



Association of Minnesota Counties

Transportation & Infrastructure Policy Committee

September 14-15, 2023

DRAFT MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brad Anderson, Goodhue County
Kevin Anderson, Hennepin County
Thomas Andries, Lyon County
Brian Braun, Brown County
DeRon Brehmer, Lac qui Parle County
Kevin Campbell, Clay County
Raeanne Danielowski, Sherburne County
Keith Englund, Douglas County
Doug Erickson, Renville County
Derrick Goutermont, Lake County
Lori Gunnink, Murray County
Stephen Hallan, Pine County
Roger Imdieke, Kandiyohi County
Canice Jaenisch, Chippewa County
Julie Jeppson, Anoka County
Paul Johnson, Meeker County
Scott Johnson, Benton County
Wayne Johnson, Otter Tail County

Robert Kasper, Morrison County
Michael Kearney, Aitkin County
Steve Keranen, Hubbard County
Jack Kolars, Nicollet County
Bob Kopitzke, Stevens County
Brad Krause, Waseca County
Brian Mueller, Olmsted County
John Okeson, Becker County
Robert Paplow, Nobles County
Mike Slavik, Dakota County
Bill Stearns, Wadena County
Vance Stuehrenberg, Blue Earth County
Bob Van Hee, Redwood County
Don Wachal, Jackson County
Gordy Wagner, Pope County
Mike Wobbe, Wabasha County
Chad Zimmer, Big Stone County
Susan Zmyslony, Carlton County

GUESTS:

Krysten Foster, Otter Tail County
Brennan Furness, Hennepin County
Brian Giese, Pope County
Peter Koch, Sibley County
Paul McDonald, St. Louis County
Joe MacPherson, Anoka County
Jeff Marlowe, Renville County
Perry Mulcrone, Scott County
Emily Murray, AMC Staff

Jennifer O'Rourke, Ramsey County
Darrell Pettis, Watonwan County
Erik Rudeen, MnDOT
Ted Schoenecker, MnDOT State Aid
Jodi Teich, Stearns County
Pat Veraguth, Douglas County
Phil Wacholz, Freeborn County
Diane Wells, DEEB OBD
Nathan Zacharias, AMC Staff

I. Call to Order

Chair Gordy Wagner called the Transportation and Infrastructure Policy Committee to order at 1:03 PM. The committee recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Stevens County Commissioner Bob Kopitzke moved to approve the February Transportation & Infrastructure Policy Committee minutes, second by Benton County Commissioner Scott Johnson. Motion carried.

II. NEW Transportation Funding and Policy Overview

Erik Rudeen, MnDOT Government Affairs Director, provided an update on what was included in the Omnibus Transportation Bill last session, including matching funds for IJJA as well as new dedicated revenues and earmarks. He also highlighted the success of the capital investment bills for local roads, bridges, transit, trunk highway bonding, and Corridors of Commerce. Erik detailed the amount of new working groups created last session and the work happening during the interim including legislative reports that are due in early 2024. Finally, Erik provided a roadmap for the next legislative session including MnDOT policy initiatives.

III. Greenhouse Gas Emissions Impact Mitigation

Joe MacPherson, Anoka County Engineer, gave an overview of new legislation passed last year and included in the Omnibus Transportation Funding bill relating to greenhouse gas (GHG) and vehicle miles traveled (VMT) reduction targets and a new requirement that capacity expansion projects on the trunk highway system conform with these targets. Joe highlighted how the language impacts counties as well as the implementation dates, timelines, and the creation of a working group. As a representative on the working group, Joe shared the group's charge and the discussion that has taken place thus far as well as some of the presentations they have heard, including a comparison of the process that took place in Colorado.

IV. State and Federal Broadband Funding Update

Diane Wells, Deputy Director of the DEED Office of Broadband Development, gave a refresher on the existing broadband infrastructure grant programs in the state and the funding awarded last session. The Office plans for a grant round to open this October. Diane also highlighted the broadband funding provided in the IJJA and the timeline for when the state will receive the funds and how they will be used.

V. Update on Public Land Survey System (PLSS) Funding

Pat Veraguth, Douglas and Grant County Surveyor, provided an update on the legislative progress that the Minnesota Association of County Surveyors (MACS) made last session securing legislative funding for a new grant program for the statewide remonumentation project. Pat also presented the next steps in the process, including hiring a Surveyor Coordinator to work in MnGeo, developing the grant application, and support for additional funding next session.

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 8:43 AM. The committee recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

VIII. MnDOT State Aid Update on Legislative Funding

Ted Schoenecker, Assistant Division Director for MnDOT State Aid, provided an update on new legislative funding passed during the 2023 session. He focused on the new Transportation Advancement Account (TAA) and when counties will see money from these funds. Ted also included an overview of the local road and bridge programs and announced that the Local Road Improvement Program solicitation opened that week on September 12. Ted mentioned other open funding solicitations, including the technical assistance grant program, which opened for applications on September 18.

IX. 2023 Session Review

Emily Murray provided an overview of the 2023 legislative session, including progress on our TIPC priorities surrounding transportation funding and bonding as well as a preview of what to expect during the 2024 session.

X. 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.

XI. 2024 Priority Setting

The committee discussed priorities for the 2024 legislative session. Emily Murray provided two staff proposed priorities, one based on a previous TIPC priority relating to bonding and a new priority focused on the GHG/VMT issue. Members discussed and made changes to the proposed language as well as framing an additional priority relating to staffing and identified the following three priority items:

1. *AMC supports a 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*

Goodhue County Commissioner Brad Anderson made the motion to support the bonding priority statement, second by Sherburne County Commissioner RaeAnne Danielowski. Motion carried.

2. *AMC supports determining transportation greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and vehicle miles traveled (VMT) impacts on a statewide programmatic level that considers the differences in mitigation opportunities throughout the state as well as extending the implementation date or deadline until effective evaluation tools can be developed. Counties request exempting projects that are being planned to mitigate known safety issues from GHG and VMT assessment.*

Anoka County Commissioner Julie Jeppson made the motion to support the GHG/VMT priority statement, second by Jackson County Commissioner Don Wachal. Motion carried.

3. *AMC supports new state funding to be used towards staffing resources for local governments in the planning, design, and implementation of transportation and infrastructure projects.*

Kandiyohi County Commissioner Roger Imdieke made the motion to support the staffing priority statement, second by Hennepin County Commissioner Kevin Anderson. Motion carried.

The above three priority statements will be presented to the AMC Policy Coordinating Committee as the TIPC 2024 priority proposals.

XII. Adjourn

Lac qui Parle County Commissioner DeRon Brehmer moved to adjourn the meeting, second by Goodhue County Commissioner Brad Anderson. Motion carried. The Transportation & Infrastructure Policy Committee adjourned at 11:45 AM.