



# Association of Minnesota Counties

## Transportation & Infrastructure Policy Committee

March 3, 2022

### DRAFT MINUTES

#### MEMBERS PRESENT:

John Allen, Dodge County	Brad Krause, Waseca County
Brad Anderson, Goodhue County	Rafael Ortega, Ramsey County
Kevin Campbell, Clay County	Eric Rudningen, Swift County
Derrick Goutermont, Lake County	Dean Simonson, Brown County
Mary Liz Holberg, Dakota County (virtual)	Vance Stuehrenberg, Blue Earth County
Roger Imdieke, Kandiyohi County	Mark Thell, Carlton County
Paul Johnson, Meeker County	Bob Van Hee, Redwood County
Scott Johnson, Benton County (virtual)	Gordy Wagner, Pope County
Stan Karwoski, Washington County	Lance Wetzel, Le Sueur County (virtual)
Jack Kolars, Nicollet County	Mike Weyer, Wadena County
Richard Koons, Martin County (virtual)	Mike Wimmer, Mille Lacs County (virtual)
Bob Kopitzke, Stevens County	

#### GUESTS:

Lon Aune, Marshall County (virtual)	Rich Sanders, Polk County (virtual)
Margaret Donahoe, MN Transportation Alliance	Ted Schoenecker, Ramsey County
Brennan Furness, Hennepin County (virtual)	Mark Sehr, Rock County
Joe Gustafson, Washington County	Brian Sorenson, MnDOT
Mike Hanson, DPS	Wayne Stevens, Brown County
Dan Larson, MRC	Jodi Teich, Stearns County
Emily Murray, AMC Staff	Ryan Thilges, Blue Earth County (virtual)
JinYeene Neumann, Carlton County	Joe Triplett, Chisago County
Mel Odens, Kandiyohi County	Mark Vizecky, MnDOT State Aid
Jennifer O'Rourke, Ramsey County (virtual)	Phil Wacholz, Freeborn County (virtual)

#### I. Call to Order

Chair Wagner called the Transportation and Infrastructure Policy Committee to order at 9:30 AM. The committee recited the Pledge of Allegiance and took introductions. Stevens County Commissioner Bob Kopitzke moved to approve the December Transportation & Infrastructure Policy Committee minutes, second by Waseca County Commissioner Brad Krause. Motion passed.

**II. Toward Zero Deaths Initiative**

Mike Hanson, Director of the DPS Office of Traffic Safety, and Brian Sorenson, MnDOT State Traffic Engineer, provided an update on the Toward Zero Deaths (TZD) Initiative in MN, including a statewide traffic fatality update and information on TZD 2.0. Mike and Brian detailed the unfortunate national trend of increasing speeds and the number of traffic fatalities on all roadways, while citations for traffic violations are down. There were 162 speed-related deaths on MN roadways in 2021, a 33% increase from 2020. TZD is working to respond to this problem by building a culture of traffic safety and designing and operating a safe system. Mike and Brian took questions from committee members and discussed how counties can be integral to TZD 2.0.

**III. House Transportation Committee Vice Chair – Rep. Erin Koegel**

Rep. Erin Koegel, the Vice Chair of the House Transportation Committee, joined via Zoom to give an update on the legislative session so far as well as some of the committee priorities for this year. Rep. Koegel stated that one of the top priorities was to get state matching funds for the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding. She mentioned that they are looking at new, creative ways to get revenue into the HUTDF and the transportation system as a whole. Rep. Koegel also mentioned her support for a bonding bill and her hope that one will get done this session. Rep. Koegel took questions from committee members.

**IV. Speed Limit Vision Project**

Mark Vizecky, MN State Aid Operations Engineer, and Joe Gustafson, Washington County Traffic Engineer, discussed the Statewide Speed Limit Vision Project and the purpose for the project, which was to develop a vision for setting speed limits supported by cities, counties, advocacy groups, and public safety. Mark also shared the scope of the project as they are in the early stages of Phase II, which focuses on documenting and reviewing the current MnDOT speed limit study process, gathering input from stakeholders, incorporating elements of the unified vision into the process, and then proposing any changes and refining the process. Joe Gustafson detailed the current statutory language for setting speed limits and discussed some of the legislative proposals that have been introduced to change the current process. Joe highlighted the AMC and MCEA platform positions on speed limits and our support for the current process.

**V. Legislative Update**

Emily Murray provided an update on the AMC TIPC priorities, including broadband funding and bonding as well as highlighting the governor’s supplemental budget proposals for broadband and transportation. Additionally, the committee discussed current legislative proposals to fully dedicate the revenue from the auto parts sales tax to transportation. Margaret Donahoe, Executive Director of the MN Transportation Alliance, discussed a proposal that would dedicate some of this revenue to transit in addition to the HUTDF as a way for the House and Senate to find compromise this session.

**VI. Adjourn**

Blue Earth County Commissioner Vance Stuehrenberg moved to adjourn the meeting, second by Goodhue County Commissioner Brad Anderson. Motion passed. The Transportation & Infrastructure Policy Committee adjourned at 11:43 AM.