

Minutes

Transportation Advisory Board



Meeting Date: March 16, 2022

Time: 12:30 PM

Location: Virtual

Members Present:

- E Chair, James Hovland
- Doug Anderson
- Myron Bailey
- Deb Barber
- Michael Barnes
- Carl Crimmins
- Peter Dugan
- Amity Foster
- Christopher Geisler
- Mary Giuliani Stephens
- Vice-Chair Debbie Goettel
- Gary Hansen
- Mary Liz Holberg

- Mathews Hollinshead
- Mitra Jalali
- ~~Julie Jeppson~~ (Robertson, Jessica)
- Stan Karwoski
- Dan Kealey
- Koski, Emily
- Lewis, Andrew
- William Lindeke
- Matt Look
- ~~Randy Maluchnik~~ (Morast, John)
- Martinson, Brian
- MatasCastillo, Trista
- E Craig McDonnell (Biewen, Todd)

- Ashwat Narayanan
- Becky Petryk
- Schember, George
- Mark Steffenson
- Jon Ulrich
- Janet Williams
- Mark Windschitl
- Tom Workman (Udermann, Matt)

Staff:

- Elaine Koutsoukos, TAB
- Jon Solberg, TAC
- Charles Carlson, MTS Director
- = present, E = excused

Call to Order

A quorum being present, in Chair Hovland’s absence, First Vice-Chair Goettel called the regular meeting of the Transportation Advisory Board to order at 12:32 p.m. on the following roll call.

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|---------|----|--|
| Present | 29 | Anderson, Bailey, Barber, Barnes, Crimmins, Dugan, Foster, Geisler, Giuliani Stephens, Hansen, Holberg, Hollinshead, Jalali, Karwoski, Kealey, Koski, Lewis, Lindeke, Look, Martinson, MatasCastillo, Morast, Narayanan, Petryk, Robertson, Schember, Ulrich, Williams, Windschitl |
| Absent | 4 | Hovland, McDonnell, Steffenson, Workman |

Agenda Approved

Vice-Chair Goettel noted that a separate roll call vote was not needed for approval of the agenda unless a Council Member offered an amendment to the agenda. Council Members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda.

Public Invitation

There were no members of the public who desired to comment.

Reports

1. TAB Chair's Report – Jim Hovland

In Hovland's absence, there was no Chair's report.

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

MnDOT: Barnes reported on the IJJA and that safety numbers are improving.

MPCA: There was no MPCA report.

MAC: Crimmins reported that COVID testing is still being done at the airport, results within 48 hours are free to Minnesota residents. Results within 24 hours cost between \$99 and \$199. Passenger levels are 110% over 2020. Job fairs are ongoing.

Metropolitan Council: Barber reported that Council meetings will be going back to in-person meetings in April and since TAB is subject to open meeting laws the office of general counsel is looking into if hybrid is an option. May will likely be an in-person meeting for TAB. The TPP amendment has moved through the Transportation Committee and the full Council.

STA: Kealey reported the following.

Ridership: Coming out of the pandemic, STA is seeing welcome signs of growth. MVTA: Overall Express ridership levels are 4x greater than this time last year. Services to U of M strong across the board with Maple Grove Transit reporting U of M express trips are back to normal ridership.

Microtransit: Microtransit and click to ride services have shown remarkable resilience and growth during the pandemic. MVTA Connect (on-demand): month over month ridership records for the past 1.5 years. Maple Grove expanded the MY RIDE service area to help address workforce transportation trips. We now serve all of Brooklyn Park, Brooklyn Center, Osseo and parts of Crystal, Robbinsdale, Plymouth and Rogers. Continued to grow SW Prime microtransit service to meet the travel needs of a post-pandemic world.

Transit Expansion: Expansion along the I-494 corridor including service to the Mall of America and MSP Airport. Expansion of service to Shakopee. Expanded the reach of our non-emergency medical appointment service, SW Prime MD, to more clinics and medical facilities.

Express Return: Seeing recent growth at transit stations in the suburbs and seeing Express ridership growth as more businesses resume working from downtown offices. Promoting Express services as more people return and with high gasoline prices. SouthWest has re-established its reverse commute service along the I-35W corridor serving the new Lake St. Station, Downtown, and the U of M.

Sustainability: SouthWest has completed its Agency Sustainability Action Plan providing a roadmap that will make SWT a Net Zero Energy operation by 2050 through conversion to electric vehicles and adoption of sustainable clean energy initiatives. They have completed the conversion of a standard diesel to all electric, which will be in service this spring. MVTA will begin the development of a Sustainability Plan and Zero Emission Bus plan in 2022.

Modernization: MVTA recently received a Buses and Bus Facilities Grant Program award of \$4.96 million for Burnsville Bus Garage Modernization Phase III; funding to be used for 1) state of good repair, 2) storage and maintenance area expansion, 3) energy efficiency improvements, 4) workforce center, and 5) carryover expenses from Phase I and II.

SouthWest completed a \$4.5 million Garage Expansion and Modernization without using any State or Federal funds (funded using dollars generated from real estate activities). Plymouth Metrolink is in the process of developing a former strip mall site into a transit-oriented development with new transit facility along Hwy 169 at the border with New Hope.

Safety: MVTA has increased facility safety and patrols and is collaborating with city PD partnerships to ensure rider and community safety.

TAC Report – There was no TAC report.

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Anderson, seconded by Windschitl to approve the minutes of the February 16,

2022, regular meeting of the Transportation Advisory Board. **Motion carried** on the following roll call vote.

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| Aye | 29 | Anderson, Bailey, Barber, Barnes, Crimmins, Dugan, Foster, Geisler, Giuliani Stephens, Hansen, Holberg, Hollinshead, Jalali, Karwoski, Kealey, Koski, Lewis, Lindeke, Look, Martinson, MatasCastillo, Morast, Narayanan, Petryk, Robertson, Schember, Ulrich, Williams, Windschitl |
| Nay | 0 | |
| Absent | 4 | Hovland, McDonnell, Steffenson, Workman |

Business

There were no items on the Business agenda.

Information

1. Mobility Hub Planning Guide

Metro Transit Meredith Klekotka presented this item. A link to the guide is open to viewing. Kealey commented on the importance of partnerships. Geisler said this is the right time for this toolkit to come out. Barber stated that there is a dual importance for the transit system and communities. Goettel asked how safety is being addressed. Klekotka noted that a mobility hub will not fix a five-lane road's dangers. Goettel asked how equity is being measured. Klekotka said equity is weighted at 33% and the criteria is consistent with Council standards.

2. IIJA Funding Scenario

MnDOT acting Chief Financial Officer Joshua Knatterud-Hubinger and Program Manager of Capital Projects Brian Gage presented this item. Geisler asked about historical funding versus new matches. Gage noted that the planning process will be a two-year process. Barnes commented that there will be opportunities for additional funds. Hollinshead asked for a translation of how this impacts the regional solicitation. Koutsoukos responded that any additional funds added to the Regional Solicitation would be awarded using the modal funding ranges approved by TAB. Foster asked about public transit supported funding.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 2:08 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Transportation Advisory Board meeting of March 16, 2022.

Approved this 20th day of April 2022.

Jenna Ernst
Recording Secretary

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