

Minutes

Transportation Advisory Board



Meeting date: October 15, 2025

Time: 12:30 PM

Location: 390 Robert Street

Members present:

Chair, James Hovland
1st Vice Chair Debbie Goettel
2nd Vice Chair Victor Lake
Doug Anderson
Myron Bailey
Deb Barber
Husniyah Bradley
~~Aurin Chowdhury~~ (Cashman,
Katie)
~~Carl Crimmins~~
Peter Dugan
~~Don De~~
Amity Foster
Torin Gustafson
Gary Hansen

Mary Liz Holberg
Taylor Hubbard
~~Mark Jenkins~~
Julie Jeppson
Glen Johnson
~~Saura Jost~~
Stan Karwoski
Frank Kohlasch
~~William Lindeke~~
~~John Morast~~
Brian Martinson
Becky Petryk

Jess Robertson
Khani Sahebjam
George Schember
~~Mark Steffenson~~
Jon Ulrich
Christopher Vaughan
Jeffery Weisensel
~~Tom Workman~~
Mai Chong Xiong

Staff

Elaine Koutsoukos, TAB
Joe MacPherson, 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 12:35 p.m.

Agenda approved

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

Public invitation

There was no one from the public who wished to speak to the TAB.

Reports

1. TAB Chair's Report – Chair James Hovland

Hovland presented Lisa Freese with an award of appreciation. Hovland reported that The Regional Solicitation Policymaker Workgroup and TAB Executive Committee met before the TAB meeting. The Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgement was discussed at TAB Executive Committee. Alison Waukau, Council Tribal Liaison, recommended reading the acknowledgement quarterly or seasonally or when TAB is making a major decision. TAB will vote on this at a later date. Approximately 75,000 native Americans are in the 7-county metro area.

Agency Reports – Minnesota Department of Transportation, Minnesota Pollution Control

Agency, Metropolitan Airports Commission, Metropolitan Council, Suburban Transit Association

MnDOT

Sahebjam reported on statewide fatalities. As of October 14, there were 298 fatalities statewide (12 Bike, 35 Pedestrian, 53 Motorcycle, 12 ATV, 1 snowmobile) compared to 371 in 2024. Trending is that metro area continues to have about 1/3 of all statewide traffic fatalities, but about 2/3 of statewide pedestrian traffic fatalities. Metro District Freight plan public comment period is open until October 19. An update on work on I-94 was requested.

MPCA

Kohlasch reported that the draft Climate Action Framework will be completed soon and release for public comment. 2026 Climate Action Framework information can be found on the website. There are two grants; one for all communities in Minnesota (\$1.6 M available) and one for small communities under 10,000 population (\$1.1M available). These are for planning for climate resiliency, for wastewater infrastructure, storm water infrastructure, and broad general community resilience. This is the last round of funding. MPCA has granted more than \$94M total. There is a grant open for EV Fast Chargers along highway corridors through December 9 for \$1.89 million from the VW settlement. The settlement was for \$47M. By giving out the funding in phases interest accrued and the total given out will be \$52M.

MAC

Crimmins reported: Today and tomorrow are likely to be the 5th and 6th busiest days at MSP for the year, with more than 50,000 people expected to go through security each day. So plan accordingly if you are flying. Sunday will also be extra busy, with an anticipated 48,000 travelers going through the checkpoints. MAC is prepared with additional staff at the ready, our usual compliment of volunteers to help guide folks, and if you are traveling, keep an eye out for our Surprise and Delight teams. Per the name, they will have surprises for passengers and providing fun stuff for the kids.

Met Council

Barber reported that she will continue serving as the TAB representative while she is serving as interim Council chair. Metro Transit launched metro micro service in Blaine. Green Line Extension passed another milestone. Trains are out testing on the line.

STA

Hansen reported: Suburban transit providers' ridership continues to increase. Maple Grove Transit has scheduled extra trips to meet University of Minnesota ridership demand. Maple Grove Transit is considering feedback from a work session with the city council regarding potential service improvements resulting from its joint transit needs assessment study with Plymouth Metrolink. SouthWest Transit's fixed route and express ridership was up 26% last month from a year ago. SouthWest's autonomous vehicle ridership was up 20%. Minnesota Valley Transit Authority State Fair ridership increased 17% to a record nearly 150,000, and Renaissance Festival ridership was up more than 8% to nearly 54,000, also setting a record high. The Minnesota Public Transit Association recognized MVTA at its conference in Rochester on October 6 with its Management Innovation Award for the successful launch of MVTA's e-Jest electric vehicles used in Connect microtransit service.

TAC Report –

Joe MacPherson, TAC Chair, reported that the TAC report consisted of items on the agenda.

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Anderson, seconded by Bradley to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2025, regular meeting of the Transportation Advisory Board. **Motion carried.**



Consent business

1. 2025-29: 2026-2029 Streamlined TIP Amendment Request – Reconnect Rondo Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program planning grant.

Sahebjam abstained from the vote. Moved by Jeppson, seconded by Martinson. **Motion carried.**

Non-consent business

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

Information

1. Arterial BRT Update (Kyle O'Donnell Burrows, Metro Transit)

TAB members asked questions about historical context and future plans, as well as community outreach and input. TAB members inquired about contributors to route success.

2. Travel Behavior Inventory Overview (*Dennis Farmer, MTS*)

TAB members had no comments or questions.

3. Regional Solicitation Evaluation

Policymaker Workgroup (*Jim Hovland, Chair, Steve Peterson, MTS, and Molly Stewart, SRF, Alison Bell, Bellwether Consulting*)

Policymaker Work Group met prior to TAB. The group discussed setting local match percentages for Active Transportation applications, the application schedule, the applications connection to the 2050 Transportation Policy Plan goals and objectives, and reviewed program performance measures and data tracking. There was discussion on the dedicated funding for ABRT. Considered setting a minimum of \$30M and discussed whether to set a maximum level to provide flexibility. The Work Group will continue discussion in November. There was discussion on community considerations, former equity category, and how they can best function. Conversation will continue on the measures. TAB will try to complete the work on the 2026 Solicitation by the end of December 2026.

Active Transportation (*Glen Johnson, Chair, Joe Widing, MTS*)

There is one more meeting in October. The group will be writing up notes on what items were not covered for the 2028 solicitation. TAB members had no comments or questions.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 2:37 p.m.

Council contact:

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