

# Meeting Notes

2050 Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) Advisory Work Group



**Meeting Date:** February 17, 2023

**Time:** 10:00 AM

**Location:** Virtual

## Members Present:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chair, Deb Barber, Met Council	<input type="checkbox"/> Mitra Jalali, TAB, Saint Paul	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lesley Kandaras, Metro Transit
<input type="checkbox"/> John Pacheco, Met Council	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim Hovland, TAB, Chair/Edina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Fenley, alternate for David Dively, MN Council on Disability
<input type="checkbox"/> Debbie Goettel, TAB, Hennepin Co.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amity Foster, TAB, Transit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sheila Kauppi, MnDOT
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jon Ulrich, TAB, Scott Co.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Peter Dugan, TAB, Dist. H	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Todd Biewen, MPCA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stan Karwoski, TAB, Washington Co.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Christopher Geisler, TAB, Dist. E	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Luther Wynder, Suburban Transit Assoc.
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> = present

## Opening

Chair Deb Barber, Metropolitan Council, opened the meeting at 10:04 AM.

## Update on Regional Development Guide Values and Vision

Chair Barber, LisaBeth Barajas, Director of Community Development, and Michael Larson, Community Development, presented working statements of regional values and vision informally endorsed by the Met Council and described how they contribute to setting regional goals. Chair Barber detailed each of the statements, which are detailed in the information item.

Chris Geisler, TAB District E, asked why Stewardship was not included in the vision statements, noting the importance of our workforce. Chair Barber said there was conversation about this topic but was cut off by connectivity issues. LisaBeth Barajas said the Met Council sees this issue through the vision statement *Our Region is Equitable, Inclusive and Welcoming*, and mentioned work on the *Regional Economic Framework*. Mayor Jim Hovland, TAB Chair/City of Edina, requested inclusion of human resources in the *Stewardship* value statement and stated support for reflecting stewardship as a fifth vision statement. Chair Barber rejoined the meeting and mentioned the connection to stewardship in the *Our Communities are Healthy, Safe, and Vibrant* vision statement.

## Update on TPP Goals, Engagement & Review

Cole Hiniker, MTS Planning, presented an update on the TPP Goals, Engagement & Review study, presented materials similar to those at listening sessions, and provided an updated schedule of listening sessions.

Peter Dugan requested to confirm the time for the Transportation Advisory Board listening session.

Chris Geisler asked if the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan goal *Leveraging Transportation Investments to Guide Land Use* has a reciprocal goal in land use planning on transportation. Cole Hiniker mentioned that land use guidance is tied to transportation investments, but ultimately communities make land use decisions. LisaBeth Barajas said land use policy in *Thrive MSP 2040* promotes efficient use of land near existing transportation investments through a variety of ways. She said specifically there are density requirements along transitways. Mayor Hovland requested

that Elaine Koutsoukos share an existing resource on level of development around high frequency transit corridors. He mentioned the Federal Reserve's interest on this topic. LisaBeth Barajas followed up and mentioned that all communities with planned transitways have planned land use and zoning along transitways conforming with Met Council requirements. Chris Geisler said it is important to plan for all modes, not just transit, which may not serve all communities. Cole Hiniker mentioned that the Met Council has historically tied its land use planning authority to the wastewater system, and now the authority is used to support efficient use of transit investments. He acknowledged that tie to the highway system has not been clearly addressed. Chair Barber mentioned the Highway 212 project, the importance of freight projects, and how those do impact land use but may not have a direct tie.

Chair Barber asked Commissioner Jonathan Ulrich, Scott County, about his takeaways from the Scott County listening session. Commissioner Ulrich said it was a good process and he did not have any specific takeaways.

Commissioner Stan Karwoski, Washington County, asked who would be leading the listening sessions. Chair Barber said a consultant leads the session and some Met Council members and staff attend to listen. Commissioner Karwoski asked if the presentations could describe each county's relationship to the plan. Chair Barber said she saw this in the Scott County session, and said this comment is valuable as it helps inform investment conversations. Cole Hiniker said the presentations include description of the TPP's role and a slide describing that county's transportation plan goals.

Commissioner Ulrich said that transit is often thought in terms of getting people in and out of downtown, but in suburban communities they are seeing movement in microtransit. Chair Barber said this topic may be an element of plan strategies.

Elaine Koutsoukos, TAB Coordinator, asked how disparities in past investment are considered in this planning process. LisaBeth Barajas answered with appreciation for this comment.

Cole Hiniker said, referencing earlier comments on land use guidance, the Met Council's authority on greenhouse gas emissions is not strong in statute, and there is interest learning from community and stakeholders how to address this issue in regional policy. Chair Barber mentioned the Met Council's Climate Action Work Plan and state plans. Amity Foster, TAB Transit Modal Representative, asked which stakeholders need to provide that mandate. Cole Hiniker answered the Transportation Advisory Board, Met Council advisory committees, and the Met Council itself.

### **Transportation Needs Assessment**

Jonathan Ehrlich, MTS Planning, presented an update on this study, which will now be referenced with a plain-language name: Transportation Needs in Daily Life. He said this study is qualitative research to understand why and how residents of the region travel, to understand how the transportation system works for people in their terms.

Luther Wynder, Minnesota Valley Transit Authority, asked if the list of community-based organizations engaged could be shared for feedback. Jonathan Ehrlich said yes and MTS Planning has not yet run out of focus groups to schedule.

Amity Foster asked how MTS Planning is communicating with community organizations, if TAB members could be involved in outreach, and if the opportunity is being shared on social media. Jonathan Ehrlich said the consultant is doing outreach by phone and email, the bigger challenge has been scheduling than interest, and he will share this offer with the consultant. He said attendance has been 4-8 members with success so far, and the quality of conversation is a measure of success. He said there has not been mass social media promotion, but rather communication has been filtered through community organizations led by their needs and shared through their lists.

Mayor Hovland asked about the geographic spread of these focus groups, and mentioned areas like North Minneapolis. Chair Barber also asked how rural communities are being reached in these focus groups. Luther Wynder said relying on agencies and community based organizations may



keep the conversations small and miss some people, and he hopes there would be opportunities for large group sessions to get a cross-section of different views. Jonathan Ehrlich said there will be focus groups in a variety of locations. He said the study is not intended to be comprehensive, but rather to gather a cross section of different viewpoints.

### **Advisory Work Group This Year**

Cole Hiniker described upcoming work for the Advisory Work Group. He said 2023 will start focusing on developing plan content, beginning with goals, then moving to objectives, policies, and actions. He said each meeting will have a recap to describe how comments are influencing the draft documents, but he said the Met Council is receiving comments from many groups.

Peter Dugan, TAB District H, said he would like to attend the Dakota County listening session.

Chris Geisler asked how the equity consideration of working hours and physically arriving is addressed in outreach plans. Cole Hiniker, MTS Planning, answered there are limits to the Met Council reaching the full depth of comments as a regional government and that staff lean on the expertise of local governments. He said outreach events are set strategically within what can be reasonably accomplished while capturing broad perspectives.

Amity Foster, referencing the Transportation Needs in Daily Life study, said small group discussions in the evening can be helpful reaching transit riders and asked what tools the consultant is using to reach these groups. Jonathan Ehrlich said the focus groups are being held at many times of day for exactly these reasons.

Peter Dugan volunteered to assist with surveys.

Cole Hiniker mentioned ongoing outreach work by Metro Transit and suburban transit providers that will influence the Transportation Policy Plan.

Cole Hiniker said the work group should expect to see more content for review and some requests for additional feedback outside of the meeting. Chair Barber provided supportive comments. Charles Carlson, Director of Metropolitan Transportation Services, expressed appreciation for today's discussion.

### **Closing**

The work group closed at 11:18 PM.

---

#### **Council Contact:**

Jed Hanson, Planner, [jed.hanson@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:jed.hanson@metc.state.mn.us)

