

Meeting Notes

2050 TPP Technical Working Group



Meeting Date: March 9, 2023

Time: 1:35 PM

Location: Virtual

Members Present:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 7W - Andrew Whitter | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council, Research - Todd Graham | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Move Minneapolis - Karl Hedlund, alternate for Tiffany Orth |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anoka Co - Jack Forslund | <input type="checkbox"/> Metropolitan Airports Commission - Bridget Rief | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ramsey Co - Scott Mareck (Chair) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Burnsville - Regina Dean | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Metro Transit - Steve Mahowald | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> St. Francis - Kate Thunstrom |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carver Co – Jack Johansen, alternate for Angie Stenson (Vice Chair) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minneapolis - Kelsey Fogt | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> St. Paul - Bill Dermody |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chanhassen - Charlie Howley | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DEED - Ed Hodder | <input type="checkbox"/> Stillwater - Tim Gladhill |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coon Rapids - Tim Himmer | <input type="checkbox"/> MDH - Ellen Pillsbury | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Co - Nathan Abney |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dakota Co - Gina Mitteco | <input type="checkbox"/> DNR - Nancy Spooner-Walsh | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Suburban Transit Assoc - Grace Almeida |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FHWA - Josh Pearson | <input type="checkbox"/> MnDOT Freight - Andrew Andrusko | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TAB Coordinator - Elaine Koutsoukos |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hennepin Co - KC Atkins | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MnDOT Metro District - Michael Corbett | <input type="checkbox"/> TAC Chair - Jenifer Hager |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council Community Development - Michael Larson | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MnDOT OTSM - Joe Klein | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TC Shared Mobility Collaborative – Will Schroeer |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council MTS - Dave Burns | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MnDOT Sustainability - Nissa Tupper | <input type="checkbox"/> UMN CTS - Kyle Shelton |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council, MTS Planning Director - Amy Vennewitz | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MnDOT Traffic Safety - Derek Leuer | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Washington Co - Sara Allen |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Council, Parks - Emmett Mullin | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MPCA - Innocent Eyoh | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> West Saint Paul - Ross Beckwith |
| | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> = present |

Opening

Chair Scott Mareck, Ramsey County, opened the meeting at 1:35 p.m. and reminded members of virtual meeting norms.

Standing Briefing on TPP Advisory Work Group

Cole Hiniker, MTS Planning, previewed the agenda for the upcoming TPP Advisory Work Group meeting and said they are hearing items the Technical Working Group has previously seen in some form.

TPP Map Needs for Local Planning

Jed Hanson, MTS Planning, reminded members to respond to the survey collecting feedback on TPP maps and for members to share the survey with their colleagues.

2050 TPP Listening Sessions Summary and Next Steps

Cole Hiniker introduced guest presenters from the consultant teams engaging stakeholders on the Transportation Policy Plan Goals.

Goals Review, Engagement & Update Study

Craig Vaughn, TC², and Katie Caskey, HDR, summarized findings from the listening sessions focused on government agencies. They presented an overview of themes, directed members to review the meeting materials for detailed topical summaries, and described upcoming workshops in the second phase of engagement.

Chair Mareck said that at some point there needs to be a discussion to identify which are regional priorities versus local priorities.

Innocent Eyoh, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, asked about how state goals will be considered in goal setting, specifically regarding those related to climate change, and mentioned upcoming EPA rulemaking on air quality standards. Cole Hiniker said that in some cases state guidance will give strong direction, though regional considerations will be taken into account.

Cole Hiniker said that there is some contrast between the feedback heard in government listening sessions and in the work described in the next presentation.

Equity Engagement Themes

Stephanie Devitt and Catherine Penkert, SDK Communications, summarized findings from interviews, listening sessions, and surveys targeted to equity- and topic-focused groups. They described the audiences engaged, key thematic findings with supporting quotations, and analysis on the Met Council's perceived role in transportation.

Chair Mareck said the bullet on accountability and measurement resonated with him, and said it has been a theme this past year, will be considered in the Regional Solicitation Evaluation, and that he encourages tying goals to performance measurement.

Todd Graham, Community Development – Research, asked if any of the feedback addressed demographic changes and an aging population. Stephanie Devitt answered these topics did come up and they spoke to ten individuals working on aging and disabilities through interviews or listening sessions. In these conversations, some topics included transit service, transportation access, and housing choice challenges like needing to drive in suburban or exurban areas where older adults may be downsizing. Catherine Penkert said they heard people thinking about demographic shifts, the need to explicitly name racial equity as a strong priority amid increasing racial diversity, and the potential for climate migration from other areas and associated welcoming needs.

Next Steps, Drafting Approach, and Relationship to Policies & Actions

Cole Hiniker explained progress on goals development and next steps in the process. Thematic engagement is substantially complete, with work shifting to developing potential goal statements and prioritizing those goals, which will result in draft goals. He explained that Transportation Policy Plan goals serve two purposes: to provide regional investment direction and to inform comprehensive planning and planning practice. He described the progress of goals against the whole TPP schedule and how it relates to policies and actions development, and provided several examples that show how goals elaborate into objectives, policies, and actions.

KC Atkins, Hennepin County, asked how the Met Council will determine primary and secondary goals. Cole Hiniker answered that the upcoming workshops will help prioritize goals. The workshops will invite everyone from the first phase to participate, and a survey will be sent too. He said the goal prioritization will also consider the regional values and vision statements.

Update on Policies & Actions Review

Bethany Brandt-Sargent, MTS Planning, presented an update on Policies & Actions review and development. She briefly summarized feedback received via Policy Review Forms to date, though noted the feedback received was limited to a few member organizations. She said the Met Council would continue to accept feedback on these forms through May 1st. She prompted feedback on the proposed Policy Development Teams of technical experts to draft recommended policies, later workshops with the Technical Working Group to refine draft policies and actions, and the proposed process for policy development.

Chair Mareck thanked staff for thinking of an intentional and collaborative process for policy development.

Cole Hiniker noted the limited response to the proposal and requested feedback confirming support for the approach. A few members used Teams reactions or chat messages to indicate support. Chair Mareck said that staff will assume silence indicates support of what was presented.

Cole Hiniker said that staff will try to use existing groups to the extent possible to avoid creating extra meetings, and mentioned the Regional Safety Action Plan study as an example.

Gina Mitteco, Dakota County, asked for clarification on time commitment. Bethany Brandt-Sargent said it is difficult to put exact hours on it, and that to the extent possible this work will use existing groups, but for new contributors it may be around thirty hours over the next six months depending on needs and pacing of work.

Scenario Planning Update

Baris Gumus-Dawes, Community Development – Research, and Dennis Farmer, Community Development – Research and MTS Planning, presented results from scenario planning forecasts, including transportation-specific measures.

Amy Vennewitz, MTS Planning, asked for clarification about the ability to isolate the effect of growth and compactness in the measures. Dennis Farmer said looking at the differences between scenario results may be a rough way of considering the range of effect.

KC Atkins asked for this information to be presented in terms of percent difference from the business-as-usual scenario. Dennis Farmer responded with some rough percentages. She also said via chat that it would be helpful for the magnitude of high and low assumptions relative to the business-as-usual scenario to be displayed on charts, as they are not one-to-one comparisons. Amy Vennewitz agreed and asked to clarify the impact of compact versus dispersed growth separate from the uncertainty of population growth.

Chair Mareck asked for clarification on the use of scenario plannings, specifically asking if the Met Council is going to select one of these scenarios for the 2050 Transportation Policy Plan or if this is an exercise. Dennis Farmer said this is a tool for looking at different outcomes for regional systems that may change due to factors the Met Council cannot control. Chair Mareck asked how scenarios will be used in the comprehensive planning process. Baris Gumus-Dawes said the scenarios may inform how the Met Council uses land use and transportation policy to steer regional outcomes towards the regional vision statements. She said that does not mean selecting a particular scenario, but it provides a what-if exercise for considering policies and coordinating across regional systems.

Cole Hiniker said that high and compact growth has the best outcomes in the transportation measures, but asked if there were any measures that were missing. KC Atkins said via chat that housing affordability will need to be considered, as home prices will need to be affordable in the compact area if the plan directs towards a high and compact scenario. Baris Gumus-Dawes said there are housing, parks, water, and other system measures that policies will need to consider in pursuit of desirable outcomes and addressing paired undesirable outcomes. She asked members to consider the type of transportation policies that have a proactive role in addressing land use. Cole Hiniker mentioned the disconnect between county governments' limited role in land use planning relative to their strong role in building the transportation network.

Closing

Chair Mareck closed the meeting at 3:02 p.m. Staff stayed online for a few minutes longer wrap discussion on the Scenario Planning Update.

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