

# Minutes

Transportation Advisory Board



**Meeting date:** January 15, 2025

**Time:** 12:30 PM

**Location:** 390 Robert Street

**Members present:**

Chair, James Hovland  
Doug Anderson  
Myron Bailey  
~~Deb Barber~~ (Reva Chamblis)  
Husniyah Bradley  
~~Aurin Chowdhury~~  
~~Carl Crimmins~~  
Peter Dugan  
Don Do  
Amity Foster  
Debbie Goettel  
Gary Hansen

Mary Liz Holberg  
Taylor Hubbard  
Mark Jenkins  
Julie Jeppson  
Glen Johnson  
Stan Karwoski  
~~HwaJeong Kim~~  
Frank Kohlasch  
Victor Lake  
William Lindeke  
John Morast  
Brian Martinson  
~~Becky Petryk~~

Jess Robertson  
Khani Sahebjam  
George Schember  
Mark Steffenson  
Jon Ulrich  
Christopher Vaughan  
~~Jeffery Weisensel~~  
Tom Workman  
Mai Chong Xiong

**Staff**

Elaine Koutsoukos, TAB  
Joe MacPherson, 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.

**Approval of agenda and minutes**

It was moved by Anderson, seconded by Goettel to approve the agenda and the minutes of the December 18, 2024, regular meeting of the Transportation Advisory Board. **Motion carried.**

**Public invitation**

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

**Reports**

1. TAB Chair's Report – Jim Hovland reported that the Regional Solicitation Evaluation Policymaker Workgroup met prior to TAB. Hovland welcomed new TAB members: Mai Xiong Chong, Ramsey County; Victor Lake (Prior Lake) and Taylor Hubbard (Chaska) appointed by Metro Cities; and Don Do (TAB District E) and Kevin Burkhart (TAB District B alternate), appointed by Metropolitan Council. Hovland recognized Todd Biewen for his six service as the MPCA TAB alternate. The certificate was accepted by Frank Kohlasch.
2. Agency Reports – MnDOT, MPCA, MAC, Metropolitan Council, Suburban Transit Providers  
MnDOT

Sahebjam reported that the unofficial total fatalities statewide in 2024 was 471, with 130 in the metro area. Of the 130 fatalities, 53 were on the TH system and the rest on the local system; 33 were drug/alcohol related, and 28 speed related. In 2025, there have been 11

fatalities to date.

## MPCA

Kohlasch reported that MPCA has closed the diesel emissions reduction act grant. MN has been chosen by EPA to receive a \$5 million grant to fund 19 electric school buses and will supplement that with VW funds to deploy additional electric school buses in the state. They are preparing a VW settlement RFP to replace diesel switcher locomotives. For the Volkswagen program, MPCA continues to manage 700 projects across MN implemented over eight years. The Climate Subcabinet working on the Climate Action Framework Update for 2025. MnDOT is leading the stakeholder input process for the Transportation chapter of the Climate Action Framework. On December 30 MPCA and the Department of Commerce will release the GHG Emissions Inventory Report, with data compiled through 2022. Transportation remains the highest GHG emitting sector in Minnesota. The retirement party for Todd Biewen will be at MPCA St. Paul office on January 30 in the afternoon. Contact Kohlasch for additional details.

## MAC

Rief reported that CEO Brian Ryks will be presenting at the Metropolitan Council on January 22 on the status of MAC and MSP. He will present on the latest in operations and routes, sustainability efforts, and other items. Terminal 2 passenger numbers continue to surpass previous numbers. Overall, they haven't reached pre-covid numbers; they don't expect to pass previous numbers until 2026. Operation numbers (takeoffs and landings) continue to go down, as airlines use larger aircraft.

## Metropolitan Council

Chamblis reported that USDOT announced federal Charging and Fueling Infrastructure grant awards. Metropolitan Council was awarded \$15 million grant for EV charging stations in the region. Development of a program to deploy funds will begin along with the Regional Solicitation development. This award was part of \$90 million projects awarded in the region, including projects in Fridley, St. Paul, MnDOT, Minneapolis, Carver County, Anoka, Reconnect Rondo, and the Sioux Community. Metro Transit began service in two new microtransit zones, serving the Roseville and Woodbury areas.

## Suburban Transit Providers

Hansen reported Maple Grove Transit and Plymouth Metrolink expect to have results from their joint transit study within the next few weeks. Minnesota Valley Transit Authority observed ribbon cuttings on January 9 in Shakopee and Prior Lake hosted by local chambers of commerce to celebrate expansion of Connect microtransit service to those areas beginning on January 13. MVTA is working with Canterbury Park to finalize event shuttle services for the Canterbury Park Social District and to provide overflow parking shuttles when large events occur at the park's new 19,000-seat amphitheater that will host its first concert in August. SouthWest Transit reported a more than 20% increase in ridership over the prior year. SouthWest is working on fixed route service to the Mall of America and the airport, and continues to sort through regulatory matters to launch autonomous vehicle service.

3. TAC Report – Joe MacPherson, TAC Chair, reported that TAC met on January 8 as a follow-up to the December 18 TAB workshop. TAC Executive Committee selected Molly McCartney, MnDOT, as TAC vice-chair, Jim Kosluchar, Fridley, as chair of TAC Funding & Programming Committee, and Gina Mitteco, Dakota County, as chair of TAC Planning Committee.

## Consent business

### Consent business adopted

1. 2025-03: Streamlined 2025-2028 TIP Amendment – MnDOT's I-94 & I-35E Bridge Improvements Project Cost Reduction
2. 2025-04: Streamlined 2025-2028 TIP Amendment – MnDOT's Section 5310 Bus Purchases

It was moved by Karwoski, seconded by Bradley.

**Motion carried.**

## Non-consent business

### 1. 2025-01: TAB Executive Committee (*Jim Hovland, TAB Chair*)

It was moved by Martinson, seconded by Bailey, that the Transportation Advisory Board approve the Executive Committee for 2025.

The committee shall be composed of ten Board members as follows:

- the Board Chair – Jim Hovland
- the Member representing the MnDOT – Khani Sahebjam
- the Member representing the Metropolitan Council – Deb Barber
- two members representing the county Board members – Debbie Goettel (Hennepin County) and Mary Liz Holberg (Dakota County)
- one member representing the Board members from the cities of the first class – Aurin Chawdhury (Minneapolis)
- two members representing the Board members from the remaining cities – Victor Lake (Prior Lake) and Mark Steffenson (Maple Grove)
- one member representing the citizen Board members (Peter Dugan)
- one member representing the modal and remaining agency Board members – Chris Vaughan (transit)

**Motion carried.**

### 2. 2025-02: Adoption of Imagine 2050 Transportation Policy Plan and Public Comment Report (*Jed Hanson, MTS*)

It was moved by Jenkins, seconded by Anderson, that the Transportation Advisory Board recommend that the Metropolitan Council adopt the Imagine 2050 Transportation Policy Plan (see attachments linked in the agenda).

**Motion carried.**

## Information

### 1. Regional Solicitation Evaluation

Hovland reported on the Policymaker Workgroup that met prior to TAB. Steve Peterson provided an update on the outcomes of the Regional Solicitation Evaluation workshop. Joe MacPherson provided feedback from the TAC meeting. The Policymaker Workgroup will next meet on February 19 prior to the TAB Executive Committee meeting. TAB members requested a copy of the presentation that was discussed at the Working Group meeting, information on historical geographical distribution of regional solicitation funding, and examples of goals-based approach applications from other regions. TAB Members discussed intent, geographic balance, equity, and gave feedback.

### 2. ABRT Update (Katie Roth and Kyle O'Donnell Burrows, Metro Transit)

TAB Members asked about current and potential routes.

### 3. Minneapolis Vision Zero (Ethan Fawley, Minneapolis)

Valuable steps for traffic safety include setting a clear safety goal, create a Safety Action Plan, and prioritize safety in decision-making. In Minneapolis, speeding is a challenge. In 69% of fatalities in 2024, speeding was a factor. Reduce dangerous speeding with street designs. Minneapolis is planning to launch a traffic safety camera pilot on or after August 1, 2025. TAB Members discussed the increase of pedestrian fatalities.



## Items of TAB members

### Other business

Chair Hovland shared the impact of the E Line on local businesses.

### Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 2:43 p.m.

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### Council contact:

Jenna Ernst, Recording Secretary

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