

Minutes

TAC Planning Committee



Meeting date: March 12, 2026,

Time: 1:00 PM

Location: Virtual

Members present:

- ☒ Anoka Co – Jorge Bernal
- ☐ Brooklyn Park – Marc Culver
- ☒ Carver Co – Justin Broughman (Alt)
- ☒ Chanhassen – Charlie Howley
- ☐ Council Community Development – Patrick Boylan
- ☒ Council MTS – Dave Burns
- ☒ Dakota Co – Scott Peters

- ☒ Hennepin Co – Dan Patterson
- ☒ Metro Transit – Patrick Haney
- ☐ MAC – Bridget Rief
- ☒ Minneapolis – Ethan Fawley
- ☒ MnDOT – Gina Mitteco (Chair)
- ☐ MPCA – Lauren Dickerson
- ☒ Ramsey Co – Kevin Roggenbuck

- ☒ St. Paul – Anton Jerve
- ☒ Scott Co – Craig Jenson
- ☒ Suburban Transit Assoc – Sunita Kasichhwa
- ☒ TAB Coordinator – Elaine Koutsoukos
- ☒ Washington Co – Sara Allen
- ☐ Woodbury – Chris Hartzell
- ☐ FHWA – Scott Mareck (ex-officio)
- ☒ = present, E = excused

Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

The Metropolitan Council acknowledges that the land we currently call Minnesota and specifically the seven-county region is the ancestral homeland of the Dakota Oyate who are present and active contributors to our thriving region. As part of the Metropolitan Council's commitment to address the unresolved legacy of genocide, dispossession, and settler colonialism and the fact that government institutions, including the Metropolitan Council, benefitted economically, politically, and institutionally after the forceable removal of the Dakota Oyate, the Metropolitan Council is dedicated to instilling Land, Water, and People Commitments in regional policy. These commitments support the Dakota Oyate, the eleven federally recognized Tribes in Minnesota, Ho-Chunk Nation, and the American Indian Communities representing over 150 diverse Tribal Nations that call the seven-county region home.

Call to order

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Mitteco called the regular meeting of the TAC Planning Committee to order at 1:00 p.m.

Agenda approved

Chair Mitteco noted that a roll call vote was not needed for approval of the agenda unless a committee member offered an amendment to the agenda. Committee members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda.

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Charlie Howley, Chanhassen and seconded by Kevin Roggenbuck, Ramsey Co. to approve the minutes of February 12, 2026, regular meeting of the TAC Planning Committee.
Motion carried.

Public comment on committee business

Business

1. **2026-22:** Approving RBTN and RBBs changes for the 2026 Regional Solicitation (Steve Elmer and Jed Hanson, MTS Planning) – roll call

Steve Elmer, MTS Planning, presented. Chair Mitteco asked about the single applicant that did not meet the three eligibility criteria. Specifically, she asked which criteria were not met and whether the applicant accepted the decision. Elmer stated that staff informed the applicant. The project did not meet two of the criteria: it was not included in an adopted plan, and it was not fully within the RETN corridor, diverting from the corridor by approximately one-half mile for a portion of the route.

It was moved by Roggenbuck and seconded by Craig Jenson, Scott Co. that the TAC Planning Committee recommend that the Technical Advisory Committee recommend approval of the updated RBTN and RBB maps with changes, additions, and administrative adjustments for use in the 2026 Regional Solicitation, as shown in attached Figures 1 and 2. **Motion carried.**

2. **2026-23:** Functional Classification Change Request: Hamline Avenue from Grand Avenue to University Avenue (David Burns, MTS Planning) – roll call

David Burns, MTS Planning, presented. It was moved by Elaine Koutsoukos, TAB Coordinator and seconded by Anton Jerve, St. Paul, that the TAC Planning Committee recommend Technical Advisory Committee approve the functional classification change request from major collector to minor arterial – augmentor for Hamline Avenue from Grand Avenue to University Avenue in Saint Paul. **Motion carried.**

3. **2026-24:** Adoption of Functional Classification Map for use in 2026 Regional Solicitation (David Burns, MTS Planning) – roll call

David Burns, MTS Planning presented. It was moved by Howley and seconded by Jerve that the TAC Planning Committee recommend that the Technical Advisory Committee recommend the adoption of the Roadway Functional Classification Map for use in the 2026 Regional Solicitation, inclusive of the changes included in Action Transmittal 2026-23. **Motion Carried**

Information

1. METRO Bronze Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project Update (Craig Lamothe and Liz Jones, Metro Transit; Stephen Smith, Ramsey County)

Project staff explained that the project is currently planned to be 100% locally funded because the project's scope and goals do not align well with the requirements typically needed to secure funding from the Federal Transit Administration. They noted that federal funding programs often require projects to fit specific criteria, and the county felt it was more practical to proceed with the project as designed rather than reshape it to meet those requirements, particularly given the current federal funding environment.

When asked about opposition to the project, staff indicated there is no major organized opposition but acknowledged that projects of this scale inevitably generate concerns. One example mentioned was the proposed lane reductions on White Bear Avenue and Maryland Avenue, which would convert one general-purpose lane in each direction to accommodate the project. Some auto-oriented businesses, such as drive-through establishments and car washes, have expressed concern that reduced vehicle traffic could negatively impact their business.

Staff also addressed questions about traffic volumes and roadway capacity. Traffic analysis conducted as part of the study found that intersections along the corridor would continue to operate at acceptable levels even with the proposed lane reductions. Traffic volumes on Maryland Avenue were noted to be around 15,000 average daily trips, with White Bear Avenue slightly higher, particularly near Highway 36, where volumes are highest in the corridor.



2. 2026 Unified Planning Work Program Preview (Frank Alarcon and Bethany Brandt-Sargent, MTS Planning)

Frank Alarcon and Bethany Brandt-Sargent, both of MTS Planning, presented. Roggenbuck said he will bring the discussion to his internal team and leadership for further consideration and plans to return in April with additional ideas or feedback.

Council Staff MnDOT said they are continuing internal discussions about potential study topics and priorities within the regional planning work program. They raised the need to better examine trade-offs between capital investments and operational spending, such as balancing large infrastructure projects with ongoing needs like maintenance, landscaping, garbage removal, and community features like public art.

Committee members also highlighted several planning efforts in the region's Transportation Policy Plan, including a regional resilience study focused on flood mitigation and climate resilience. The study would also help guide how the region prioritizes funding for resilience-related projects, though uncertainty remains around some related federal funding programs.

Members also discussed updating the regional freight study, which has not been updated since 2013. The study examines emerging freight trends across the metro area, including long-haul freight movement, local delivery challenges, truck parking, and last-mile logistics.

Members agreed to review the list of potential planning studies before the next meeting and come prepared with feedback or ideas. With no additional business raised, the committee concluded the meeting and plans to reconvene next month.

Other business

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 2:24 p.m.

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