

# Minutes

Transportation Advisory Board



**Meeting date:** January 21, 2026

**Time:** 12:30 PM

**Location:** 390 Robert Street

## Members present:

Chair, James Hovland  
 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Debbie Goettel  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair Victor Lake  
 Doug Anderson  
 Myron Bailey  
 Deb Barber  
 Husniyah Bradley  
~~Peter Dugan~~ (Rachel Chinitz)  
 Don Do  
~~Torin Gustafson~~  
~~Gary Hansen~~  
 Mary Liz Holberg  
 Taylor Hubbard

Julie Jeppson  
 Glen Johnson  
~~Saura Jost~~ (Molly Coleman)  
 Stan Karwoski  
~~Frank Kohlasch~~ (Amanda Jarrett Smith)  
 William Lindeke  
 Tim Marino  
~~John Merast~~  
 Brian Martinson  
~~Becky Petryk~~  
 Jess Robertson

~~Khani Sahebjam~~ (Sheila Kauppi)  
 George Schember  
~~Mark Steffenson~~  
 Jon Ulrich  
~~Jeffery Weisense~~  
~~Tom Workman~~ (John Fahey)  
 Mai Chong Xiong

## Staff

Elaine Koutsoukos, TAB  
 Joe MacPherson, TAC  
 Charles Carlson, MTS Director  
 Bridget Rief, MAC

## 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 Hovland called the regular meeting of the Transportation Advisory Board to order at 12:38 p.m.

## Agenda approved

It was moved by Anderson, seconded by Bailey 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

Chair Hovland reported the following:

Welcomed new members

- Transit representative Tim Marino (replaced Amity Foster) (other transit position and alternates are still in process of being selected)
- Anoka County alternate John Heinrich
- Scott County alternate Jody Brennan
- Citizen B alternate Aaron Cameron
- Non-motorized alternate Jackson Hampton
- Minneapolis representative and alternate are still in process of appointment

Regional Solicitation Policymaker workgroup met prior to TAB.

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

### MnDOT

Kauppi reported we are in pothole season and snow season. MnDOT is working with an asphalt company to open up early to fix potholes. There were 370 fatalities in 2025, which is down from previous year of 474. There was an increase in numbers of bicycle and pedestrian fatalities. So far, in 2026, there is the same number as last year.

### MPCA

Jarrett Smith reported MPCA continues to interact with the federal level and some deregulatory efforts that they're going through, including related to transportation and impacts that impact emissions from transportation. They are accepting comments on rolling back cafe standards, which are the standards that regulate the vehicle efficiency. There are two grant opportunities open right now; the climate smart food systems grant, a \$5,000,000 grant opportunity for vehicle replacements for businesses as well as government entities those vehicles need to be somehow connected with the food system, and a smaller grant for \$135,000 in grants for electric bikes for commercial use.

### MAC

Rief reported that MAC has a new chairperson, James Lawrence. He has Opt-In: Find the "TSA PreCheck Touchless ID" option in your account settings or been a member of the Commission for a few years and he brings international business and board experience with them and has worked for companies like General Mills Northwest Airlines and Pepsi company. Sun Country Airlines has merged with Alliance. Starting February 1st TSA is going to require real ID or passport and if you don't have one, it's going to cost you time and money, \$45.00, every single time. Ninety percent of passengers have some sort of Real ID. TSA is implementing a touchless ID that passengers can opt-in. Currently, it is for Pre-Check and includes facial recognition and you won't need a boarding pass or an ID to go through security checkpoints.

### Metropolitan Council

Barber reported that Met Council will hear an update two topics. Metro Transit is completing its evaluation of candidate arterial BRT corridors and will recommend new lines. The West 7th Street corridor will be recommended for the metro J line in combination with roadway improvements in the corridor. This corridor would receive a minimum of \$30 million in the 2026 regional solicitation. The Nicolette Ave. corridor will be recommended for the Metro K Line. There will be a study of three additional lines that will inform a future recommendation for the Metro L Line, which are Randolph Ave., Franklin/Grand, and Johnson/Lyndale. Additionally, two study corridors may be evaluated as potential extensions of the operating Metro C Line. Metro Transit staff will bring a presentation to TAB at its February meeting. The Council will review today a fair policy update. Metro Transit is implementing a regional fair system upgrade and considering their policy changes. It will be released for public comment



prior to implementation. A new transit service pilot is launching in February bringing app based on demand transit link service to parts of Forest Lake, Stillwater, Oak Park Heights, and Hastings.

#### Suburban Transit Providers

Hansen sent in the following report: Maple Grove Transit ridership in 2025 increased 10% over 2024. Express ridership increased 9% and MyRide on-demand ridership was up 12%. SouthWest Transit reported a 24% overall increase in bus ridership in 2025. Autonomous vehicle ridership within the transit station zone increased 144%. Based on the success of Prime on-demand ridership serving more compact zones, SouthWest will consider modeling regular bus service in smaller zones to improve efficiency. Minnesota Valley Transit Authority's overall ridership was up 8% over 2024. Express service increased 12% to Minneapolis and 16% to St. Paul. Connect microtransit ridership was up 34%, while local route ridership was stable. In 2025, e-Jest micro busses saved MVTA more than \$24,000 in fuel costs and reduced CO2 emissions by 97 tons. MVTA's South Metro Transit Coalition effort is making progress, as 21 business members have been accepted. The coalition will have its first meeting in February to hear an overview of membership benefits and assistance that MVTA will provide with commute information for current and prospective employees.

#### 3. TAC Report – Joe MacPherson, TAC Chair

MacPherson reported that the TAC Report consisted of items on the TAB agenda.

### Approval of minutes

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

### Consent business

Consent business adopted

1. 2026-12: Streamlined 2026-2029 TIP Amendment Request – Three Project Adjustments
2. 2026-13: Streamlined 2026-2029 TIP Amendment Request: Minneapolis Safe Streets for All

It was moved by Karwoski, seconded by Bradley.

Motion carried.

### Non-consent business

1. 2026-01: TAB Executive Committee

It was moved by Goettel, seconded by Bailey, that the Transportation Advisory Board approve the Executive Committee for 2026.

County Board members: Julie Jeppson, Anoka County and Mai Chong Xiong, Ramsey County  
Board members from the cities of the first class: Saura Jost (Molly Coleman alternate), St. Paul  
Board members from the remaining cities: Taylor Hubbard, Chaska, and Victor Lake, Prior Lake  
Member representing the citizen Board members: Peter Dugan  
Member representing the modal and remaining agency Board members: Brian Martinson, Non-motorized representative (Bike, Walk, and Roll representative)

They will serve along with members with TAB members with automatic seats:

Board Chair: Jim Hovland

MnDOT: Khani Sahebjam

Metropolitan Council: Deb Barber

**Motion carried.**

2. 2026-02: 2026 Regional Solicitation Qualifying Requirements

It was moved by Holberg, seconded by Goettel, that the TAB recommend approval of the qualifying requirements for the 2026 Regional Solicitation for the purpose of release for public comment.

Marino asked a clarifying question about timing.

**Motion carried.**

3. 2026-03: 2026 Active Transportation Solicitation Qualifying Requirements

It was moved by Holberg, seconded by Jeppson, that the TAB recommend approval of the qualifying requirements for the 2026 Active Transportation Solicitation for the purpose of release for public comment.

Ulrich, Holberg, and Karwoski made comments providing context.

**Motion carried.**

4. 2026-04: 2026 Active Transportation Solicitation Match

It was moved by Jeppson, seconded by Martinson, that the TAB recommend approval of no local match for all the application categories in the 2026 Active Transportation Solicitation.

TAB Members noted municipality requirements and historical context and commented on the 5% requirement, voicing comments in favor and against.

**Motion carried.**

5. 2026-05: 2026 Regional Solicitation Criteria, Measures, and Scoring Guidance

It was moved by Goettel, seconded by Johnson, that the TAB recommend approval of the criteria, measures, and scoring guidance for the 2026 Regional Solicitation for the purpose of release for public comment.

Martinson brought up key destinations.

**Motion carried.**

6. 2026-06: 2026 Active Transportation Solicitation Criteria, Measures, and Scoring Guidance

It was moved by Goettel, seconded by Johnson, that the TAB recommend approval of the criteria, measures, and scoring guidance for the 2026 Active Transportation Solicitation for the purpose of release for public comment.

TAB Members made comments both in favor of and against the proposed action.

**Motion carried.**

7. 2026-07: 2026 Regional Solicitation Scoring Criteria and Measure Weighting

It was moved by Holberg, seconded by Goettel, that the TAB adopt the TAC Planning Funding & Programming recommendation.

- Adjustment of the Community Considerations criterion downward from a total of 20% to 10% in the Safety application categories; setting each Community Considerations measure at one-third of the criterion; and
- Adjustment of the Community Considerations criterion downward from a total of 20% to 15% in all other application categories; setting each Community Considerations measure at one-third of the criterion; and
- Adjustment of another criterion and measure(s) in each application category upward by 10% in the Safety application categories and 5% in all other application categories.

Roll Call Vote:

Anderson - Nay	Bailey - Nay	Barber - Nay	Bradley - Nay	Coleman - Nay	Chinitz - Nay
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Do - Nay	Fahey - Aye	Goettel - Aye	Gustafson - absent	Hansen - absent	Hubbard - Aye
Holberg - Aye	Jarrett Smith - Nay	Jeppson - Aye	Johnson - Nay	Karwoski - Aye	Kauppi - Aye
Lake - Aye	Lindeke - Nay	Marino - Nay	Martinson - Nay	Morast - absent	Petryk - absent
Robertson - Aye	Schember - Nay	Steffenson - absent	Ulrich - Aye	Weisensel - absent	Xiong - Nay

**Motion failed.**

It was moved by Barber, seconded by Martinson, that the TAB recommend approval of the weighting of the criteria and scoring measures for the 2026 Regional Solicitation for the purpose of release for public comment.

- o Adjustment of the Community Considerations criterion downward from a total of 20% to 15% in the Safety application categories; setting each Community Considerations measure at one-third of the criterion
- o Adjustment of the People Outside of Vehicles criterion (and the Project-Based Pedestrian Safety Enhancement and Risk Element measure) upward from 20% to 25% in the Safety application categories

TAB Members discussed the merits of the proposed action item.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Anderson - Aye	Bailey - Aye	Barber - Aye	Bradley - Aye	Coleman - Aye	Chinitz - Aye
Do - Aye	Fahey - Nay	Goettel - Nay	Gustafson - absent	Hansen - absent	Hubbard - Nay
Holberg - Nay	Jarrett Smith - Aye	Jeppson - Nay	Johnson - Aye	Karwoski - Nay	Kauppi - Nay
Lake - absent	Lindeke - Aye	Marino - Aye	Martinson - Aye	Morast - absent	Petryk - absent
Robertson - Nay	Schember - Aye	Steffenson - absent	Ulrich - Nay	Weisensel - absent	Xiong - Aye

**Motion carried.**

8. **2026-08: 2026 Active Transportation Solicitation Scoring Criteria and Measure Weighting**

It was moved by Johnson, seconded by Xiong, that the TAB recommended approval of the weighting of the scoring criteria and measures for the 2026 Active Transportation Solicitation for the purpose of release for public comment.

- o No adjustment of the Community Considerations criterion, with the weighting remaining at 20%.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Anderson - Aye	Bailey - Aye	Barber - Aye	Bradley - Aye	Coleman - Aye	Chinitz - Aye
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Do - Aye	Fahey - Nay	Goettel - Nay	Gustafson - absent	Hansen - absent	Hubbard - Nay
Holberg - Nay	Jarrett Smith - Aye	Jeppson - Nay	Johnson - Aye	Karwoski - Nay	Kauppi - Nay
Lake - absent	Lindeke - absent	Marino - Aye	Martinson - Aye	Morast - absent	Petryk - absent
Robertson - Nay	Schember - Aye	Steffenson - absent	Ulrich - Nay	Weisensel - absent	Xiong - Aye

**Motion carried.**

9. 2026-09: 2026 Regional Solicitation Release for Public Comment

It was moved by Goettel, seconded by Anderson, that the TAB recommend approval of the draft 2026 Regional Solicitation application package for release for public comment, inclusive of all changes in Action Transmittals 2025-31, 2025-33, 2025-35, 2026-02, 2026-05, and 2026-07.

**Motion carried.**

10. 2026-10: 2026 Active Transportation Solicitation Release for Public Comment

It was moved by Martinson, seconded by Bradley, that the TAB recommend approval of the draft 2026 Active Transportation Solicitation application package for release for public comment, inclusive of the changes included in Action Transmittals 2025-32, 2025-34, 2025-36, 2026-03, 2026-04, 2026-06, and 2026-08.

**Motion carried.**

11. 2026-11: 2026 Highway Safety Improvement Solicitation Release for Public Comment (*Joe MacPherson, TAC Chair*)

It was moved by Kauppi, seconded by Goettel, that the TAB recommend approval of the draft 2026 Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) applications for release for public comment including up to \$6 million total in HSIP funding in construction seasons of 2030 and 2031 to reduce lane departure on locally owned roads.

**Motion carried.**

**Information**

1. There were no information items on the TAB agenda.

**Items of TAB members**

1. There were no additional items the TAB members wished to discuss.

**Adjournment**

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 2:39 p.m.

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**Council contact:**

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