

Minutes

Transportation Advisory Board



Meeting date: November 20, 2024

Time: 12:30 PM

Location: 390 Robert Street

Members present:

Chair, James Hovland
1st Vice Chair, Mark Windschitl
2nd Vice Chair, Debbie Goettel
Doug Anderson
~~Myron Bailey (Steve Dennis)~~
Deb Barber
~~Husniyah Bradley (Andy Lewis)~~
~~Kevin Burkart (Victor Lake)~~
~~Aurin Chowdhury (Katie Cashman)~~
Carl Crimmins
Peter Dugan
John Fahey
Amity Foster
Chris Geisler

Gary Hansen
Mary Liz Holberg
Mark Jenkins
Julie Jeppson
Glen Johnson
Stan Karwoski
~~HwaJeong Kim (Saura Jost)~~
~~Frank Kohlasch (Todd Biewen)~~
~~William Lindeke (Rich Holst)~~
John Morast
Brian Martinson
Mary Jo McGuire
Becky Petryk

Jess Robertson
~~Khani Sahebjam (Sheila Kauppi)~~
George Schember
Mark Steffenson
Jon Ulrich
Christopher Vaughan
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 12:35 p.m.

Agenda approved

It was moved by Anderson, seconded by Windschitl 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 – Jim Hovland

Hovland reported that TAB will be selecting the TAB Executive Committee membership at the January TAB meeting to serve in 2025. TAB members interested in serving on the TAB Executive Committee in 2025 email their interest to Elaine Koutsoukos.

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

Kauppi reported that it is now snow and ice season. 511 is a good resource to find out travel conditions of roads. As of November 19, there were 409 fatalities compared to 402 in 2023;

39 pedestrian fatalities, six bike crashes that resulted in fatalities, motorcycle crashes are 18 percent of all crashes with 74 fatalities. ATVs are 7 percent of the crashes. Looking forward to partnering with the Metropolitan Council on the Regional Safety Action Plan. Recently had a Toward Zero Death (TZD) Conference.

MPCA

Biewen reported MPCA has a number of grants to help prepare communities for climate change impacts and take climate action. RFPs that are currently open are resilience planning grants, implementation grants for community resilience, and local climate action grants. Learn more about the RFPs and what is eligible here, [Grants to prepare Minnesota for climate change | Minnesota Pollution Control Agency](#). Biewen will be retiring in early 2025. MAC

Rief reported that they are anticipating elevated activity at the airport with the approaching holidays. MAC will be kicking off a series of Surprise and Delight events at MSP. The events are coordinated with their Strategy and Stakeholder Engagement staff and with the Airport Foundation. The MAC CIP will come before TAB in December for approval. MAC held a second annual construction progress preview meeting, where they invite contractors (prime, sub, TGB, DBE) to come in to hear what projects they are doing, so that they can prepare and plan on what projects they want to bid on. They had 180 people participate in the meeting. They have an accessibility program at the airport with IRA that assists sight impaired via phone or glasses with camera travel through the airport. The hours of service are being expanded to 24 hours. Will be enhancing signage to the cell phone lots in 2025. Metropolitan Council

Barber reported that the Federal Highway and Federal Transit Administrations conducted a Planning Certification Review Wednesday and Thursday of last week.

- This is required of all MPOs with a population greater than 200,000 every four years.
- During the review the federal agencies examine our transportation planning process and ensure we are adhering to federal requirements. All aspects of the transportation planning process are examined.

Federal partners may issue:

- A recommendation, areas that the MPO could consider altering or improving upon
- A commendation, areas where the MPO is performing exceptional work that is often considered a best practice nationally
- A corrective action, areas in which the MPO are not meeting minimum federal requirements and must make immediate changes

Preliminary Findings:

- There were NO corrective actions.
- Eight work efforts receiving potential commendations included many items familiar to TAB:
 - The TIP online interactive map
 - The establishment of a Travel Demand Management program and hiring of a program manager
 - Our work with tribal officials and the hiring of a tribal liaison
 - The Council's Title II online submittal and LEP call system, which has six different language options
 - Our equity related planning and outreach efforts, including the equity heat maps included in the 2050 TPP and the work performed by the Equity Policy Group
 - Our Congestion Management Process activities
 - Our strong partnership with MnDOT
 - The Financial Plan within our TPP
 - Among five potential recommendations is a need to formally approve a Metropolitan Planning Area Boundary:
 - This boundary is related to the Smoothed urban area boundary was approved by the Council in September of 2023 after recommendation by TAB.
 - By state law, the Council must include all seven counties in its MPO Planning Area



Boundary.

- MPA must include at least all urban areas identified by the U.S. Census Bureau and the smoothed urban area boundary.
- The MPA boundary thus includes the seven-county area plus the urbanized areas of Wright and Sherburne counties.
- The Council will adopt this map on December 11. Because the areas included have either already been recommended by TAB (urban area) or are required by state law (planning area), the Council will take quick action to adopt the map so it can be complete when the federal agencies prepare their certification report in 2025.

We'll share this update with the TAC and its subcommittees. As the review is completed and reported, we will bring additional details to the TAB.

The Metropolitan Council will be recruiting for four TAB citizen member positions in Districts E, F, G, and H, whose terms are up at the end of the year. Applications should be submitted by December 13. Transit fares will be reduced on January 1 to \$2.00 for regular service bus, BRT, and LRT. It is a fare simplification removing different fare for peak service, as transit ridership has smoothed throughout the day.

Suburban Transit Providers

Hansen reported

Maple Grove Transit and Plymouth Metrolink are proceeding with their joint transit study to improve service connections in the northwest metro. Minnesota Valley Transit Authority is one of five agencies selected by the Federal Transit Administration to participate in its Environmental and Sustainability Management System training and technical assistance program. MVTA will benefit from virtual training workshops, on-site technical support visits, and access to forms, templates, and expert consultation to help develop a program at the Eagan Bus Garage. MVTA has received delivery of five e-Jest electric buses to help meet growing demand for Connect microtransit service. These are MVTA's first electric buses to go into regular service, which is expected to start next month. SouthWest Transit reported that ridership is up 25% overall from last year, driven by special events service. SouthWest's autonomous vehicle service is expected to launch within a few weeks.

3. TAC Report – Jeni Hager, TAC Chair

Hager reported on the upcoming TAC Chair selection.

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Anderson, seconded by Goettel to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2024, regular meeting of the Transportation Advisory Board. **Motion carried.**

Consent business

Consent business adopted

1. 2024-46: 2025-2028 Streamlined TIP Amendment: Six 2024 Regional Solicitation Projects
2. 2024-47: 2025-2028 Streamlined TIP Amendment: Rest in Red Ramsey County Traffic Signal Proof of Concept Project

It was moved by Martinson, seconded by Goettel.

Members discussed the Rest in Red projects nationally.

Motion carried.

Non-consent business

1. 2024-48: Regional Significant 2025-2028 TIP Amendment – I-494 E-ZPass Extension and Improvements (*Jeni Hager, TAC Chair*)

It was moved by Goettel, seconded by Johnson, that the Transportation Advisory Board recommend adoption of an amendment to the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add a regionally significant project to extend E-ZPass, reconstruct mainline pavement, improve drainage, rehabilitation bridges, and add ADA improvements on I-494 from Penn Avenue to 34th Avenue, I-494 from US 169 to MN 100, and I-35W from 86th St to 76th Street for the purpose of release for public comment.

Motion carried.

Information

1. Regional Solicitation Evaluation Updates
 - Policymaker Workgroup (*Jim Hovland, TAB Chair*)
 - Active Transportation Workgroup (*Glen Johnson, Chair*)
2. Target Setting: Minnesota Greenhouse Gas Reduction Legislation (*Anna Pierce, MnDOT*)

MnDOT presented information on 26 potential GHG levers, or actions, and asked to prioritize their top 10. TAB members asked clarifying questions about scope and impact. TAB recommended a letter be drafted to MnDOT expressing concerns regarding priorities or mitigation actions that were not included on the list and/or that are not able to be included in the GHG reduction model
3. 2050 Transportation Policy Plan Public Comments (*Jed Hanson, MTS*)

Items of TAB members

Add recap of discussion.

Other business

Add recap of discussion.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 2:23 p.m.

Council contact:

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