Minutes

Transportation Advisory Board

Meeting date: October 21, 2026 **Time**: 12:30 PM **Location:** 390 Robert Street

Members present:

Chair, James Hovland
1st Vice Chair, Julie Jeppson
2nd Vice Chair, Taylor Hubbard
Doug Anderson
Myron Bailey
Husniyah Bradley
~~Aaron Cameron~~
Reva Chamblis
Carl Crimmins
Don Do
Peter Dugan
~~Debbie Goettel (Kevin Anderson)~~
Torin Gustafson
Gary Hansen
Mary Liz Holberg
~~Abdi Isse (Simon Bracey Lane)~~
Glen Johnson (Brandon Wagenfeld)
~~Saura Jost~~ (Molly Coleman)
Stan Karwoski
~~Frank Kohlasch~~ (Amanda Jarrett Smith)
Victor Lake
William Lindeke
Tim Marino
~~Brian Martinson~~
~~Becky Petryk~~
~~Jess Robertson (Tom Newland)~~
George Schember
~~Soren Stevenson~~ (Aisha Chughtai)
~~Mark Steffenson~~
Jon Ulrich
Jeffery Weisensel
Ryan Wilson
~~Tom Workman (John Fahey)~~
Mai Chong Xiong

Staff

Elaine Koutsoukos, TAB
Molly McCartney, TAC Vice-Chair
Amy Vennewitz, Transportation Planning Director

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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 12:30 p.m.

Agenda approved

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

Public invitation

Christopher Vaughan addressed TAB with comments about the recent closure of HourCar.

Reports

TAB Chair's Report – Jim Hovland

Chair Jim Hovland reported on the TAB Executive Committee meeting held before the TAB meeting.

Agency Reports –MnDOT, MPCA, MAC, Metropolitan Council, Suburban Transit Association

MnDOT

Wilson reported on construction projects completed in 2026. MnDOT completed the John Ireland Boulevard bridge replacement, opened Highway 280 before the State Fair, and completed the first phase of the I-494 project. MnDOT recently opened bids for the second phase of the I-494 project, with construction scheduled to begin in 2028. Wilson noted that MnDOT expects to have nearly $1 billion in projects completed by the end of 2026.

MPCA

Jarrett Smith reported that the Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) grant program is expected to offer funding opportunities in 2027 to replace older diesel-powered off-road vehicles and equipment. Smith also highlighted a $5.5 million Climate Pollution Reduction Grant to support the replacement of diesel vehicles and equipment used in the food system.

MAC

Crimmins reported that Allegiant's CEO pledged to maintain MSP as a major hub airport. Delta will also maintain MSP as its second-largest hub and plans to launch nonstop flights to Maui in early November.

Crimmins noted that MSP served approximately 51,000 travelers on Thursday of MEA weekend. The airport has invested $62 million in snow removal upgrades over the past three years and recently conducted a successful dry run of its snow removal operations.

Crimmins also reported that MAC hosted the Governor's Council on Sustainability and reaffirmed the airport's commitment to sustainability. As part of these efforts, MSP has reduced food waste by 30% and is partnering with local nonprofit food pantries. Additionally, sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) is being delivered directly to MSP by pipeline from the Flint Hills refinery.

Metropolitan Council

Chamblis welcomed Ryan Wilson to TAB and recognized Khani Sahebjam for his years of service to the committee. She noted that several citizen seats on TAB remain vacant and encouraged the committee to fill those positions in early 2027.

Chamblis also recognized Council Member Deb Barber and Transportation Planning Director Amy Vennwitz, who received national awards at the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) annual conference in September for their individual achievements and contributions to the region.

Suburban Transit Association

Hansen reported that Plymouth Metrolink reports increasing ridership in coordination with Maple Grove Transit. Maple Grove ridership is up 16 percent from last year at this time. University of Minnesota ridership is especially strong.

SouthWest Transit Prime microtransit ridership is up 15%, and fixed route ridership is up more than 10%. State Fair ridership was more than 120,000, slightly more than in 2025. Renaissance Festival ridership of nearly 42,000 was up seven percent from last year.

SouthWest Transit and Minnesota Valley Transit Authority are now direct recipients of FTA funding, rather than funding being allocated through the Metropolitan Council.

MVTA Express ridership is up 10% and MVTA Connect microtransit ridership is up 16%. Renaissance Festival service set a record of more than 54,000, a 4% increase over last year. State Fair ridership set a record of nearly 155,000 at a similar rate of increase.

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In the first year of Mystic Lake Amphitheater service, MVTA provided 9,600 rides as part of Park and Ride and Canterbury Circulator services. MVTA is engaged in discussions with Live Nation, Canterbury Park, and the City of Shakopee to further improve service offerings in 2027.

TAC Report – Molly McCartney, TAC Vice Chair

Provided information on the consent items before TAB.

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Anderson, seconded by Karwoski to approve the minutes of August 19th, 2026, regular meeting of the Transportation Advisory Board. **Motion carried**.

Consent business

Consent business adopted

1. 2026-45: Streamlined 2027-2030 TIP Amendment Request - 193rd Avenue NW Roundabout
2. 2026-46: Streamlined 2027-2030 TIP Amendment Request – Metro Transit Hybrid-Electric Bus Replacement
3. 2026-47: Streamlined 2027-2030 TIP Amendment Request – Six Southwest Transit projects
4. 2026-48: Streamlined 2027-2030 TIP Amendment Request – Four Minnesota Valley Transit Authority Projects
5. 2026-49: Streamlined 2027-2030 TIP Amendment Request – Three Project Adjustments
6. 2026-39: Program Year Extension Request - Three Rivers Park District Shingle Creek Regional Trail Reconstruction Active Transportation Pilot Project
7. 2026-40: Program Year Extension Request - Richfield 64th Street Sidewalk Active Transportation Pilot Project
8. 2026-41: Program Year Extension Request - Dakota County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 42 Trail Gap and Underpass Active Transportation Pilot Project
9. 2026-42: Program Year Extension Request - Farmington North Creek Greenway Active Transportation Pilot Project
10. 2026-43: Program Year Extension Request - Brooklyn Center Brooklyn Center High School Pedestrian Improvements Active Transportation Pilot Project
11. 2026-44: Program Year Extension Request - Arden Hills Old Highway 10 Safe Routes to School Active Transportation Pilot Project

It was moved by Xiong, seconded by Hansen **Motion carried.**

Information

1. Regional Solicitation Update (Amy Vennewitz, Steve Peterson, and Joe Widing, Transportation Planning)

Amy Vennewitz and Joe Macpherson provided an update to the Community Considerations federal response.

TAB Members discussed five possible options.

1. Council staff proposed changes that address USDOT recommendations. Reopen the Community Considerations measures for the submitted applications to adjust their responses, if they want.
2. Move forward with just the scores of the other measures, without Community Considerations measures.

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3. Open the applications, without the Community Considerations measures, for additional applications to be submitted.
4. Move forward without making any changes, scoring the applications as they were submitted.
5. Adopt the Council staff proposed changes and score the submitted responses with the revised scoring guidance.

2. TPP 2050 Amendment 3 Public Comments (Cole Hiniker, Transportation Planning)

Presentation was tabled due to time.

Items of TAB members

Other business

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 3:03 p.m.

Council contact:

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