

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD (TAB)

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Committee Members Present:

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Hovland, James (Chair)	Anderson, Doug	Bailey, Myron
Barber, Deb	Barnes, Michael	Boyles, Frank	Crimmins, Carl
Dugan, Peter	Foster, Amity	Fox, Nick	Geisler, Christopher
Goettel, Debbie	Giuliani Stephens, Mary	Hansen, Gary	Holberg, Mary Liz
Hollinshead, Mathews	Jeppson, Julie	Karwoski, Stan	Kealey, Dan
Lindeke, William	Look, Matt	McDonnell, Craig (Biewen, Todd)	McGuire, Mary Jo (MatasCastillo, Trista)
Narayanan, Ashwat	Reich, Kevin	Sanger, Sue	Schember, George
Steffenson, Mark	Tolbert, Chris	Ulrich, Jon	Williams, Janet
Windschitl, Mark	Workman, Tom		
ABSENT:	Petryk, Becky		
LIAISON/STAFF PRESENT:	Koutsoukos, Elaine TAB Coordinator	Solberg, Jon TAC Chair	Thompson, Nick MTS Director

I. CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Chair Hovland called the regular meeting of the Transportation Advisory Board to order at 12:31 p.m. on Wednesday, April 21, 2021.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:

There were no amendments to the agenda.

III. REPORTS

1. TAB Chair's Report

Hovland reported from the TAB Executive meeting shared that there is another round of federal funding coming to the MPO. There will be a Unique Projects meeting on Friday.

2. Agency Reports MnDOT, MPCA, MAC, and Metropolitan Council

MnDOT, Mike Barnes:

Barnes reported that construction season is starting. Barnes referred TAB members to the 511. Letters of support are being streamlined. The Transportation Economic Development program will open up this summer. TAC Chair Jon Solberg reported on COVID relief funds, MnDOT has broken the funds out to the various districts. Kealey asked about project management. Solberg said there was flexibility initially and with future funds the department may need to work with the legislature. Barnes added that the goal is to not get too many brand-new projects at the initial stage.

MPCA, Todd Biewen:

Biewen reported that TAB members will receive a factsheet summarizing the VW Settlement. Hollinshead asked about charger installation and maintenance. Biewen said the organization who installs stations is usually responsible for upkeep.

MAC, Carl Crimmins:

Crimmins reported that air traffic has improved up to 50% of the 2019 level. There is still a free, State of Minnesota COVID testing site at the airport, in addition to the one located in the secured

side of the airport. Kealey asked if tests are required before flights, even with a vaccination card. Crimmins said it is not an MSP requirement, but each individual airline and cities/countries have their own requirements since those who received the vaccination can still be carriers. Dugan asked about airlines inquiring about vaccinations in the future. The FAA is letting each airline make their own rules.

Metropolitan Council, Deb Barber:

Barber reported that transit is providing free rides for those who have vaccinations at the State Fair site. Buses are also being used for pop-up sites. Passenger limits have been increased and ridership remains steady. A mobility hub planning guide will be available in December as a resource. A microtransit project is launching this fall as well. There is an opening for the Metropolitan Council's Regional Administrator position. Kealey asked for clarification on the microtransit project. Narayanan asked if there is a way to provide feedback to the agency running the State Fair site. Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson said additional information is being put online shortly.

TAC, Jon Solberg:

Solberg reported that TAC discussed and approved the items before TAB today. There is discussion to revise TAC bylaws.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

Consent

Motion was made by Anderson, seconded by Boyles and carried, to approve the following consent items:

1. **Approval of Minutes from March 17, 2021**
2. **2021-16** 2021-2024 Streamlined TIP Amendment for MVTA: Burnsville Bus Garage Expansion

Motion: That the Transportation Advisory Board recommend adoption of an amendment to the 2021-2024 TIP to add a project expanding MVTA's Burnsville Bus Garage (TRS-TCMT-22E).

3. **2021-17** 2021-2024 Streamlined TIP Amendment for Metro Transit: Regional Transit Farebox Upgrades

Motion: That the Transportation Advisory Board recommend adoption of an amendment to the 2021-2024 TIP to add two projects replacing the fareboxes for the regional bus fleet (TRS-TCMT-22D and TRS-TCMT-23D).

Aye: 30 Anderson, Barber, Barnes, Biewen, Boyles, Crimmins, Dugan, Foster, Fox, Geisler, Giuliani Stephens, Goettel, Hansen, Holberg, Hollinshead, Jeppson, Karwoski, Kealey, Lindeke, Look, MatasCastillo, Narayanan, Reich, Sanger, Schember, Steffenson, Tolbert, Ulrich, Windschitl, Workman

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 Petryk

Not Recorded: 2 Bailey, Williams

Sanger asked why there are still fareboxes and why Metro Transit isn't moving to a cashless system. Barber said the decision to continue to take cash is to serve unbanked community members.

Non-Consent

1. 2021-15 Project Selection - 2020 Regional Solicitation Arterial Bus Rapid Transit Line

TAC Chair Jon Solberg presented this item.

Look asked where the \$25 million for the aBRT Line is coming from. Solberg replied that the funding was set aside in the 2020 Regional Solicitation for aBRT corridor development, with the selection of the specific line at this time. MatasCastillo, Reich, Hollinshead, and Goettel voiced appreciation for the work done on this project. Barber said this went through the Transportation Committee and full Council with overwhelming support and she thanked the TAB for the bold step made in this commitment to transit in the region. Lindeke asked about federal money uses. Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson shared that the aBRT project has been funded partially through state bonding. The new infrastructure bill is still being developed as well.

It was moved by MatasCastillo, seconded by Geisler that:

The Transportation Advisory Board award \$25 million identified in the 2020 Regional Solicitation to the METRO F Line along current Route 10 from Downtown Minneapolis to Northtown Mall via Central Avenue and University Avenue.

Motion carried.

Aye: 30 Anderson, Barber, Barnes, Biewen, Boyles, Crimmins, Dugan, Foster, Fox, Geisler, Giuliani Stephens, Goettel, Hansen, Holberg, Hollinshead, Jeppson, Karwoski, Kealey, Lindeke, Look, MatasCastillo, Narayanan, Reich, Sanger, Schember, Steffenson, Tolbert, Ulrich, Windschitl, Workman
Nay: 0
Absent: 1 Petryk
Not Recorded: 2 Bailey, Williams

V. INFORMATION

1. Community-Based Coalition Work to Advance Regional Equity

Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Heidi Schallberg and The Alliance Executive Director Joo Hee Pomplun presented this item.

Goettel voiced appreciation for the scorecard shared. Karwoski said he would like a rating system that factors in the benefit of roads for the community and it may look different across the counties.

2. RBTN and Bike Barriers Update Processes

This item was deferred to a future meeting.

3. Electric Vehicle Study

This item was deferred to a future meeting.

VI. ITEMS OF TAB MEMBERS

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Jenna Ernst
Recording Secretary