

Minutes

TAB Technical Advisory Committee



Meeting date: July 2, 2025

Time: 9:00 AM

Location: Virtual

Members present:

- | | | |
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| ☒ Anoka Co – Joe MacPherson (Chair) | ☐ Brooklyn Park – Marcus Culver | ☐ MnDOT – Molly McCartney (Vice Chair) |
| ☒ Carver Co – Lyndon Robjent | ☒ Chanhassen – Charlie Howley | ☐ MPCA – Innocent Eyoh |
| ☒ Dakota Co – Erin Laberee | ☒ Eagan – Russ Matthys | ☒ MAC – Bridget Rief |
| ☒ Ramsey Co – Brian Isaacson | ☒ Eden Prairie – Carter Schulze (Alt) | ☒ STA – Matt Fyten |
| ☒ Hennepin Co – Jason Pieper (Alt) | ☒ Fridley – Jim Kosluchar | ☒ Metro Transit – Adam Harrington (Alt) |
| ☒ Scott Co – Craig Jenson | ☒ Lakeville – Paul Oehme | ☐ Freight – Shelly Meyer |
| ☒ Washington Co – Sara Allen (Alt) | ☐ Plymouth – Michael Thompson | ☐ DEED – Colleen Eddy |
| ☐ Extended Urban Area – Chad Hausmann | ☒ Woodbury – Chris Hartzell | ☐ MnDNR – Vacant |
| ☒ Council MTS – Cole Hiniker (Alt) | ☒ Minneapolis Engineering – Jenifer Hager | ☒ Bicycle – Kyle Sobota |
| ☒ Council CD – Patrick Boylan | ☒ Minneapolis Planning – Kathleen Mayell | ☒ Pedestrian – Mackenzie Turner Barga |
| ☒ TAB – Elaine Koutsoukos | ☒ Saint Paul Engineering – Nick Peterson | ☐ FHWA – Scott Marek (ex-officio) |
| | ☒ Saint Paul Planning – Reuben Collins | ☒ = present, E = excused |

Dakota land, water, and people acknowledgment

The Metropolitan Council acknowledges that the land we currently call Minnesota and specifically the seven-county region is the ancestral homeland of the Dakota Oyate who are present and active contributors to our thriving region. As part of the Metropolitan Council's commitment to address the unresolved legacy of genocide, dispossession, and settler colonialism and the fact that government institutions, including the Metropolitan Council, benefitted economically, politically, and institutionally after the forceable removal of the Dakota Oyate, the Metropolitan Council is dedicated to instilling Land, Water, and People Commitments in regional policy. These commitments support the Dakota Oyate, the eleven federally recognized Tribes in Minnesota, Ho-Chunk Nation, and the American Indian Communities representing over 150 diverse Tribal Nations that call the seven-county region home.

Call to order

A quorum being present, Committee Chair MacPherson called the regular meeting of the TAB Technical Advisory Committee to order at 9:02 a.m.

Agenda approved

Joe Barbeau, MTS Planning, said that the Aviation Systems Plan objectives update was included as in information item following it being bumped last month. He said that it could be amended in if desired. Chair MacPherson favored not adding it. Cole Hiniker, MTS Planning, pointed out that the agenda should reflect a TAC Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Working Group update instead of a Transit Planning Working Group update. It was moved by Jim Kosluchar, Fridley, and seconded by

Kathleen Mayell, Minneapolis Planning, to amend the agenda to add a Bicycle and Pedestrian Working Group update in place of the Transit Planning Working Group update. **Motion Carried**

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Chris Hartzel, Woodbury, and seconded by Jenifer Hager, Minneapolis Engineering, to approve the minutes of the June 4, 2025, regular meeting of the TAB Technical Advisory Committee. **Motion carried**

Public comment on committee business

While there were no public comments, Chair MacPherson introduced the Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgement, explaining it appears at the top of the meeting minutes as part of the Council's commitment to recognize the local indigenous community and land's history.

TAB report

Elaine Koutsoukos, TAB Coordinator, reported on the June 18th Transportation Advisory Board meeting.

Business – Committee reports

Executive Committee (Joe MacPherson, Chair)

MacPherson said that the Executive Committee did not meet prior to the TAC meeting.

1. **2025-24:** 2025-2028 Streamlined TIP Amendment: MnDOT's I-494 Sign Replacement (Joe Barbeau, MTS Planning)

Barbeau presented. It was moved by Patrick Boylan, Council Community Development, and seconded by Kosluchar, that the Technical Advisory Committee recommend adoption of an amendment to the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program to add sign replacement on I-494 from Argenta Trail in Eagan to MN Highway 77 in Bloomington (SP # 1986-50). **Motion carried**

2. **2025-25:** 2025-2028 Streamlined TIP Amendment: Two MnDOT Signal Replacement Cost Increases (Joe Barbeau, MTS Planning)

Barbeau presented. Kosluchar raised concerns about increasing signal costs due to MnDOT's new standards and encouraged agencies to track and share these changes. Chair MacPherson confirmed MnDOT had released a technical memo on the issue and clarified that MnDOT would cover increased cost share through 2027 or 2028 for already programmed projects. After that, normal cost-sharing will resume.

Adam Harrington, Metro Transit, echoed Kosluchar's concern and requested that MnDOT email the memo to the group. He also noted the importance of agencies collaborating on roadway projects. Jason Pieper, Hennepin County, echoed these concerns and praised Met Council staff for including helpful maps with action items.

It was moved by Boylan and seconded by Pieper, that the Technical Advisory Committee recommend adoption of an amendment to the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program to increase the cost of two signal replacement projects (SP # 2772-134 and 6222-191). **Motion carried**

TAC Bicycle-Pedestrian Planning Technical Working Group (Cole Hiniker, MTS Planning)

Cole Hiniker, MTS Planning, reported on the June 25 TAC Bicycle-Pedestrian Planning Technical Working Group meeting.

Planning Committee (Gina Mitteco, Chair)

1. **2025-23:** Review of Flying Cloud Airport 2040 Long Term Comprehensive Plan (Joe Widing, MTS Planning)

Gina Mitteco, Planning Committee Chair/MnDOT, introduced the item. Joe Widing, MTS Planning, presented. Harrington inquired how noise impacts are compared to those at MSP Airport. Widing explained that regional airports generate less noise due to smaller aircraft and fewer operations. Widing also explained the differences in mitigation between MSP, which has a consent decree and reliever airports, where mitigation is voluntary. Hiniker asked about available mitigation offered by MAC. Michelle Ross, MAC, clarified that Flying Cloud has no residential properties above the 65 DNL threshold and Crystal Airport has four homes identified, none eligible for mitigation due to sufficient existing soundproofing.

Carter Schulze, Eden Prairie, asked if flight height correlates with noise levels, especially given the frequent training loops. Ross confirmed that FAA modeling accounts for typical flight altitudes, runway use, and aircraft types. She emphasized that models are conservative and factor in operation volumes, training activity, and terrain such as surrounding water bodies.

Boylan asked how technological changes affect noise contours. Widing stated jet engines have become quieter and more efficient, and contours are updated during long-term comprehensive planning (annually for MSP; with every comprehensive plan update for reliever airports). Ross added that pilot training cycles and aircraft types also influence future noise patterns. Widing and Ross agreed that piston aircraft, due to their volume of use, significantly contribute to noise, though jet aircraft have a larger individual noise footprint.

Kyle Sobota, bicycle representative, asked about the decline in operations from 180,000 to 80,000. Widing said that this trend, true of all regional airports, can be attributed the decline to post-9/11 changes, economic downturns, airspace regulation, and increased spacing requirements for newer, faster aircraft. He pointed to a resurgence in operations during COVID due to pilot training demand. Eric Gillis, MAC, added that infrastructure already built during peak operations helps meet future demand without major expansions.

It was moved by Sobota, and seconded by Boylan, that TAC Recommend to the TAB that the Metropolitan Council find that the Final Draft Flying Cloud Airport 2040 LTCP has a multi-city impact as well as conforming to the regional systems and is consistent with regional policies. **Motion carried**

Mitteco said that the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) was discussed at the June 12 Planning Committee meeting, which TAC Planning will release for comment on July 11. Jed Hanson, MTS Planning, said that TAC will see the UPWP prior to completion of the public comment period.

Funding and Programming Committee (Jim Kosluchar, Chair)

Information

Other business

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 10:17 a.m.

Council contact:

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