

Summary Report

Transportation Advisory Board



Meeting Date: October 15, 2025

Reports

- Chair's Report** – Hovland reported that The Regional Solicitation Policymaker Workgroup and TAB Executive Committee met before the TAB meeting. The Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgement was discussed at TAB Executive Committee. Alison Waukau, Council Tribal Liaison, recommended reading the acknowledgement quarterly or seasonally or when TAB is making a major decision. TAB will vote on this at a later date. Approximately 75,000 native Americans are in the 7-county metro area. A certificate was presented to Lisa Freese, Scott County, upon her retirement after 18 years of service on the Technical Advisory Committee and TAC Planning Committee.
- MnDOT Report** – Sahebjam reported on statewide fatalities. As of October 14, there were 298 fatalities statewide (12 Bike, 35 Pedestrian, 53 Motorcycle, 12 ATV, 1 snowmobile) compared to 371 in 2024. Trending is that metro area continues to have about 1/3 of all statewide traffic fatalities, but about 2/3 of statewide pedestrian traffic fatalities. Metro District Freight plan public comment period is open until October 19. Link to comment here: [Metro District Freight Plan - Public comment | Let's Talk Transportation - MnDOT](#). Congress was unable to pass a fiscal year budget ("lapse of appropriations") by the end of September and entered a shutdown. FHWA and FTA continues to operate, other parts of USDOT are affected. Reimbursements to states for formula programs at FHWA and FTA continue as normal, since a full year of contract authority is available and since all FHWA and FTA personnel are all paid by means other than annual appropriations. Snow and ice season is approaching and MnDOT is wrapping up construction season but will continue to work as long as possible. An update on work on I-94 was requested.
- MPCA** – Kohlasch reported that the draft Climate Action Framework will be completed soon and release for public comment. 2026 Climate Action Framework information can be found on the website, <https://engage.eqb.state.mn.us/climate-action-framework-update>. The Governor's Advisory Council on Climate Change will review the draft on October 21. There is a chapter on clean transportation. MPCA is entering the final round of community resiliency grants. There are two grants; one for all communities in Minnesota (\$1.6 M available) and one for small communities under 10,000 population (\$1.1M available). These are for planning for climate resiliency, for wastewater infrastructure, storm water infrastructure, and broad general community resilience. This is the last round of funding. MPCA has granted more than \$94M total. There is a grant open for EV Fast Chargers along highway corridors through December 9 for \$1.89 million from the VW settlement. The settlement was for \$47M. By giving out the funding in phases interest accrued and the total given out will be \$52M. There are no funding challenges yet with the federal shutdown. MPCA grant and loan information can be found on the website, <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/business-with-us/grants-loans-and-contracts>.
- MAC Report** – Chair Hovland read written report submitted. October 15 and 16 are likely to be the 5th and 6th busiest days at MSP for the year, with more than 50,000 people expected to go through security each day. Sunday will also be extra busy, with an anticipated 48,000 travelers going through the checkpoints. Rick King will be retiring.

5. **Metropolitan Council** – Deb Barber reported that she will continue serving as the TAB representative while she is serving as interim Council chair. Metro Transit launched metro micro service in Blaine. Green Line Extension passed another milestone. Trains are out testing on the line.
6. **Suburban Transit Association** – Hansen reported Suburban transit providers' ridership continues to increase. Maple Grove Transit has scheduled extra trips to meet University of Minnesota ridership demand. Maple Grove Transit is considering feedback from a work session with the city council regarding potential service improvements resulting from its joint transit needs assessment study with Plymouth Metrolink. SouthWest Transit's fixed route and express ridership was up 26% last month from a year ago. SouthWest's autonomous vehicle ridership was up 20%. Minnesota Valley Transit Authority State Fair ridership increased 17% to a record nearly 150,000, and Renaissance Festival ridership was up more than 8% to nearly 54,000, also setting a record high. The Minnesota Public Transit Association recognized MVTA at its conference in Rochester on October 6 with its Management Innovation Award for the successful launch of MVTA's e-Jest electric vehicles used in Connect microtransit service. Former Council Chair Zelle was recognized as Friend of Transit.

Business

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

1. 2025-29: 2026-2029 Streamlined TIP Amendment Request – Reconnect Rondo's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program planning grant (October 27, 2025, Transportation Committee)

The Transportation Advisory Board recommended adoption of an amendment to the 2026-2029 TIP to add Reconnect Rondo's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program planning grant.

Information

1. Arterial Bus Rapid Transit Update

Kyle O'Donnell Burrow, Metro Transit, presented this item.

2. Travel Behavior Inventory Overview

Dennis Farmer, MTS, presented this item.

3. Regional Solicitation Evaluation Update

Policymaker Work Group met prior to TAB. The group discussed setting local match percentages for Active Transportation applications, the application schedule, the applications connection to the 2050 Transportation Policy Plan goals and objectives, and reviewed program performance measures and data tracking. There was discussion on the dedicated funding for ABRT. Considered setting a minimum of \$30M and discussed whether to set a maximum level to provide flexibility. The Work Group will continue discussion in November. There was discussion on community considerations, former equity category, and how they can best function. Conversation will continue on the measures. TAB will try to complete the work on the 2026 Solicitation by the end of December 2026.

Johnson reported on the Active Transportation Work Group. There is one more meeting in October. The group will be writing up notes on what items were not covered for the 2028 solicitation.

Link to October 15, 2025, TAB agenda and materials, [101525 Agenda - Transportation Advisory Board](#).