



Association of Minnesota Counties

Transportation & Infrastructure Policy Committee

September 15-16, 2022

DRAFT MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brad Anderson, Goodhue County
Kevin Campbell, Clay County
Barb Becker, Todd County
Raeanne Danielowski, Sherburne County
Lori Gunnink, Murray County
Stephen Hallan, Pine County
Roger Imdieke, Kandiyohi County
Paul Johnson, Meeker County
Scott Johnson, Benton County
Wayne Johnson, Otter Tail County
Stan Karwoski, Washington County
Jack Kolars, Nicollet County

Bob Kopitzke, Stevens County
Paul McDonald, St. Louis County
Jeff Mergen, Stearns County
Brian Napstad, Aitkin County
Robert Paplow, Nobles County
Scott Schulte, Anoka County
Vance Stuehrenberg, Blue Earth County
Bob Van Hee, Redwood County
Don Wachal, Jackson County
Gordy Wagner, Pope County
Mike Weyer, Wadena County

GUESTS:

Brennan Furness, Hennepin County
Brian Giese, Pope County
Marion Greene, Hennepin County
Jessica Jennings, NACo Staff
Beth Kallestad, MnDOT
Tim Kalina, Douglas County
Emily Murray, AMC Staff
JinYeene Neumann, Carlton County
Jennifer O'Rourke, Ramsey County

Joe Perske, Stearns County
Philip Schaffner, MnDOT
Ted Schoenecker, MnDOT State Aid
Greg Snow, Renville County
Pat Veraguth, Douglas County
Tracey Von Bargen, Grant County
Mike Wobbe, Wabasha County
Nathan Zacharias, AMC Staff

I. Call to Order

Chair Gordy Wagner called the Transportation and Infrastructure Policy Committee to order at 1:05 PM. The committee recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Blue Earth County Commissioner Vance Stuehrenberg moved to approve the March Transportation &

Infrastructure Policy Committee minutes, second by Stevens County Commissioner Bob Kopitzke. Motion carried.

II. MnSHIP and SMTP Plans Overview

Philip Schaffner, Director of Statewide Planning for the MnDOT Office of Transportation System Management provided an overview of the changes included in the draft Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan (SMTP) as well as an update on the 20-year State Highway Investment Plan (MnSHIP). Philip took questions from members on the SMTP, specifically how the 14% per capita vehicle miles traveled target would be implemented statewide. He also detailed the projected revenue vs. need on the state system and conducted a mentimeter exercise on what improvements are most important to members.

III. Minnesota County Engineers Association Update

JinYeene Neumann, Carlton County Engineer and MCEA Legislative Committee member highlighted some of the major legislative issues that MCEA and AMC worked on during the 2022 session as well as some anticipated issues for next session, including a change for funding of historic bridges and potential changes to the Chapter 12 Disaster Assistance Contingency Account.

IV. Minnesota Association of County Surveyors

Pat Veraguth, Douglas and Grant County Surveyor provided a brief overview of the Public Land Survey System (PLSS) and an update on the legislative progress that MACS made last session. Additionally, Pat highlighted some of the changes they will make to the legislative request next session, including a remonumentation pilot project with MnGeo and a request of \$10 million over four years.

V. Update on State and Federal Broadband Policies and Funding

Stearns County Commissioner Tarryl Clark joined the committee to discuss her work as Chair of the NACo Telecommunications & Technology Steering Committee, including how to get county voices in the mix on broadband mapping efforts at the federal level and funding initiatives. In addition, Nathan Zacharias, AMC Technology Policy Analyst, gave a recap on state and federal broadband funding opportunities over the last few sessions and an overview of what might be ahead.

VI. Adjourn for the Day

The Transportation and Infrastructure Policy Committee adjourned at 4:00 PM.

VII. Call to Order

Chair Gordy Wagner called the Transportation and Infrastructure Policy Committee to order at 8:35 AM. The committee recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

VIII. Commissioner Ideas Exchange and Platform Amendment Discussion

Committee members engaged in a discussion of potential platform amendments that might be proposed this year. Emily Murray also highlighted some ideas for amendments and updates to existing language.

IX. 2023 Priority Setting

The committee discussed priorities for the 2023 legislative session. Emily Murray provided three staff proposed priorities based on previous TIPC priorities with some additional updates. Members discussed and made changes to the language and identified the following three priority items:

1. *AMC supports equity in transportation infrastructure through continued comprehensive transportation funding that includes new revenue for roads, bridges, and transit.*
2. *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.*
3. *AMC supports equity and access to affordable broadband service and infrastructure in Minnesota, including legislation that would provide adequate and continuous funding for the Border-to-Border Broadband Development Grant Program.*

Kandiyohi County Commissioner Roger Imdieke made the motion to support the first two transportation priority statements, second by Stevens County Commissioner Bob Kopitzke. Motion carried.

Discussion from members on the updated broadband priority statement. Anoka County Commissioner Scott Schulte made the motion to support the broadband priority statement, second by Goodhue County Commissioner Brad Anderson. Motion carried.

The above three priority statements will be presented to the AMC Policy Coordinating Committee as the TIPC 2023 priority proposals.

X. MnDOT State Aid Update

Ted Schoenecker, Assistant Division Director for MnDOT State Aid provided an overview of the state turnback program as well as the plan and budget for 2024-2025. Ted also highlighted some of the programs and funding available in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) as well as a reminder of the Corridors of Commerce funding and solicitation that is open until November 30.

XI. National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan

Beth Kallestad, Sustainability Planner for the MnDOT Office of Sustainability and Public Health discussed the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) program authorized under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and detailed the plan submitted by the state. She also announced that Minnesota’s plan was approved by FHWA and detailed the next steps in the process.

XII. Adjourn

Otter Tail County Commissioner Wayne Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting, second by Goodhue County Commissioner Brad Anderson. Motion carried. The Transportation & Infrastructure Policy Committee adjourned at 11:20 AM.