

Minutes

Transportation Advisory Board



Meeting date: March 18, 2026

Time: 12:30 PM

Location: 390 Robert Street

Members present:

~~Chair, James Hovland~~
~~1st Vice Chair, Debbie Goettel~~
~~2nd Vice Chair, Victor Lake~~
3rd Vice Chair, Taylor Hubbard
Doug Anderson
~~Myron Bailey~~
Deb Barber
Husniyah Bradley
Molly Coleman
Peter Dugan
Don Do
Torin Gustafson
Gary Hansen

Mary Liz Holberg
Abdi Isse
~~Julie Jeppson~~ (John Heinrich)
Glen Johnson
Stan Karwoski
Frank Kohlasch
~~William Lindeke~~ (Rich Holst)
Tim Marino
Brian Martinson
~~John Morast~~
Becky Petryk

~~Jess Robertson~~
~~Khani Sahobjam~~ (Sheila Kauppi)
~~George Schember~~
~~Mark Steffenson~~
Soren Stevenson
~~Jon Ulrich~~ (Jody Brennan)
~~Jeffrey Weisensel~~
~~Tom Workman~~
Mai Chong Xiong

Staff

Elaine Koutsoukos, TAB
Joe MacPherson, TAC
Charles Carlson, MTS Director

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 12:31 p.m.

Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

The Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment was read by committee member Hubbard.

Agenda approved

It was moved by Anderson, Doug, seconded by Anderson, Kevin 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 address the TAB.

Reports

- TAB Chair's Report – Taylor Hubbard
Second Vice-Chair Hubbard reported that the Regional Solicitation Policymaker Work Group met last week. Hubbard welcomed new TAB members and alternates:
 - John Heinrich, Anoka County alternate
 - Jody Brennan, Scott County alternate
 - Soren Stevenson, Minneapolis; Robin Wonsley, alternate
 - Abdi Isse, Transit; Simon Bracey Lane, alternate
 - Andrew Eikum, Transit alternate for Tim Marino
- Agency Reports – MnDOT, MPCA, MAC, Metropolitan Council, and Suburban Transit Providers

MnDOT

Kauppi reported on fatalities. At the end of February, there were 40 fatalities in the state, 12 of which were in the metro area. There were 48 fatalities at this point last year. Construction is underway.

MPCA

Kohlasch reported that the MPCA released the Climate Adaption and Resilience Cost Study for the state of Minnesota, Minnesota Climate Adaptation and Resilience Cost Study. It was funded by the legislature. It is less costly to prevent impacts than mitigate damages of climate change. The Climate Change Subcabinet is talking with the Metropolitan Council in bringing assistance to local governments for extreme heat and fire pollution.

MAC

Reif reported that MSP had 8.8 inches of snow last Sunday and had over 200 people and equipment operating to keep the runways open. Spring break is underway and passenger levels are high. New vendors are open. Intercontinental Hotel was named #1 hotel by US News and World Reports. Delta announced seasonal flights to Lexington, KY. MAC recognized St. Cloud Technical College. They received a \$1.5M grant for aircraft maintenance program to get started. This complements the programs at other technical programs in the region.

Metropolitan Council

Barber reported Transit Employee Appreciation Day is celebrated today. Announced appointment of Joseph Dotseth as Metro Transit Chief of Police. The region's first 40' battery electric bus will be used on Saturday, March 21. The eight buses will be used on several local routes. This will be an opportunity to observe use. The Council ordered 109 hybrid electric buses that will go in service in 2027.

Suburban Transit Providers

Hansen reported Maple Grove Transit has formed a Transit and Mobility Committee focusing on active transportation initiatives and is researching options to coordinate microtransit applications with other microtransit service providers. Plymouth Metrolink reported continued increasing ridership, particularly in microtransit service, and strong customer satisfaction reflected by an average 4.9 out of 5.0 rider rating. SouthWest Transit overall ridership growth of 14% in 2025, made it the fastest growing transit agency in the state. Rider surveys show up to 98% customer satisfaction. Minnesota Valley Transit Authority is taking public feedback on proposed summer service changes, including reductions in express services on Fridays as MVTA continues to adapt its services to post-pandemic travel patterns and improve efficiency and cost effectiveness. The Suburban Transit Association hosted a legislative breakfast on March 9, updating legislators on providers' operations and services, and strategies to meet



local needs and adapt services as demands shift, and reviewing 2026 legislative policy priorities.

- TAC Report – Jeni Hager, TAC Chair

Hager reported that TAC items were included in the business before the TAB.

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Anderson, Doug, seconded by Stevenson to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2026, regular meeting of the Transportation Advisory Board. **Motion carried.**

Consent business

Consent business adopted

- 2026-21: Streamlined 2026-2029 TIP Amendment Request – I-394 Lighting Systems Replacement
- 2026-25: Streamlined 2026-2029 TIP Amendment Request – Cost Decrease for MnDOT’s MN 77 Bridge Rehabilitation

It was moved by Anderson, Kevin, seconded by Hansen.

Motion carried.

Non-consent business

- 2026-18: Program Year Extension Request: City of Anoka's TH 47 Corridor Improvement (Joe MacPherson, TAC Chair)

It was moved by Karwoski, seconded by Do, that the Transportation Advisory Board approve the program-year extension request to move Anoka’s TH 47 corridor improvements (north, SP # 103-010-021) and its TH 47 railroad crossing grade separation (south, SP # 103-010-022) from 2027 and 2028, respectively, to 2030.

TAB members asked clarifying questions about project specifics.

Motion carried.

- 2026-19: Release of the 2026 Regional Solicitation, Active Transportation, and Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Applications (Joe MacPherson, TAC Chair)

It was moved by Stevenson, seconded by Xiong, that the Transportation Advisory Board recommend acceptance of the Public Comment Report and approval of the release of the 2026 Regional Solicitation, Active Transportation Solicitation, and Highway Safety Improvement (HSIP) Solicitations, including the following changes resulting from the public comment period.

- Change the crash years used in the Regional Solicitation safety applications and HSIP applications from 2020-2024 to 2021-2025.
- Change Active Transportation’s Complete Streets scoring criterion to add “Agencies or organizations without roadway ownership or jurisdiction may include the community’s local ordinance or policy where the project is located and describe how the project would support advancing complete streets in this community.”
- Change the Access to Key Destinations scoring criterion in Active Transportation’s Local Bicycle Facilities application and Regional Solicitation’s Regional Bicycle Facilities application to add the following language: “Applicants may identify additional destinations up to 1 mile from the project location but will need to demonstrate that these destinations have a continuous bicycle facility connection, existing or planned, that provides safe access from the project location. These destinations must be clearly marked outside of the one-half mile



buffer.”

- Maintain the maximum funding award in the Travel Demand Management category at \$750,000.
- Include language for use of TAB discretion on AT funding in project selection.

TAB members asked questions about the process and about Active Transportation specifically. TAB members provided additional context and voiced support and lack of support for the motion and proposed amendments to the motion.

Motion carried.

It was moved by Holberg, seconded by Dugan, that the Transportation Advisory Board clarify that TAB has discretion on funding projects for regional balance.

Motion carried.

- 2026-20: Active Transportation Administration Costs (Joseph Widing, MTS)

It was moved by Martinson, seconded by Johnson, that the Transportation Advisory Board authorize up to \$500,000 in active transportation sales tax funds to be used for grant and program administration in calendar year 2026.

TAB members asked about program details.

Motion carried.

Information

- METRO Bronze Line BRT Project Update (Amy Vennewitz, MTS; Craig Lamothe, Stephen Smith, and Liz Jones, Metro Transit)

TAB members asked about electric bus fleets on the lines, project details, and voiced appreciation for staff work.

Items of TAB members

TAB members had no additional items.

Other business

There was no other business for the TAB.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 2:27 p.m.

Council contact:

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