



Association of Minnesota Counties

Transportation & Infrastructure Policy Committee

September 14 and 17, 2020

DRAFT MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brad Anderson, Goodhue County	John Okeson, Becker County
Jake Bauerly, Benton County	Rafael Ortega, Ramsey County
Robert Burns, Houston County	Mike Potter, Wright County
Raeanne Danielowski, Sherburne County	Bill Pratt, Aitkin County
Rick Goutermont, Lake County	Scott Schulte, Anoka County
Marion Greene, Hennepin County	Dean Simonsen, Brown County
Roger Imdieke, Kandiyohi County	Bill Stearns, Wadena County
Don Jensen, Pennington County	Vance Stuehrenberg, Blue Earth County
Tim Kalina, Douglas County	Joe Triplett, Chisago County
Stan Karwoski, Washington County	Mic VanDeVere, Lincoln County
Jack Kolars, Nicollet County	Don Wachal, Jackson County
Bob Kopitzke, Stevens County	Gordy Wagner, Pope County
Brad Krause, Waseca County	Dennis Welgraven, Murray County
Jeff Marlowe, Renville County	Rick West, Otter Tail County
Paul McDonald, St. Louis County	Lance Wetzels, LeSueur County
Jeff Mergen, Stearns County	Loren Younggren, Kittson County

GUESTS:

Chris Byrd, Benton County	Deb Miller, Olmsted County
Ken Buckeye, MnDOT	Emily Murray, AMC Staff
Preston Dowell, St. Louis County	Mel Odens, Kandiyohi County
Kristine Elwood, MnDOT	Wayne Sandberg, Washington County
Ryan Erdmann, AMC Staff	Ted Schoenecker, Ramsey County
Cassie Fitzgerald, Ramsey County	Kristi Schroedl, MnDOT
Brennan Furness, Hennepin County	Jodi Teich, Stearns County
Brian Giese, Pope County	Ryan Thilges, Blue Earth County
Bruce Hasbargen, Beltrami County	Andrew Witter, Sherburne County
Bruce Heitkamp, Nobles County	Nathan Zacharias, MRBC
Josh Knatterud-Hubinger, MnDOT	
Mark Krebsbach, Dakota County	

- I. Call to Order**

Chair Vance Stuehrenberg called the Transportation and Infrastructure Policy Committee to order at 10:00 AM. The committee recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Anoka County Commissioner Scott Schulte moved to approve the February Transportation & Infrastructure Policy Committee minutes, second by Nicollet County Commissioner Jack Kolars. Motion carried.
- II. MnDOT Revenue Projections Update**

Kristi Schroedl, MnDOT CFO, and Josh Knatterud-Hubinger, MnDOT Budget Director, provided an overview of the May budget projections update and what it means for HUTDF and CSAH in the coming biennium. Josh also detailed the state's recent bond sale and highlighted a resource from the Minneapolis Federal Reserve detailing COVID-19 impacts.
- III. MnDOT Distance-Based Fee Technical Advisory Committee**

Ken Buckeye, MnDOT Pricing Program Manager, updated the committee on MnDOT's Distance-Based Fee demonstration, including the history of our state's experience with road user fees, the challenges to developing a rate setting process, and how the Technical Advisory Committee will be advising the project team.
- IV. MN Rural Broadband Coalition – Statewide Speed Test Initiative**

Nathan Zacharias, Legislative Liaison for the MN Rural Broadband Coalition and Project Manager for the Statewide Speed Test Initiative, gave a brief review of what happened during the legislative session and subsequent special sessions relating to additional broadband funding. Nathan also provided an overview of the Statewide Speed Test Initiative and demonstrated how to perform the speed test and what the current mapping looks like. He encouraged members to take the test and send it to their colleagues and contacts.
- V. MCEA Legislative Committee Update**

Chris Byrd, Benton County Engineer and MCEA Legislative Committee Co-Chair, gave a presentation highlighting some of the major legislative issues that MCEA and AMC worked on during the 2020 session as well as some anticipated issues for next session, including the following: bonding, transportation funding, proposal to allow for county boards to increase speed limits on county roads by board resolution, and changes relating to utility infrastructure.
- VI. Adjourn for the Day**

Hennepin County Commissioner Marion Greene moved to adjourn the meeting, second by Kandiyohi County Commissioner Roger Imdieke. Motion carried. The Transportation and Infrastructure Policy Committee adjourned at 11:50 AM.
- VII. Call to Order**

Chair Vance Stuehrenberg called the Transportation and Infrastructure Policy Committee to order at 10:00 AM. The committee recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

VIII. Transportation & Infrastructure Platform and Policy Discussion

Members reviewed the 2020 AMC platform as it relates to the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee and were placed into breakout groups to discuss the following three questions:

1. What is the biggest priority for your county this year as it relates to the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee?
2. Considering the sizable budget deficit facing the Legislature for the foreseeable future, how does the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee need to adjust its platform or priorities to respond appropriately during this fiscal environment?
3. What platform items or language are no longer relevant to the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee?

After small group discussion, a spokesperson from each breakout group reported back to the committee with the group's summarized findings.

IX. Commissioner Ideas Exchange and Platform Amendment Discussion

There was a thorough discussion of priorities and platform language during the breakout groups. Many groups reported back that they did not identify any platform items or language that is no longer relevant to the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee. Having not received any potential platform amendments in advance of the committee meeting, the discussion moved into priority setting.

X. 2021 Priority Setting

The committee then discussed priorities for the 2021 legislative session. Emily Murray provided three staff proposed priorities based on priorities from the 2020 session with some additional updates. Members discussed and made changes to the language and identified the following three priority items:

1. *AMC supports a robust bonding bill that includes funding for transportation-related programs, including the Local Road Improvement Program, the Local Bridge Replacement Program, the Local Road Wetland Replacement Program, and the Busway Capital Improvement Program.*
2. *AMC supports equity in broadband infrastructure in Minnesota, including legislation that would provide additional funding for the Border-to-Border Broadband Development Grant Program.*
3. *AMC supports equity in transportation infrastructure through continued comprehensive transportation funding that includes new revenue for roads, bridges, and transit.*

Stevens County Commissioner Bob Kopitzke made the motion to forward these three priorities as the TIPC 2021 priority proposals, second by Sherburne County Commissioner Raeanne Danielowski. Members voted using the poll function on zoom. With a majority of members present voting in the affirmative, the motion carried.

XI. Adjourn

Sherburne County Commissioner Raeanne Danielowski moved to adjourn the meeting, second by Kandiyohi County Commissioner Roger Imdieke. Motion carried. The Transportation & Infrastructure Policy Committee adjourned at 12:00 PM.