

# Minutes

Transportation Advisory Board



**Meeting date:** March 20, 2024

**Time:** 12:30 PM

**Location:** 390 Robert Street

## Members present:

Chair, James Hovland  
~~1st Vice Chair, Mark Windschitl~~  
2nd Vice Chair, Trista Martinson  
Doug Anderson  
~~Myron Bailey~~  
Deb Barber  
Husniyah Bradley  
Kevin Burkhart  
Aurin Chowdhury  
Carl Crimmins  
~~Peter Dugan~~  
John Fahey  
Amity Foster

Chris Geisler  
~~Debbie Goettel~~  
Gary Hansen  
Mary Liz Holberg  
Mark Jenkins  
~~Julie Jeppson~~  
Glen Johnson  
Stan Karwoski  
HwaJeong Kim  
~~Frank Kohlasch (Todd Biewen)~~  
William Lindeke  
John Morast  
Brian Martinson  
Becky Petryk

~~Jess Robertson~~  
Khani Sahebjam  
~~George Schember~~  
~~Mark Steffenson~~  
Jon Ulrich  
~~Christopher Vaughan (Nathan Hemann)~~  
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 12:38 p.m.

## Agenda approved

It was moved by Anderson, seconded by Geisler, to approve the agenda. Committee members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda. **Motion carried.**

## Public invitation

There was no member of the public who wished to speak.

## Reports

### 1. TAB Chair's Report – Jim Hovland

Hovland reported on the Metropolitan Governance Task Force. The report was submitted to the MN Legislature and no action has been taken on it yet.

### 2. Agency Reports – MnDOT, MPCA, MAC, and Metropolitan Council

#### MnDOT

Sahebjam reported Minnesota received funding through the Reconnecting Communities grant for TH 55 (Olson Memorial Highway). Two entities applied for and received funding; MnDOT received \$3.6 million, and Our Streets received \$1.6 million.

#### MPCA

Biewen had no report.

## MAC

Crimmins reported MSP airport was awarded " Best airport in North America" for 2023. This is the third year in a row and the 7th out of the last eight years. Spring Break is in full flow. March 21 & 22 are expected to be the busiest. The MSP LTCP has been approved and is going to the full MET Council for approval. Flying Cloud airport in Eden Prairie has received FAA approval to build a new air control tower. The MAC and Lake Elmo are working together to place a Civil Air Patrol hanger on the airport property.

## Metropolitan Council

Barber reported on the listening sessions that the Council is holding 30 listening sessions throughout the region for revisioning the next Regional Solicitation. The State of the Region event is scheduled in Hopkins on March 22.

## STA

Hansen reported Minnesota Valley Transit Authority implemented a schedule change effective March 16, including reintroduction of 4FUN seasonal service connecting to attractions such as Eagan Outlet Mall (new to this year's 4FUN service), Canterbury Park, Mystic Lake, and Valleyfair (once open). Vehicles were added to MVTA's current Connect zones to serve increased demand. MVTA is looking to purchase additional Connect vehicles to expand service to meet growing demand for microtransit. MVTA assisted in providing transportation to the Burnsville first responders' memorial service. In coordination with other transit and private providers, MVTA provided transportation to the service for several of its member cities' first responders, staff, and their families. MVTA started its 2024 Concert Series Special Service by providing service to Olivia Rodrigo at Xcel Energy Center on March 15. This is the first of eight planned concert services in 2024. SouthWest Transit's February ridership was up 14% in express bus service and 13% in Prime microtransit over a year ago. SWT will expand services and launch a fixed-route bus service along the I-494 corridor between Eden Prairie and the airport later in the year. SWT is working with Carver County to expand Prime microtransit to Waconia beginning early in 2025. SWT also will expand special events service to include the Renaissance Festival services in 2024.

### 3. TAC Report – Brian Isaacson, TAC Vice Chair

No report.

## Approval of minutes

It was moved by Anderson, seconded by Jenkins to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2024, regular meeting of the Transportation Advisory Board. **Motion carried.**

## Consent business

Consent business adopted

1. 2024-13: Streamlined TIP Amendment Request – MnDOT Robert Street Project Cost Increase and Jurisdictional Transfer (*Brian Isaacson, TAC Vice-Chair*)
2. 2024-14: Streamlined TIP Amendment Request – Three New Projects (*Brian Isaacson, TAC Vice-Chair*)

It was moved by Martinson, seconded by Geisler.

Motion carried.

## Non-consent business

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

## Information

### 1. Regional Solicitation Workgroup Updates

TAB members asked about types of projects discussed and staff support. Johnson shared the upcoming timelines and action items. TAB members discussed direct appropriation and the legislative parameters.

### 2. State-Aid Project Update (*Dan Erickson, MnDOT*)

Hovland asked about Minnesota compared to other states. TAB members commented on thresholds and local funding.

### 3. Arterial Bus Rapid Transit Update (*Katie Roth, Metro Transit*)

TAB members asked about future construction, cost estimates, and studies. Roth commented on the higher level of improvements and noted build out is tied to other project investments which dictate the timelines.

### 4. 2050 Transportation Policy Plan Update (*Cole Hiniker and Jed Hanson, MTS*)

Holberg voiced concerns over meeting the open meeting law parameters, Hiniker said he would report back after a further conversation with Met Council legal staff.

### 5. Transportation GHG Emissions Impact Mitigation Working Group Report (*Jon Solberg and Chris Berrens, MnDOT*)

TAB members discussed reducing VMTs and the current investments in high usage driving funds where VMTs are already high. TAB members discussed the specific role of the TAB.

## Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 2:48 p.m.

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### Council contact:

Jenna Ernst, Recording Secretary  
[Jenna.Ernst@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:Jenna.Ernst@metc.state.mn.us)

