

Summary Report

Transportation Advisory Board



Meeting Date: July 16, 2025

Reports

1. **Chair's Report** – Hovland provided background information on the Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment that is now posted on the agenda. As a member of the Governor's cabinet, the Met Council has a role in setting the tone for the region when it comes to Tribal and American Indian relations. Last year the Council established an American Indian Advisory Council (AIAC) as part of development of the region's development guide, Imagine 2050. The Advisory Council includes highly respected leaders of the American Indian community in this region. Members represent Dakota, Ojibwe, Ho-Chunk, and Lakota communities and range from youth advocates to community elders; and continues to meet. Through the AIAC feedback, the Council work focused on a land acknowledgement transformed into land, water, and people commitments of the Met Council. The Council adopted procedures in March for use of the acknowledgement of these commitments. What does this mean for TAB and its committees? We'll start with an organic approach. It's helpful to approach this work organically, starting by reading the acknowledgment at today's TAB meeting. We plan to have more discussion at the August TAB Executive Committee meeting. In the meantime, subcommittees can keep it in mind as they develop their work plans and meetings. We'll learn more in a future TAB meeting about the commitments and acknowledgement development process, and this will inform TAB's use of it.

Barber introduced Allison Waukau, the Council's Tribal Liaison, and she will be part of ongoing discussions as TAB engages with this work. Support and alignment are key. The Met Council aims to support others in this work while also uplifting and aligning with the important efforts already underway in cities and counties across the region. Partnership drives equity and inclusion. Collaborating with American Indian communities strengthens our collective efforts by filling critical gaps and ensuring public systems better serve everyone. American Indian voices are essential. Our region is home to one of the largest urban American Indian populations in the country. Their voices and perspectives are vital to shaping policies that reflect the true diversity of Minnesota. We have a shared responsibility. As public institutions, we must engage all communities, especially American Indian residents who have been historically and systematically overlooked, despite their deep roots and enduring contributions to this region. Acknowledgment and action go hand-in-hand. Recognizing historic injustices and investing in meaningful partnerships with Tribes and American Indian communities benefits the entire region. It builds trust in government and promotes equity and justice at a systems level. This is about shared leadership. When American Indian communities help guide and shape our work, we move toward a stronger, more unified future; one that reflects the values, priorities, and needs of all Minnesotans.

Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

The Metropolitan Council acknowledges that the land we currently call Minnesota and specifically the seven-county region is the ancestral homeland of the Dakota Oyate who are present and active contributors to our thriving region. As part of the Metropolitan Council's commitment to address the unresolved legacy of genocide, dispossession, and settler colonialism and the fact that government institutions, including the Metropolitan Council, benefitted economically, politically, and institutionally after the forceable removal of the Dakota Oyate, the Metropolitan Council is dedicated to instilling Land, Water, and People Commitments in regional policy. These commitments support the Dakota Oyate, the eleven federally recognized Tribes in Minnesota, Ho-Chunk Nation, and the American Indian Communities representing over 150 diverse Tribal Nations that call the seven-county region home.

Hovland reported that the Regional Solicitation Policymaker Work Group met prior to the TAB meeting. Hovland introduced Torin Gustafson. Gustafson has been the alternate in District F and will become the TAB representative with Mark Jenkins appointed to the Metropolitan Council.

2. **MnDOT Report** – Sahebjam reported that statewide there have been 177 fatalities and metro wide there have been 74 (14 pedestrian, 9 motorcycles). The Minnesota Highway Freight Program Solicitation is open until September 3; \$51.2 million is available with half for each year 2029 and 2030. There will be an interactive webinar on July 23 at 1:00 pm. The Teams meeting link is on the website, [Minnesota Highway Freight Program - MnDOT](#).
3. **MPCA** – Kohlasch reported on the update of the Climate Action Framework. Another opportunity for stakeholder input will be in September with completion of the Plan at the end of 2025. A Freight Switcher Locomotive grant is open until October 22, 2025. The Electric School Bus grant is combining VW settlement funding and federal grant from the Inflation Reduction Act and will receive nine electric school buses in Minnesota. MPCA is working with nine agencies on extreme heat guidance for outdoor workers. On Monday, July 21, there will be a national sustainable aviation fuel workshop in downtown Minneapolis hosted by Greater MSP.
4. **MAC Report** – Crimmins submitted a report to be read. The federal government decided that shoes no longer need to be removed at security. MSP is starting to use Enhanced Passenger Processing (EPP). This uses facial recognition for incoming US citizens arriving on international flights. This will reduce time going through Customs. EPP is used at 12 airports in North America. MSP has been ranked 4th best airport in the US by the Washington Post. Rief reported that MAC Commissioners have been appointed.
5. **Metropolitan Council Report** – Barber reported that the Council appointed two new Council members; Mark Jenkins and Victor Obisakin. The last Committee of the Whole meeting met in Chaska. Metro Transit provided transportation for the Hortman memorial service. B Line has been in operation for almost a month. In three-week ridership report, ridership is up 23 percent over previous route 21, with almost 8,000 riders per day. A future update on the details of boardings along the B Line was requested.
6. **Suburban Transit Association** – Hansen reported Maple Grove Transit is offering MYRIDE microtransit service for youth who are not yet licensed to drive to get them to events and appointments when family or friends are not able to provide transportation. Maple Grove Transit and Plymouth Metrolink are coordinating technology changes



resulting from final recommendations in their joint transit needs assessment study which will result in implementation of service changes this summer. SouthWest Transit fixed route rider surveys of reasons that riders are coming back indicate primary reasons are the costs of driving and parking. Only 15% cite changed work schedules. Southwest will test automated passenger counts on buses using AI in place of manual counting. Installation and validation are anticipated to be completed by State Fair time. Minnesota Valley Transit Authority has received two of four trolley buses ordered primarily to provide special services in the area of Canterbury Park, but also for use on local routes. MVTA started an outreach and marketing campaign called MVTA Moves Commuters to increase commuter express ridership. Express riders were surveyed to learn more about why they commute, what they enjoy about MVTA's express trips, and what can be improved.

Business

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

1. 2025-24: 2025-2028 Streamlined TIP Amendment: MnDOT's I-494 Sign Replacement (July 28, 2025, Transportation Committee)

The Transportation Advisory Board recommended adoption of an amendment to the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program to add sign replacement on I-494 from Argenta Trail in Eagan to MN Highway 77 in Bloomington (SP # 1986-50).

2. 2025-25: 2025-2028 Streamlined TIP Amendment: Two MnDOT Signal Replacement Cost Increases (July 28, 2025, Transportation Committee)

The Transportation Advisory Board recommended approval of an amendment to the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program to increase the cost of two signal replacement projects (SP # 2772-134 and 6222-191).

3. 2025-23: Review of Flying Cloud Airport 2040 Long Term Comprehensive Plan (August 11, 2025, Transportation Committee)

The Transportation Advisory Board recommended that the Metropolitan Council find that the Final Draft Flying Cloud Airport 2040 LTCP has a multi-city impact as well as conforms to the regional systems and is consistent with regional policies.

Information

1. E-ZPass Update

Brad Larson, MnDOT, presented this item.

In response to questions, the scope of work for the Managed Lane Study is underway.

2. Transportation GHG Emissions Impact Assessment

Chris Berrens and Maurice Roers, MnDOT, presented this item.

Expansion projects require emissions impact assessment before being in the STIP or TIP. Metropolitan Council will assess the impacts and offset before entering the TIP.

3. Regional Solicitation Evaluation Updates

Johnson updated on the Active Transportation Work Group. The next meeting is scheduled on July 25.

4. Transit Funding Allocation

Charles Carlson, MTS Executive Director, presented this item.

Link to July 16, 2025, TAB agenda and materials, [071625 Agenda - Transportation Advisory Board](#).