

# Minutes

Transportation Advisory Board



**Meeting date:** February 21, 2024

**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  
Husniyah Bradley  
Kevin Burkart)  
Aurin Chowdhury (Katie  
Cashman)  
Carl Crimmins  
Peter Dugan  
Jon Fahey  
Amity Foster

Chris Geisler  
Debbie Goettel  
Gary Hansen  
Mary Liz Holberg  
~~Mark Jenkins~~  
Julie Jeppson  
Glen Johnson  
Stan Karwoski  
Hwa Jeong Kim  
Frank Kohlasch  
~~William Lindeke~~ (Rich Holst)  
John Morast  
Brian Martinson  
Becky Petryk

~~Jess Robertson~~  
Khani Sahebjam  
George Schember  
Mark Steffenson  
Jon Ulrich  
Christopher Vaughn  
Jeffery Weisensel

## 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 12:33 p.m.

## Agenda approved

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

## Public invitation

There was no member of the public who wished to speak.

## Reports

### 1. TAB Chair's Report – Jim Hovland

Hovland welcomed Kevin Burkhart, Prior Lake, appointed by Metro Cities to fill position vacated by Janet Williams. reported on the Executive Committee meeting. Mark Windschitl was selected 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chair and Debbie Goettel was selected 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair for 2024. Peter Dugan was appointed TAB Liaison to the Metropolitan Council's Transportation Committee. The June TAB meeting falls on the 19<sup>th</sup>, Juneteenth holiday. The TAB meeting is rescheduled for June 12, if a meeting is needed. Hovland asked TAB members to let Elaine Koutsoukos know if they are interested in having a future meeting or tour at MSP airport. Hovland reported that the Metropolitan Council Governance Committee forwarded all ideas to the MN Legislature.

### 2. Agency Reports – MnDOT, MPCA, MAC, Metropolitan Council, Suburban Transit Providers

#### MnDOT

Sahebjam reported that Duluth received \$1 billion for the \$1.8 billion Blatnik Bridge project. This allows District 1 to go forward on the project without relying on the Metro District and other

districts to juggle funding to help advance the District 1 large projects.

#### MPCA

Kohlasch reported that the MPCA is near completion on the Priority Climate Action Plan. The Plan is due March 1. Working on implementation grants; just under \$200 million will be available to seven agencies, focusing on climate smart food product distribution. Tracking with EPA on vehicle emission standards for 2027 and beyond.

#### MAC

Crimmins reported that MSP passenger traffic increased 11 percent in 2023 or 2022; part of the growth is driven by a 47 increase in international passengers. Delta Airlines was named top airline of 2023 by the Wall Street Journal. Delta received Global Industry award; the first US airline to receive the Cirium's on-time performance in more than a decade, with just under 85% on-time performance. Reliever airport operations increased 8.3 percent. The FAA will be holding public workshops this summer on new airplane departure procedures. The FAA website for more info is: [https://www.faa.gov/air\\_traffic/community\\_engagement/msp](https://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/community_engagement/msp). The FAA wants to start these new procedures in 2025.

#### Metropolitan Council

Barber reported on two recent presentations at the Transportation Committee (2023 year-end ridership and the last safety and security action plan quarterly update). Ridership is up 16 percent. The D Line corridor (D Line and Route 5) ridership is up 87 percent. TAB contributed \$27 million of the \$74 million project that is providing almost 4 million rides a year. On the safety side, there is an increase officer initiated calls due to increased police presence on the light rail system. Crime is down 25 percent, while it was up 19 percent last year. Great Week in Transit activities continue.

#### Suburban Transit Providers

Hansen reported Maple Grove Transit express ridership is slowly growing. MYRIDE microtransit service remains strong, and capacity, service area, and service hour expansion are being considered. Small bus procurement remains a high priority. The agency is planning significant transit station maintenance and repair and considering digital information and signage enhancements. Minnesota Valley Transit Authority is working on plans to expand Connect microtransit services later this year or early in 2025. If the Metropolitan Council allocates sustainable operating funding from regional sales tax receipts, those vehicles likely will be used to expand service into Scott County. MVTA is considering possible TOD concepts for the Burnsville Transit Station site (housing and retail concepts in addition to the planned mobility hub). Starting in mid-March, MVTA will reintroduce its seasonal 4FUN Bus that connects MOA, Burnsville Transit Station, Valleyfair (when open), Canterbury Park, and Mystic Lake. Twin Cities Premium Outlets in Eagan will be added this year. This is a productive suburb-to-suburb service that MVTA will consider making a regular year-round service if ridership continues to grow like it did in 2023. SouthWest Transit ridership in 2023 grew 20% over 2022. January 2024 ridership was up 10% over January 2023. SWT's new Director of Operations is Stephanie Alexander, a former TAB transit alternate. Stephanie previously was the Executive Director of WeCab.

#### 3. TAC Report – Jeni Hager, TAC Chair

Hager reported that a technical work group is has been meeting to review the Scope Change Policy and the Program Year Policy.

#### Approval of minutes

It was moved by Anderson, seconded by Bailey to approve the amended minutes of the January 17, 2024, regular meeting of the Transportation Advisory Board. **Motion carried.**

#### Consent business

Consent business adopted



1. 2024-12: Streamlined TIP Amendment Request – Three Project Adjustments (Jeni Hager, TAC Chair)

It was moved by Windschitl, seconded by Bradley.

Motion carried.

## Non-consent business

1. 2024-07: Review of Minneapolis-St Paul International Airport (MSP) 2040 Long Term Comprehensive Plan (LTCP) (Jeni Hager, TAC Chair)

It was moved by Crimmins, seconded by Windschitl, that the Transportation Advisory Board recommend that the Metropolitan Council: Find that the Final Draft MSP International Airport 2040 LTCP has a multi-city impact as well as conforms to the Council systems and is consistent with Council policies.

Members discussed the measuring and reporting of emissions and the impact of the MSP Airport growth impacting local municipalities and transportation systems. MAC Planner Eric Gilles shared that the long-term sustainability workgroup could come before the TAB to share in more detail.

Motion carried.

2. 2024-05: Scope Change Request for Saint Louis Park Cedar Lake Road and Louisiana Avenue Improvements Project (Jeni Hager, TAC Chair)

It was moved by Windschitl, seconded by Goettel, that the Transportation Advisory Board approve Saint Louis Park's scope change request to remove Louisiana Avenue cycle track improvements from its Cedar Lake Road and Louisiana Avenue Improvements project (SP # 163-296-006 / 163-296-007) with no reduction in federal funds.

Goettel and Windschitl voiced support for both the scope change and funding change. Martinson stated he viewed this as a lower-quality project when considering the deviation from biker's current routes. Director Heiser shared the community engagement in support of this change. Members discussed the evaluation of trees and the priorities of bikers.

Motion carried.

3. 2024-08: Program Year Extension Request: Oakdale's Greenway Avenue North Sidewalk Project (Jeni Hager, TAC Chair)

It was moved by Karwoski, seconded by Bailey, that the Transportation Advisory Board approve Oakdale's requested extension of its Greenway Avenue North sidewalk project (SP# 185-236-003) from fiscal year 2024 to fiscal year 2025.

Motion carried.

4. 2024-09: Program Year Extension Request: Anoka's 44th Avenue Bridge Bike/Pedestrian Trail Project (Jeni Hager, TAC Chair)

It was moved by Jeppson, seconded by Petryk, that the Transportation Advisory Board approve Anoka County's requested extension of its 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue Bridge bike/pedestrian trail project (SP# 002-602-015) from 2024 to 2025.

Motion carried.

5. 2024-10: Scope Change Request MnDOT TH 65 Bumpout and Bikeway Project (Jeni Hager, TAC Chair)

It was moved by Martinson, seconded by Foster, that the Transportation Advisory Board approve MnDOT's scope change request to add protected bike lanes to TH 65 (3rd Ave S) between 2nd Street and Washington Avenue.

Motion carried.



## Information

1. Transportation Funding Overview (Amy Vennewitz, MTS)

This item was deferred to the April meeting.

## Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 2:38 p.m.

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### Council contact:

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