Board approved Minneapolis's program year extension request for its Whittier neighborhood intersection safety improvements project from 2025 to 2026.

6. 2024-40: Scope Change Policy Update

The Transportation Advisory Board approved the updated Scope Change Policy.

The updates to the scope change policy include:

- Adding, as a type of informal scope change, projects that have elements moved from the original project and completed with another project, as long as the cost of the elements moved are under 10% of the total cost or a maximum of \$500,000. Scope changes with costs of above these amounts would continue through the formal scope change process.



- For Informal scope changes with a cost reduction under \$100,000 the funds would be removed administratively. Cost reductions are occurring automatically and this adds language to the policy.
- For projects with elements removed from the project, costing less than \$50,000 would be approved administratively with the funding remaining with the project. Any projects with major scope changes, even if there is no cost change, will still go through the formal process.

#### 7. 2024-41: Program Year Policy Update

The Transportation Advisory Board approved the updated Program Year Policy.

The updates to the program year policy include allowing project sponsors to request more than one one-year program year extension, if there are extenuating circumstances. Project sponsors must include justification to the exception in their request.

### Information

#### 1. Regional Solicitation Evaluation Updates

Hovland reported on the Policymaker Workgroup that met prior to TAB. Steve Peterson provided an update. The Policymaker Workgroup will next meet May 21st prior to the TAB meeting.

Johnson requested that TAB members volunteer for the Active Transportation Workgroup.

Link to February 19, 2025, TAB agenda and materials, [February 19 2025 Agenda - Transportation Advisory Board](#).

