Summary Report

Transportation Advisory Board

Meeting Date: October 21, 2026

Reports

1. ***Chair's* Report** –Chair Hovland reported that the TAB Executive Committee met prior to the TAB meeting and discussed items on the TAB agenda. Hovland expressed appreciation of Khani Sahebjam for his service on TAB as the MnDOT representative until his retirement on October 1. Ryan Wilson will serve as the MnDOT representative Jackson Hampton, Non-motorized representative alternate has resigned after accepting a position at Metro Transit.

2. ***MnDOT Report*** – Wilson reported that MnDOT is in the process of filling the district engineer vacancy and he is in an acting role. There is a continued slight uptick trend in fatalities this year. 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 from Highway 77 to 169, with construction scheduled to begin in 2028. MnDOT let $1 billion in projects in 2026.

3. ***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.

4. ***MAC Report*** – 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.

5. ***Metropolitan Council -*** Chamblis thanked Khani Sahebjam for his years of service to TAB and for the strong partnership he helped to foster between the DOT and the MPO. The Council is recruiting for community members interested in serving two-year terms to begin in January 2027. There are four member and alternate openings for two-year terms in Districts E, F, G and H and alternate member openings for one-year terms in Districts A and B and the Non-motorized modal. Application deadline is November 5, 2026. Several Met Council staff attended the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organization National Conference in Sacramento in September. Amy Vennewitz and Councilmember Deb Barber were each honored with national awards for their individual achievements and contributions to the MPO. CM Barber was also part of a panel presentation regarding Regional Planning in Partnership with American Indian Communities, along with Allison Waukau and Angela Torres from the Council and Robert Pilot from Native Roots Radio.

6. ***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. 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.

Business

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

1. 2026-39: Program Year Extension Request: Three Rivers Park District Shingle Creek Regional Trail Reconstruction Active Transportation Pilot Project

   The Transportation Advisory Board approved the program year extension request to shift the program year from 2026 to 2027 for the Three Rivers Park District Shingle Creek Regional Trail Reconstruction project.

2. 2026-40: Program Year Extension Request: City of Richfield 64th Street Sidewalk Active Transportation Pilot Project

   The Transportation Advisory Board approved the program year extension request to shift the program year from 2026 to 2027 for the City of Richfield 64th Street Sidewalk project.

3. 2026-41: Program Year Extension Request: Dakota County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 42 Trail Gap Active Transportation Pilot Project

   The Transportation Advisory Board approved the program year extension request to shift the program year from 2026 to 2027 for the Dakota County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 42 Trail Gap project.

4. 2026-42: Program Year Extension Request: Farmington North Creek Greenway Active Transportation Pilot Project

   The Transportation Advisory Board approved the program year extension request to shift the program year from 2026 to 2027 for the City of Farmington North Creek Greenway project.

5. 2026-43: Program Year Extension Request: City of Brooklyn Center Brooklyn Center High School Pedestrian Improvements Active Transportation Pilot Project

   The Transportation Advisory Board approved the program year extension request to shift the program year from 2026 to 2027 for the City of Brooklyn Center High School Pedestrian Improvements project.

6. 2026-44: Program Year Extension Request: City of Arden Hills Old Highway 10 Safe Routes to School Active Transportation Pilot Project

   The Transportation Advisory Board approved the program year extension request to shift the program year from 2026 to 2027 for the City of Arden Hills Old Highway 10 Safe Routes to School project.

7. 2026-45: Streamlined 2027-2030 TIP Amendment Request: Elk River 193rd Avenue NW Roundabout (TBD, Transportation Committee)

   The Transportation Advisory Board recommended that the Metropolitan Council adopt an

amendment to the 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add Elk River's 193rd Avenue NW Roundabout project.

8. 2026-46: Streamlined 2027-2030 TIP Amendment Request: Metro Transit Hybrid-Electric Bus Replacement (TBD, Transportation Committee)

   The Transportation Advisory Board recommended that the Metropolitan Council adopt an amendment to the 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to Metro Transit's Low- and No-Emission Hybrid-Electric Bus Replacement project (TRF-TCMT-27AG).

9. 2026-47: Streamlined 2027-2030 TIP Amendment Request: Five Southwest Transit projects (TBD, Transportation Committee)

   The Transportation Advisory Board recommended that the Metropolitan Council adopt an amendment to the 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add the following five projects:

   - Purchase of four diesel-electric hybrid buses
   - SouthWest Transit bus facility rehabilitation project
   - Bus facility rehabilitation and preventative maintenance project
   - Procurement of bus technology and bus equipment
   - 2027 SWT service operational assistance

10. 2026-48: Streamlined 2027-2030 TIP Amendment Request: Four Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) Projects (TBD, Transportation Committee)

    The Transportation Advisory Board recommended that the Metropolitan Council adopt an amendment to the 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add the following four projects:

    - Purchase of Diesel-Electric Hybrid Buses
    - Burnsville Bus Garage Modernization Phase IV
    - Eagan Bus Garage Modernization
    - Technology and ADA enhancement

11. 2026-49: Streamlined 2027-2030 TIP Amendment Request: Three Project Adjustments (TBD, Transportation Committee)

    The Transportation Advisory Board recommended that the Metropolitan Council adopt an amendment to the 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to reduce the cost of the Minneapolis's MSAS 249 Reconstruction project, reduce the cost of MnDOT's US 10 Resurfacing project and adjust the scope and increase the cost of MnDOT's I-35W Bridge Joint Repairs project.

Information

1. Regional Solicitation Update

   Amy Vennewitz, Steve Peterson, and Joe Widing, Transportation Planning, presented the item.

   TAB members discussed options to move forward:

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

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

2. Transportation Policy Plan Amendment 3 Public Comments

   This item was not presented.

Link to October 21, 2026, TAB agenda and materials, October 21 2026 Agenda - Transportation Advisory Board.