

# Summary Report

Transportation Advisory Board



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**Meeting Date:** February 18, 2026

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## Reports

- 1. Chair's Report** – 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
- 2. MnDOT Report** – 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.
- 3. MPCA** – Kolasch 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.
- 4. MAC Report** – Rief 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.
- 5. 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.
- 6. Suburban Transit Association** – 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.

## Business

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

1. 2026-21: Streamlined 2026-2029 TIP Amendment – MnDOT I-394 Lighting Systems Replacement (March 23, 2026, Transportation Committee)

The Transportation Advisory Board recommended that the Metropolitan Council adopt an amendment to the 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to reduce the length of MnDOT's I-394 lighting systems replacement (SP # 2789-168) from 3.64 miles to 2.968 miles.

2. 2026-25: Streamlined 2026-2029 TIP Amendment – MnDOT MN 77 Bridge Rehabilitation (March 23, 2026, Transportation Committee)

The Transportation Advisory Board recommended that the Metropolitan Council adopt an amendment to the 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to reduce the cost of MnDOT's MN 77 bridge rehabilitation project (SP # 2758-75).

3. 2026-18: Program Year Extension Request: City of Anoka's TH 47 Corridor Improvement

The Transportation Advisory approved 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.

4. 2026-19: Release of the 2026 Regional Solicitation, Active Transportation, and Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Applications (April 13, 2026, Transportation Committee)

The Transportation Advisory recommended 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.
- Add language to applications indicating TAB discretion for selection of projects with Active Transportation funding for regional balance.

5. 2026-20: Active Transportation Administration Costs

The Transportation Advisory authorized up to \$500,000 in active transportation sales tax funds to be used for grant and program administration in calendar year 2026. There were



questions on the auditing of the use of Active Transportation funding. The Council will use its standard auditing process for the funds. The Active Transportation Work Group is finalizing its report.

## Information

### 1. METRO Bronze Line BRT Project Update

Amy Vennewitz, MTS, introduced the item as a future 2050 Transportation Policy Plan amendment. Craig Lamothe, Stephen Smith and Liz Jones, Metro Transit, presented the item.

Link to March 18, 2026, TAB agenda and materials, [031826 Agenda - Transportation Advisory Board](#).

