



Association of Minnesota Counties

Transportation & Infrastructure Policy Committee

February 23, 2023

DRAFT MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brad Anderson, Goodhue County	Jack Kolars, Nicollet County
Kevin Anderson, Hennepin County	Trista Matascastillo, Ramsey County
Thomas Andries, Lyon County	Brian Mueller, Olmsted County
Brian Braun, Brown County	Levi Novacek, Roseau County
Bob Burns, Houston County	John Okeson, Becker County
Raeanne Danielowski, Sherburne County	Rafael Ortega, Ramsey County
Alan Duff, Isanti County	Joe Perske, Stearns County
Derrick Goutermont, Lake County	Eric Rudningen, Swift County
Marion Greene, Hennepin County	Jerry Reinartz, Mower County
Lori Gunnink, Murray County	Chris Shoff, Freeborn County
Stephen Hallan, Pine County	Mike Slavik, Dakota County
Mary Liz Holberg, Dakota County	Dave Sorenson, Pennington County
Roger Imdieke, Kandiyohi County	Doyle Sperr, Grant County
Candice Jaenisch, Chippewa County	Bill Stearns, Wadena County
Julie Jeppson, Anoka County	Kevin Stevens, Cottonwood County
Paul Johnson, Meeker County	Vance Stuehrenberg, Blue Earth County
Scott Johnson, Benton County	Bob Van Hee, Redwood County
Wayne Johnson, Otter Tail County	Casey Venema, Itasca County
Stan Karwoski, Washington County	Don Wachal, Jackson County
Robert Kasper, Morrison County	Gordy Wagner, Pope County
Michael Kearney, Aitkin County	Dan Whitcomb, Mille Lacs County

GUESTS:

Keith Berndt, Norman County
Deven Bowdry, DEED
Matt Cook, AMC Staff
Rep. Erin Koegel
Ron Gregg, Fillmore County
Bruce Messelt, Sherburne County
Emily Murray, AMC Staff
Steve Novak, MICA
Mel Odens, Kandiyohi County
Brian Pogodzinski, Houston County

Wayne Stevens, Brown County
Jodi Teich, Stearns County
Ryan Thilges, Blue Earth County
Phil Wacholz, Freeborn County
Nathan Zacharias, AMC Staff

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 went through introductions. Blue Earth County Commissioner Vance Stuehrenberg moved to approve the December Transportation & Infrastructure Policy Committee minutes, second by Goodhue County Commissioner Brad Anderson. Motion passed.

II. Broadband Legislative Update

Nathan Zacharias provided an update on broadband funding and policy activity at the Legislature this session. In addition, Nathan highlighted the funding amount included in the governor's budget proposal for broadband. Nathan updated members on a broadband funding bill that he is working on that would reflect the same dollar amount included in the governor's proposal. The bill will be introduced soon.

III. State and Federal Broadband Discussion

Deven Bowdry, Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) Legislative Liaison, discussed additional details of the governor's budget for broadband. Deven provided an update on the Border-to-Border Broadband Grant Program and the current RFP process as well as an update on digital equity planning. Finally, he provided a federal update on the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) funding that will be coming to the state and when we might expect to receive it.

IV. House Sustainable Infrastructure Policy Committee Chair, Rep. Erin Koegel

Chair Erin Koegel provided an overview of the new policy committee that she chairs in the House and what the vision is for the committee's work this session. She also highlighted some of the work that other states are doing on infrastructure and how she is using those models to help guide our work in Minnesota. Chair Koegel also gave an overview of some of the legislation she has chief authored this session and took questions from members.

V. Transportation Legislative Update

Emily Murray gave a presentation on transportation funding and policy activity at the Legislature this session. Emily included details on the governor's transportation budget proposal and capital budget recommendations in addition to the proposed "2022 Bonding Bills" before the Legislature and the amounts included in general obligation bonds for the four transportation programs in AMC's transportation funding priority. Lastly, the committee discussed transportation funding proposals that have been introduced and are on the table for a comprehensive transportation funding bill this session.

VI. Adjourn

Sherburne County Commissioner Raeanne Danielowski moved to adjourn the meeting, second by Hennepin County Commissioner Marion Greene. Motion passed. The Transportation & Infrastructure Policy Committee meeting adjourned at 11:31 AM.