

# Minutes

Transportation Advisory Board



**Meeting date:** October 16, 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  
 Deb Barber  
 Husniyah Bradley  
 Kevin Burkart  
 Aurin Chowdhury  
~~Carl Grimmins~~  
 Peter Dugan  
 John Fahey  
 Amity Foster  
~~Chris Geisler (Sam Villella)~~

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

Jess Robertson  
 Khani Sahebjam  
 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 12:36 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 speak to the TAB.

## Reports

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

Hovland reported that TAB Executive Committee met prior to TAB. Discussed elements of Active Transportation item on the agenda later in the meeting. Heard information on the legislatively imposed mandate on MDOT on greenhouse gas reduction strategies through February 2025. MnDOT staff will present information at the November TAB meeting.

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

#### MnDOT

Sahebjam reported MnDOT is getting ready with winter preparations. MnDOT has challenges and are looking for more people to work to help plow snow. Per the fatality report yesterday,

we have had 338 fatalities so far this year. It is projected to be more than 400 by the end of the year. Jeppson commented that the Advisory Council on Traffic Safety are actively working through eight position statements regarding traffic safety and focusing on how the body can contribute to better behavior, more safe behavior, and lowering of those crashes. Jeppson will provide updates as the groups works through the position statements.

#### MPCA

Kohlasch reported that there are a number of grants open for climate resiliency and local communities. One is for planning grants for local communities. Another is for implementation of local resiliency actions by local and tribal governments. Heavy duty on-road diesel replacement grants for \$4 million closes today. For Diesel Emissions Reduction Act, MPCA anticipates next round of the grants will be open in November. EPA announced that they have an additional billion dollars for electric school buses throughout the country. The funding will be available for electric school buses and bus charging infrastructure.

#### MAC

Bridget Rief reported on behalf of Crimmins that MAC is working on the 2025 operating budget. Revenues are forecasted for 2025 to be approximately \$500 million, with operating expenses around \$300 million, debt service is about \$150 million, and \$50 million for the capital program. Operating budget will be approved in December, along with the capital program. The capital program for seven years is approximately \$3.5 billion. MAC published the Assessment of Environmental Effects. Document summarizes capital program projects, which projects are required to follow a state environmental review process. Delta has announced just recently two new seasonal service routes, one to Rome and one to Copenhagen to start in May of 2025. At next MAC meeting, J.D. Power will be on site to present a J.D. Power airport award, MSP was number one across all seven of the categories.

#### Metropolitan Council

Barber reported that Network Now is out for public comment. Some routes that were suspended during Covid will be discontinued. The comment periods for the Regional Development Guide and the Transportation Policy Plan have closed. The comments are being processed.

#### Suburban Transit Providers

Hansen reported Maple Grove Transit and Plymouth Metrolink issued a request for proposals for a joint transit study to improve service connections in the northwest metro. Minnesota Valley Transit Authority provided more than 49,000 rides to the Renaissance Festival this year – a new ridership record. Together with SouthWest Transit's 32,000 rides, these two providers recorded over 71,000 Ren Fest rides. In an effort to continue its commitment to equity and accessibility throughout its service area, MVTA is planning to expand its Connect microtransit service to Prior Lake and Shakopee starting in January. SouthWest reported that ridership is up 29 percent overall from last year, with special events ridership up 86 percent and express service up 12 percent. SouthWest's autonomous vehicle service will launch on November 18. The Minnesota Public Transit Association has named SouthWest Transit the 2024 Transit System of the Year, recognizing SouthWest's leadership in community impact and commitment to innovation.

#### 3. TAC Report – Jeni Hager, TAC Chair

Hager had no items to report.

### Approval of minutes

It was moved by Goettel, seconded by Anderson to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2024, regular meeting of the Transportation Advisory Board. **Motion carried.**

### Consent business



Consent business adopted

1. 2024-43: Streamlined TIP Amendment for Three 7W Projects
2. 2024-36: 44: Streamlined TIP Amendment for Seven MnDOT Projects  
It was moved by Anderson, seconded by Jenkins.

Motion carried.

## Non-consent business

1. 2024-42: Active Transportation Project Grant Requirements (*Joe Widing, MTS*)

It was moved by Goettel, seconded by Martinson, that the Transportation Advisory Board approve the following Active Transportation pilot grant management policies and authorize staff to execute grant agreements in accordance with these policies:

1. Program Year: Recipients of Active Transportation grants must prepare and release the project construction contract for bids prior to December 31st, 2026, or the grant award will be subject to review and potential cancellation by the TAB.
2. Grant Funding Disbursements: Grant recipients will be awarded 50% of the grant funds upon grant execution and the remaining 50% of funds will be reimbursed as costs are incurred above the initial 50% of costs.
3. Eligible Project Costs: The Regional Solicitation's eligible project costs policy will apply.
4. Project Plan Documentation: Grant recipients will be required to submit final construction plan sheets prior to project bidding.
5. Project Scope Change Policy: The Regional Solicitation's Scope Change Policy will apply.
6. Right-of-Way Acquisition: Right-of-way documentation to confirm ownership of property will be required, but acquisition certifications will not be required prior to release of grant funds.
7. Environmental Review: Environmental review documentation will not be required.
8. Small Disadvantaged Business Contracting Program: Projects receiving more than \$750,000 in grant funding and that will bid out work to a subcontracting firm are required to participate in the Metropolitan Council's Underutilized Business (MCUB) program for construction contracting. If a grant recipient has an equivalent adopted program, this requirement will be waived.

There were no comments or questions from TAB members.

**Motion carried.**

## Information

1. Regional Solicitation Evaluation Updates
  - Policymaker Workgroup (*Jim Hovland, TAB Chair*)
  - Active Transportation Workgroup (*Glen Johnson, Active Transportation Workgroup chair*)

Add recap of information item discussion.

2. MnDOT Strategic Highway Safety Plan (*Derek Leuer, MnDOT*)

TAB members asked clarifying questions about the data.

3. Equity Evaluation of Regional Transportation Investment Processes (*Amy Vennewitz, MTS; Husniyah Bradley, Council Equity Policy Group; Joo Hee Pomplun, Council Equity Policy Group; Ashley Hudson, Bolton-Menk; and Allison Bell, Bellwether Consulting*)

TAB members discussed the evaluation's interplay with the TAB's past and present work.



## Items of TAB members

## Other business

## Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 2:59 p.m.

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### Council contact:

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