

Summary Report

Transportation Advisory Board



Meeting Date: December 17, 2025

Reports

- 1. Chair's Report** –Hovland reported that the Regional Solicitation Policymaker Workgroup met before the TAB meeting. There was conversation about some of the issues that we're going to be seeing in January. One was discussion on community considerations and the percentage that should be allocated to community considerations as part of the process. Another issue was whether the regional trail should be equal to the regional bike transportation network trail. Year-round maintenance on trails was discussed. There was discussion on whether to recommend an increase in funding for ride share projects. Hovland recognized outgoing TAB members: Katie Cashman, Carl Crimmins, Amity Foster, and Chris Vaughan. The TAB Executive Committee membership will be selected at the January TAB meeting. Please submit your interest in serving to Elaine Koutsoukos by the end of December. The Board Chair, MnDOT, and Metropolitan Council are members. Volunteers are needed to serve in the following positions: two county members, one city of first class (Minneapolis or St. Paul), two from remaining cities, one citizen member, and one from modal or other agencies.
- 2. MnDOT Report** – Sahebjam reported on safety updates for all traffic fatalities in Minnesota. As of this meeting, there have been 362 fatalities in traffic related incidents statewide on all local and state roads. Last year at this time, the fatality number was 461. Each month in 2025 there have been less traffic fatalities than the previous year. For 2025, the metro area has about 40% of all statewide traffic fatalities, but more than 2/3 of statewide pedestrian traffic fatalities. There were 41 pedestrian, 57 motorcycle, and 15 bicycle fatalities. The Minnesota Rail Service Improvement Grant (MRSI) Program is open for grant application through Jan 9, 2026. This program provides grants for freight rail service improvement projects that support economic development. Up to \$4 million is currently available as grants for projects that will improve freight rail service that supports local or statewide economic development. The funding includes \$1 million in new bond funding approved during the 2025 legislative special session, and \$3 million in bond funding reallocated from previous projects.
- 3. MPCA** – Kohlasch reported on a Berlin company partnering with Minneapolis on charging emoto, e-bicycles, and e-scooters. The primary item that they were identifying was the ability for centralized charging networks. MPCA is talking with Google research offices about how they're using AI for flood prediction so that there's better predictability and better preparation available for Minnesota. The federal government under the Department of Transportation National Highway Traffic Safety Administration proposed to weaken the fuel economy standards for the country. MPCA is working with colleagues at the Department of Transportation for a comment letter opposing that repeal of the fuel economy standards. MPCA is also tracking EPA's action that they will finalize their repeal of vehicle greenhouse gas emission standards for motor vehicles. On the EV charging side, MnDOT received certification from Federal Highway Administration on their alternative vehicle corridors. I-35 and I-94 are considered fully built out for EV charging, which now allows MnDOT to begin spending some of that federal funding for EV charging in other places based on the needs assessment that they developed. A couple of grants opened up related to transportation or county infrastructure: one is a grant under MPCA's spark food systems grant for the replacement of diesel and gasoline powered vehicles that are used in the food system

distribution network to be 0 emission vehicles. There is \$5,000,000 for the applications. Information on the grants can be found here, <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/business-with-us/grants-loans-and-contracts>. The Department of Agriculture has also provided funding for the replacement of diesel vehicles used in food production and primary production. There is funding for three bikes grants for businesses. Businesses can seek grants from the MPCA for E bike purchase and E bike charging infrastructure for their employees. There is a local climate action grant that is open until December 23rd that includes unique type of planning or implementation that a local unit of government would like to undertake to combat climate change, either reducing emissions, increasing efficiency, or looking at climate. MPCA is in the final stages of the climate action framework, intending to publish at the beginning of February

4. **MAC Report** – Rief reported that MAC is preparing for upcoming travel season. The Airport Foundation will have many performances going on throughout the holidays. They are offering free gift wrapping on December 23rd. The retail shops will be having sidewalk sales Thursday and Friday. Last week MAC and Delta held a joint press conference to celebrate the completion of the concourse and gate modernization project. This was a \$240 million upgrade to most of the concourses in terminal 1. One of the best results are the new gate signs that display signs that you can see from a very long way down. Last week the foundation held their annual MSP creates launch. This is an annual employee art fair, where employees throughout the airport as well as their families are invited to submit their artwork on any media to the foundation and they display all of that artwork in Concourse C. In response to a question about ICE activities around the airport, Rief responded that MAC is aware of a few incidents of immigration enforcement activity by federal agencies and public areas at MSP airport. MAC's number one priority is the safety of all members of our airport community including travelers and the thousands of dedicated value employees that support operations in and around MSP. MAC does not interfere with law enforcement operations by federal agencies including the TSA, Customs and Border Protection, ICE, and the FBI. However, MAC is taking steps within their jurisdiction to ensure the safety of the airport community, including reminding the airport community to call 911 if they ever feel unsafe. Follow-up questions can be directed to MAC chief operations officer. Rief will provide contact information to Koutsoukos to forward to TAB members.
5. **Metropolitan Council** – Barber reported an update on TPP and aviation system plan and the public comment period and adoption. The public comments will be considered at the January 12th transportation committee. The public comment report will include responses for each comment but further changes to the document are not anticipated to be needed. The amendments to aviation system update is anticipated to be approved and adopted by the metropolitan council on January 28, 2026. The E Line was launched so on December 6th replaced route 6 going from Minneapolis to Edina. The Metro Transit Police Department had a record hiring year in 2025, with 45 staff hired to cover the three new BRT lines. The next one will be the Green Line extension at early 2027. A request was made to have the Council report on a 2024 legislature direction that Council to conduct a study of extending the Greenway from Minneapolis into Ramsey County to Saint Paul. The study is almost done and will be released in the spring. TAB would like a presentation on the findings.
6. **Suburban Transit Association** – Hansen reported on suburban transit ridership. Maple Grove Transit has made service adjustments based on ridership trends, noting increased demand for early afternoon service. Express ridership has increased nearly 10%, and MyRide on-demand ridership is up 12%. Plymouth Metrolink reports stable to slightly increasing ridership and plans to consider future pilot routes based on transit needs assessment study findings. SouthWest Transit reports increasing Prime on-demand ridership despite reduction in service resulting in more compact service zones. Based on its Carver County Mobility Study, SouthWest is expanding service to meet ridership needs in Waconia. Minnesota Valley Transit Authority's overall ridership was up more than 7% year-over-year. Connect microtransit ridership was up 30%, and local route ridership increased more than 11%. MVTA's "Stuff the Bus" effort at grocery stores is collecting donations for local food shelves.

Business

TAB approved the following items (forwarded to the Transportation Committee).

1. 2025-44: Streamlined 2026-2029 TIP Amendment Request: Saint Paul Safe Streets for All (January 12, 2026, Transportation Committee)

The Transportation Advisory Board recommended adoption of an amendment to the 2026-2029 TIP to add Saint Paul's Transportation Safety Countermeasures project (SP# 8825-1417).
2. 2025-45: Streamlined 2026-2029 TIP Amendment Request – Four Project Adjustments (January 12, 2026, Transportation Committee)

The Transportation Advisory Board recommended adoption of an amendment to the 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program to make the following project adjustments:
 - Addition of guardrail, grading, and ADA updates to MnDOT's US 10 mill and overlay project in Denmark Township
 - Combining of six MnDOT 2026 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities program projects into one project line.
 - Increasing the cost and adding a pedestrian bridge to MnDOT's MN 65 interchanges changes project in Blaine.
 - Increasing the cost and removing one pedestrian bridge from MnDOT and Chisago County's US 8 expansion project.
3. 2025-41: Review of Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) 2026-2032 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) (January 12, 2026, Transportation Committee)

The Transportation Advisory Board recommended to the Met Council acceptance of the staff analysis that MAC's 2026-2032 CIP is consistent with the Transportation Policy Plan and included adequate public participation and forward these comments to the Metropolitan Council for its consideration.
4. 2025-42: Adoption of 2026 Roadway Safety Performance Targets (January 12, 2026, Transportation Committee)

The Transportation Advisory Board recommend that the Metropolitan Council adopt the 2026 roadway safety performance targets, which advance a long-term goal of zero deaths:
 - Number of all fatalities: no more than 71
 - Fatal injuries per 100 million VMT: no more than 0.25
 - Number of all serious injuries: no more than 445
 - Serious injuries per 100 million VMT: no more than 1.55
 - Pedestrian and bicyclist fatalities and serious injuries: no more than 110
5. 2025-43: Program Year Extension Request: Hennepin County's Marshall Street NE (CSAH 23) Phase 2 Reconstruction Project

The Transportation Advisory Board recommended approval Hennepin County's request to extend the program year of its Marshall Street NE Phase 2 reconstruction project from 2029 to 2030.

Information

1. Regional Solicitation Evaluation Update

Steve Peterson, MTS, and Allison Bell, Bellwether Consulting, presented this item. The Policymaker Work Group received feedback on the criteria weighting for Community Considerations. After deliberation, the work group considered changing the weighting to 15%



in the Safety applications and moving 5% to the criterion of Improvements for People Outside of Vehicles and keeping the weighting at 20% for all the other application categories. The reallocation of 5% into Improvements for People Outside of Vehicles came in part from recognition of pedestrian fatalities and being a driver of increased fatalities. Through this process and in the broader transportation and development TAB has said that they want to make a difference on transportation safety and this is the chosen measure to increase. There will be additional discussion on the weighting to consider others' views of reducing the Community Considerations to 10% in safety and 15% in other categories. As follow-up to November TAB meeting conversation, it was pointed out that car sharing and bike sharing eligibility is in two categories.

Link to December 17, 2025, TAB agenda and materials, [121725 Agenda - Transportation Advisory Board](#).

