

# Minutes

## TAC Planning Committee



**Meeting date:** April 10, 2025

**Time:** 1:00 PM

**Location:** Virtual

### Members present:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anoka Co – Jorge Bernal</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Brooklyn Park – Dan Ruiz</li><li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carver Co – Drew Pflaumer</li><li>E Chanhassen – Charlie Howley</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Met Council Community Development – Patrick Boylan</li><li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Met Council MTS – Joe Barbeau, alternate for David Burns</li><li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dakota Co – Scott Peters</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> FHWA – Vacant (ex-officio)</li><li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hennepin Co – Dan Patterson</li><li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Metro Transit – Patrick Haney</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> MAC – Bridget Rief</li><li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minneapolis – Bria Fast, alternate for Kathleen Mayell</li><li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MnDOT – Gina Mitteco (Chair)</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> MPCA – Innocent Eyoh</li><li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ramsey Co – Kevin Roggenbuck</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>E St. Paul – Anton Jerve</li><li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Co – Terri Dill</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Suburban Transit Assoc – Vacant</li><li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TAB Coordinator – Elaine Koutsoukos</li><li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Washington Co – Sara Allen</li><li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Woodbury – Chris Hartzell</li><li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> = present, <input type="checkbox"/> = excused</li></ul> |
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### Call to order

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Gina Mitteco, Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), called the regular meeting of the TAC Planning Committee to order at 1:05 p.m. Chair Mitteco shared her change in employment and that she will remain chair of the committee, and she introduced Scott Peters as the member now representing Dakota County.

### Agenda approved

Chair Mitteco prompted committee members for any changes to the agenda. Elaine Koutsoukos, TAB Coordinator, requested that a new attachment with special issue working group membership be listed under information item 2, Regional Solicitation Evaluation. The amended agenda was approved without objection.

### Approval of minutes

It was moved by Terri Dill, Scott County, and seconded by Drew Pflaumer, Carver County, to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2025, regular meeting of the TAC Planning Committee.

**Motion carried.**

### Public comment on committee business

There were no public comments.

### Business

There were no business items.

### Information

1. 2050 Transportation Policy Plan Amendment 1: Blue Line and Gold Line Extensions

Bradley Bobbitt, MTS Planning, and Nick Landwer and Morgan Abbott, Metro Transit, presented.

Kevin Roggenbuck, Ramsey County, asked if the project's rating [in the Federal Transit Administration's New Starts program] remains at least at medium. Landwer responded that Metro Transit is currently preparing its eligibility paperwork and application for the New Starts program, but the project is still expected to receive a medium or higher rating.

Chair Mitteco asked how the fiscally constrained plan has historically treated projects that do not obtain a full funding grant agreement (FFGA). Bobbitt said transitways are adopted in the plan prior to receiving an FFGA. Bobbitt said transitway projects are adopted in the Transportation Policy Plan once a locally-preferred alternative (LPA) has been adopted by its originator, typically a county, so transitways are generally included prior to securing an FFGA. Bobbitt said that, if the anticipated 49% federal share is not secured, the remainder would be paid according to state law, in this case by Hennepin County.

Chair Mitteco said the plan amendment would return to the committee next month to consider recommending its release for public comment.

## 2. Regional Solicitation Evaluation: Base Application Structure and Special Issue Working Group Membership

Steve Peterson, MTS Planning, and Molly Stewart, SRF Consulting, presented.

Roggenbuck asked if there are any preconceived ideas how funds would be distributed within the proposed categories. Roggenbuck asked, for example, if bicycle and pedestrian projects on the Regional Bicycle Transportation Network (RBTN) would be higher funding priorities than local bicycle network gaps and barriers. Peterson said the decision to divide funding by goal, mode, or some other means has not yet been made by policymakers, and that the evaluation has not yet received an indication by policymakers on their preference. Peterson continued that the Active Transportation Working Group will soon discuss how to allocate federal versus sales tax funding for active transportation investments. Peterson said policymakers will likely have interest in continuing to compare funding levels by mode, whether funds are allocated by mode or not. Peterson said that the last Active Transportation Working Group meeting added the non-infrastructure category, which would include planning and quick-build projects, which may be better suited to sales tax funding rather than federal funding. Chair Mitteco asked who will make these decisions. Steve Peterson said the Active Transportation Working Group will make a recommendation to either the Regional Solicitation Evaluation's Policymaker Working Group or directly to the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB), which would take further action. Peterson said the TAB is the ultimate decisionmaker on the sales tax funds.

Peterson prompted the group to consider if there is desire to use federal funding for planning projects, like safety action plans or transportation demand management (TDM) planning. Peterson said there is interest in this dependent on the size of projects. Chair Mitteco offered an experience from Dakota County about the significant challenges using federal funding for preliminary engineering. Peterson responded that those challenges may be the reason some expressed concern about project size being large enough to be worth the process. Chair Mitteco prompted discussion on where federal funds could support gaps in planning efforts. Peterson suggested that city and corridor-level safety studies could be considered, particularly for areas with high needs identified in the forthcoming Regional Safety Action Plan. Peterson said the topic will be considered further in upcoming special issue working group meetings.

Peterson said a list of the special issue working group members was provided to the committee and will be provided to the TAB.

## 3. Regional Safety Action Plan

Heidi Schallberg, MTS Planning, presented.

Chair Mitteco asked whether local jurisdictions have received the lists of top corridors with safety needs. Schallberg said the lists are now available on the plan's website. Schallberg said she intends to follow up with local agencies to review existing capital improvement programs to identify

work that is already planned and brainstorm ways to address any gaps not being met. Schallberg said this is timely with the Safe Streets and Roads for All grant application due in June.

### **Other business**

There was no other business.

### **Adjournment**

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

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