

Minutes

Transportation Advisory Board



Meeting date: February 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
~~Doug Anderson~~
Myron Bailey
Deb Barber
Husniyah Bradley
Molly Coleman
Peter Dugan
Don Do
Torin Gustafson
Gary Hansen

Mary Liz Holberg
Taylor Hubbard
Julie Jeppson
Glen Johnson
Stan Karwoski
Frank Kohlasch
William Lindeke
Tim Marino
John Morast
Brian Martinson
Becky Petryk

~~Jess Robertson (Tom Newland)~~
Khani Sahebjam
George Schember
Mark Steffenson
Jon Ulrich
Jeffery Weisensel
~~Tom Workman (John Fahey)~~
Mai Chong Xiong

Staff

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

Call to order

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Hovland called the regular meeting of the Transportation Advisory Board to order at 12:32 p.m.

Agenda approved

It was moved by Goettel, seconded by Jeppson to approve the agenda. TAB members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda. **Motion carried.**

Public invitation

There was no one from the public who wished to speak to the TAB.

Reports

1. TAB Chair's Report – Chair James Hovland

Hovland reported that TAB Executive Committee met prior to the TAB meeting. Julie Jeppson was selected as 1st Vice-Chair and Taylor Hubbard was selected as 2nd Vice-chair. Peter Dugan was selected as TAB Liaison to the Transportation Committee.

The Regional Solicitation public comment period closed on 2/17 with 22 comments received.

- Public meeting was held on 2/10, no comments received.
- Budget survey tool completed by more than 80 people.
- Targeted outreach completed in all 7 counties where people were asked to complete the budget survey tool.

The Regional Solicitation applications will go to TAC F&P on 2/26 to consider any changes

from the public comment period. It will come back to TAB for the March meeting.

The Met Council is submitting a federal USDOT planning grant application for BUILD. It would be for a prioritization study already listed in the 2050 TPP and the UPWP, called the Existing Interchange Modernization Study. This study would prioritize improvements to existing interchanges to modernize them like what is happening at TH 100 and Vernon Ave.

Agency Reports – Minnesota Department of Transportation, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Metropolitan Airports Commission, Metropolitan Council, Suburban Transit Association

MnDOT

Sahebjam reported on the following information. As of February 17, there were 27 fatalities statewide, compared to 37 in 2025. The Minnesota Legislature started on February 17. This is a bonding year. The local governments and the state have \$7 billion of requests. Approximately \$1 billion would be in the bonding bill. The Rethinking I-94 project is out for public comment through mid-March. Westbound I-394 will be closed until June and eastbound I-394 will be closed June through November. MnDOT will present in April on the impact to other modes, different streets, and different entities, when closing roadways during construction.

MPCA

Kohlasch reported that the climate change 2026 climate action framework was released. It includes 7 chapters, one of them focused on transportation, [Climate Action Framework | Our Minnesota Climate](#). Reducing emissions from transportation also includes a significant input from local governments and tribal nations in the direction that Minnesota needs to go. The high level parts that we focus on within that framework are reducing emissions to make our statutory goals which is a 50% reduction by 2030 and then net zero by 2050. MPCA has grants open for food systems, [Grants to prepare Minnesota for climate change | Minnesota Pollution Control Agency](#). Federal Register EPA published their repeal of the endangerment finding for greenhouse gases from transportation sources in the United States. That is a reversal of a 2009 decision. EPA now says that in house gases emitted from the cars and trucks on the roads in in the United states are not endangering health and welfare of the United States and that removes all the regulatory bodies that were found to have under the Clean Air Act. It also repeals the vehicle emission standards for greenhouse gases going back from 2012 to 2027 and beyond.

MAC

Rief sent in the following report: Brian Ryks, CEO, would like to extend his thanks to the full Council for the warm reception in January for his MAC presentation. Passenger numbers for 2025 were down by 2.95%, with a total of 36.1 million passengers. We hit an all-time record for international destinations in 2025, and international travelers accounted for 3.6 million passengers (also a record). MSP Operations in 2025 totaled approximately 343,000, which is up just slightly from 2024. The MAC Reliever Airport operations were also up, by about 4%. Delta announced non-stop service to Maui, starting December 19 through April 2027. They anticipate about 170 passengers per day taking that flight.

Met Council

Barber reported annual ridership numbers will be coming out in March. The legislative session started, which means we have a number of legislatively mandated reports that we are required present. Reports include the highest subsidy transit routes analysis, the premium on demand pilot expansion, metro transit planning care standards reports, and updates on transit safety.

STA



Hansen reported: Maple Grove Transit and Plymouth Metrolink reported steady to slightly increasing ridership in January. SouthWest Transit reported a nearly 10% overall increase in ridership. Demonstrations in Minneapolis have caused delays or temporary adjustments on some routes. Minnesota Valley Transit Authority's express ridership to St. Paul increased 19% in January. Connect microtransit ridership was up 22%. MVTA has received a Dakota County Communities for All award to support disability awareness training for bus operators. The program invests in initiatives that advance equity, inclusion, and access across Dakota County communities. MVTA also received a Scott County Statewide Health Improvement Partnership award to promote active transportation in Scott County. The program supports local strategies that improve health outcomes by making it easier for people to incorporate active transportation into their daily lives. The award may be applied toward installation of bike lockers at a park and ride or wayfinding signage connecting riders to nearby parks and trails.

TAC Report – Joe MacPherson, TAC Chair

The TAC report consisted of items on the agenda.

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Bailey, seconded by Morast to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2026, regular meeting of the Transportation Advisory Board. **Motion carried.**

Consent business

1. 2026-15: Streamlined 2026-2029 TIP Amendment – MnDOT National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Station
2. 2026-16: Streamlined 2026-2029 TIP Amendment – Scope and Cost Increase for MnDOT's MN 77 Bridge Rehabilitation

It was moved by Steffenson, seconded by Xiong.

Motion carried.

Non-consent business

1. 2026-14: Scope Change Request – City of Minneapolis' Elliot Park Neighborhood Pedestrian Improvement (*Joe MacPherson, TAC Chair*)

It was moved by Goettel, seconded by Jeppson, that the Transportation Advisory Board approve the City of Minneapolis's scope change request to remove improvements at two intersections along Park and Portland avenues from its four intersection pedestrian improvement project (SP# 141-030-056), expand improvements at the remaining 11th Avenue intersections, and add a two-way protected bikeway along 11th Avenue South with a \$752,281 reduction in federal funds.

Johnson shared personal context for the area, TAB Members noted the importance for coordination with other agencies and process improvement. TAB Members discussed the merits and drawbacks of the various options.

Information

1. National Scan of Integration of Travel Demand Management for Highway Projects (Jonathan Ehrlich, Bethany Brandt-Sargent, Met Council; Kaitlyn Denten, UMN)

TAB Members asked questions about best practices, key considerations, and coordination among agencies.

2. Arterial Bus Rapid Transit Plan Update Recommendations (Kyle Burrows, Metro Transit)

TAB Members discussed the projects and asked clarifying questions.

3. Reading of Dakota Land, Water, People Acknowledgement (Jim Hovland, TAB Chair)

TAB Members discussed the cadence and details of reading the acknowledgement.

Adjournment

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

Council contact:

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