



# Minutes

Transportation Advisory Board

**Meeting date:** December 20, 2023

**Time:** 12:30 PM

**Location:** 390 Robert Street

## Members present:

Chair, James Hovland  
1st Vice Chair, Mark Windschitl  
2nd Vice Chair, Trista Martinson  
Doug Anderson  
Myron Bailey  
Deb Barber  
Sheila Kauppi  
Carl Crimmins  
Peter Dugan  
Amity Foster  
Chris Geisler  
Debbie Goettel  
Gary Hansen  
Mary Liz Holberg  
Mathews Hollinshead

Mitra Jalali  
Mark Jenkins  
Julie Jeppson  
Glen Johnson  
Stan Karwoski  
Frank Kohlasch  
~~Emily Koski~~ (Elliot Payne)  
Andy Lewis  
~~William Lindeke~~ (Rich Holst)  
~~Randy Maluchnik~~ (John Morast)  
Brian Martinson  
~~Becky Petryk~~

Jess Robertson  
George Schember  
Mark Steffenson  
Jon Ulrich  
Jeffery Weisensel  
~~Janet Williams~~  
~~Tom Workman~~

## Staff

Elaine Koutsoukos, TAB  
Jeni Hager, TAC  
Charles Carlson, MTS Director

## Call to order

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Hovland called the regular meeting of the Transportation Advisory Board to order at 12:34 p.m.

## Agenda approved

It was moved by Anderson, seconded by Goettel to approve the agenda. Committee members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda. **Motion carried.**

## Public invitation

There were no members of the public who wished to address the TAB.

## Reports

1. TAB Chair's Report – Chair Hovland reported on the Met Council Governance Task Force. They are holding listening sessions throughout the region. They are considering should the structure of the Metropolitan Council change, and, if so, how?

Hovland recognized outgoing TAB members Mat Hollinshead, Randy Maluchnik, Mitra Jalali, and alternates Stephanie Alexander and Evan Rowe. Hovland requested TAB members to indicate by the end of December, if they are interested in serving on the TAB Executive Committee in 2024. Positions are two County, one Minneapolis/St. Paul, two city, one citizen, and one modal or remaining Agencies.

At TAB Executive Committee, there was discussion on the formation of Policy Work Group and subject groups for the next Regional Solicitation. There was also discussion on forming an Active

Transportation subgroup made up of TAB and TAC members. This information will be presented at the January TAB meeting.

## 2. Agency Reports – MnDOT, MPCA, MAC, Metropolitan Council, STA

### MnDOT

Kauppi submitted a report that MnDOT is still in the process of formally announcing who the new District Engineer will be. We are hopeful that the announcement will be made in the next week & that the individual named will start in mid-January. The position that April Crockett had at MnDOT Metro District has been posted & that posting will close shortly after the start of the new year. In the interim, Brad Larsen will be filling that role & supporting the Metro Team.

### MPCA

Kohlasch reported that comments are currently being taken for the Volkswagen settlement spending, commenting available until January 15. That will plan how they spend the funds for the last part of the VW settlement. They are reviewing submissions they received for the Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation grant.

### MAC

Crimmins reported that this year projected passengers will be at 92 percent of the 2019 level. In 2024, they are projecting 98 percent. Aer Lingus is returning in April with flights to Dublin. Lufthansa is coming back in June with flights to Frankfurt. Sun Country has increased from 40 destinations a couple of years ago to 98 destinations now. There is a new additional cell phone lot on Post Road with 97 spaces. The Transportation Network Companies (TNC) have a new area for loading and unloading with 50 spaces. Terminal 2 is adding eleven gates in the next 10 years; two being added next year.

### Metropolitan Council

Barber reported on the TPP workgroup progress. Barber also noted that Metro Transit is implementing programs that came out of the transportation omnibus bill and the Met Council safety and security action plan. A new code of conduct has also been adopted including: administrative citations for unpaid fares, community and social services partnerships, and a TRIP contract. Finally, Barber reported that there has been an email about the Metropolitan Council's Regional Solicitation survey. The Met Council would like residents to be a part of making transportation investment decisions in the metropolitan area by providing feedback on how they would prioritize funding toward different categories of transportation projects. The budget exercise gives \$250 million to distribute across 11 transportation categories and is open through January 31.

### STA

Hansen reported that Demand for Maple Grove Transit MY RIDE microtransit service continues to grow. The goal is to expand service hours and area to help employers meet workforce transportation needs, but vehicle procurement challenges are slowing the delivery timeline, impacting expansion goals. Express ridership is slowly rebounding, but still below pre-pandemic levels, so service adjustments have been made. Two reverse commute express trips in the AM and two in the PM are being offered to help riders make first-mile/last-mile connections. SouthWest Transit will have record Prime microtransit ridership this year, expecting a 30% increase over last year. Express service ridership has grown 18% from last year. SouthWest will use grant funds for microtransit capital improvements to support future electrification of its fleet to meet sustainability goals. Minnesota Valley Transit Authority Connect ride-on-demand ridership continues to grow. In the spirit of the holiday season, MVTA conducted its annual Stuff the Bus campaign. Donations were collected over a two-week period at multiple grocery stores across the service area, resulting in a record amount of food and cash donations.

## Approval of minutes

It was moved by Lewis, seconded by Payne to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2023, regular meeting of the Transportation Advisory Board. **Motion carried.**

## **Consent business**

Consent business adopted

1. 2023-54: Streamlined TIP Amendment Request – Six Project Adjustments  
It was moved by Anderson, seconded by Geisler.
2. 2023-55: Streamlined TIP Amendment Request – Five New Projects and One Additional Funding

It was moved by Holberg, seconded by Martinson.

Dugan shared a comment on behalf of Windschitl.

Motion carried.

## **Non-consent business**

1. 2023-53: Review of Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) 2024-2030 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) (Joe Widing, MTS; Bridget Rief, MAC)

It was moved by Crimmins, seconded by Karwoski, that the Transportation Advisory Board recommend that the Metropolitan Council:

- find that the Metropolitan Airport Commission's CIP process included adequate public participation;
- approve the proposed 2024 CIP runway rehabilitation and extension project at the Lake Elmo Airport which meets the dollar threshold and significant effects criteria for Council approval; and
- find the remaining CIP projects to be consistent with the Transportation Policy Plan and forward any additional project comments to the Metropolitan Council for its consideration.

TAB members inquired about the community outreach and reception to the expansion. TAB members asked about the specific role of the TAB for the MAC CIP. State law requires the annual review to ensure it is in line with the regional plan.

Motion carried.

## **Information**

- 1. Carbon Reduction Program Toolkit (Amber Dallman, MnDOT)

TAB members discussed the proposed questions and the information they would still like to receive.

## **Items of TAB members**

TAB members discussed funds from the transportation bill and Director Carlson noted that the funds are held in the Council operating budget exclusively for TAB purposes.

## **Adjournment**

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 2:09 p.m.

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### **Council contact:**

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