

Minutes

Transportation Advisory Board



Meeting Date: October 19, 2022

Time: 12:30 PM

Location: 390 Robert Steet

Members Present:

Chair, James Hovland
V. Chair Debbie Goettel
Doug Anderson
~~Myron Bailey~~
Deb Barber
Michael Barnes
Carl Crimmins
Peter Dugan
(~~Jeff Weisensel~~) Bill Droste
Amity Foster
Christopher Geisler
Mary Giuliani Stephens
Gary Hansen
Mary Liz Holberg

Mathews Hollinshead
Mitra Jalali
Julie Jeppson
Stan Karwoski
Emily Koski
Andy Lewis
~~William Lindeke~~
Matt Look
Randy Maluchnik
Brian Martinson
Trista MatasCastillo
~~Craig McDonnell~~ (Todd Biewen)

~~Ashwat Narayanan~~
Becky Petryk
George Schember
Mark Steffenson
Jon Ulrich
Janet Williams
Mark Windschitl
~~Tom Workman~~

Staff

Elaine Koutsoukos, TAB
Jon Solberg, 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 Goettel to approve the agenda. Committee members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda. **Motion carried.**

Public Invitation

No member of the public spoke.

Reports

1. TAB Chair's Report – Jim Hovland

Chair Hovland reported that the Executive Committee met and reviewed the TAB materials. Hovland emphasized that there will be polling during the Regional Solicitation presentation to reduce the scenarios for staff to bring back next month. Jeff Weisensel, Rosemount City Council, has been appointed by Metro Cities to fill the position that opened when Gary Hansen was appointed the Suburban Transit Association TAB representative.

A Scott County project in downtown Prior Lake, funded through the Regional Solicitation, received a 2021 ITE Transportation Achievement award for Traffic Engineering. The project was highlighted in the September 2022 *ite journal*.

2. Agency Reports - MnDOT, MPCA, MAC, and Metropolitan Council

MnDOT

Barnes had nothing to report.

MPCA

Biewen had nothing to report.

MAC

Crimmins reported that JD Powers awarded MSP as #1 airport. The airport is expecting 40,000 passengers for MEA weekend. Delta opened a route to Seoul, South Korea. In March 2023, Delta will add a route to Japan. The Expo 2027 group toured MSP airport to determine whether it could handle the capacity for attendees flying into MSP. Bloomington, MN, is the US candidate for the 2027 Expo.

Metropolitan Council

Barber reported that the groundbreaking for the Gold Line was that morning. The D Line opening event will be December 3, 2022. Ridership numbers are at the highest monthly total since the COVID pandemic began over two years ago. Ridership was more than 3.8 million in September. Ridership is up 15% compared to same time last year. Universal transit pass at U of M has boosted ridership. Local ridership is down by one-third and LRT ridership is down by half. ABRT ridership has reached pre-pandemic levels.

STA

Hansen reported that SW Transit, SW Prime continues to grow. SW Prime's Mall of America and airport service has grown to account for 20% of overall SW Prime ridership. SWT has begun an Investment Grade Audit of its facilities and a Fleet Telematics Study to determine infrastructure improvements and a vehicle replacement plan that are needed as the agency pursues its sustainability goals for electrifying its fleet and using renewable energies to power both its facilities and fleet in the future. Plymouth Metrolink Click-and-Ride On-demand service is nearly back to pre-pandemic levels. Awarded \$15M in DOT RAISE funds for Station 73 Transit and Regional Improvement Project. MVTA System ridership continues to grow, setting another COVID-era record in September. YTD ridership up 72% compared to last year. Similar to SW Prime, MVTA Connect continues to grow at a record pace with an average daily ridership over 300 rides on weekdays. SWT and MVTA see unmet demand for services and are constrained by vehicle availability.

3. TAC Report – Jon Solberg, TAC Chair

Solberg reported on the items on the consent agenda.

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Goettel, seconded by Lewis to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2022 regular meeting of the Transportation Advisory Board. **Motion carried.**

Consent Business

Consent Business Adopted

1. **2022-40:** Streamlined 2023-2026 TIP Amendment – Dakota County, Minnesota River Greenway
2. **2022-41:** Streamlined 2023-2026 TIP Amendment – SouthWest Transit Electric Buses and Charging Station
3. **2022-42:** Streamlined 2023-2026 TIP Amendment – Metro Transit Electric Bus Purchase

It was moved by Goettel, seconded by Lewis.

Motion carried.

Non-Consent Business

1. There were no items on the non-consent agenda.

Information

1. MnDOT and Anoka County Small Business ADA Initiative (*Renee Raduenz and Mindy Heinkel, MnDOT, Brandon Ulvenes, Anoka County*)

Crimmins noted that bids at the airport have a required percent of DBE. Heinkel noted that goals are often set depending on the project. Foster asked about the pedestrian portion not being ADA compliant, Raduenz said the study can be sent out. Look expressed gratitude for the body supporting this initiative. Look commented on the decrease in contractors available.

2. Highway Safety Improvement Program (*Kaare Festvog, MnDOT*)

Hovland asked for a program summary, Festvog said roadway improvement was paramount. HSIP is currently on a two-year cycle. Goettel noted that the county supports the dollars going to safety projects. Goettel requested that the projects be fully scoped by the Met Council because a large portion of the work is being missed.

3. Regional Solicitation Funding Scenarios (*Steve Peterson, Met Council*)

Hovland noted that voting will not take place today but as the TAB moves toward a November vote, this meeting will consist of polling questions. Hovland encouraged policy-level discussion.

There was discussion on the rule to fund a maximum of \$32 million for BRT projects. Consensus was that the rule should not change after applications have been received and that in the future the set aside should be increased or be a percentage of the transit funding and not a dollar amount.

Look noted that a midpoint scenario has elements of uncertainty. TAB members discussed where to allocate the unallocated transit funding because of limited transit projects and the options for allocating the Carbon Reduction funding. Members favored both shifting the extra transit funding to bike/ped category and roadway categories. TAB members voiced support for both the midpoint and the bike/heavy scenarios. For the Carbon Reduction funds, TAB favored selecting smaller projects, specifically mentioning funding the Safe Routes to Schools projects.

The projects selected to receive Carbon Reduction funding are limited based on the program year of the projects in the applications.

TAB members discussed the funding of Unique Projects. For the Unique projects, TAB members indicated interest in funding only the TBI, funding the TBI and one project, and funding the TBI and two projects. Through polling, funding the TBI and two projects received the highest recommendation. TAB members did not indicate where they wanted to shift the remaining unique projects funds without knowing which of the two scenarios (midpoint or bike/pedestrian heavy) would be selected.

Other Business

Chair Hovland announced that Janet Williams received the League of Minnesota Cities award for outstanding public service.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 3.30 p.m.



Council Contact:

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