

Sustainable Transportation Advisory Council Meeting

Minutes

Date & Time: Thursday, July 22, 2021, 8:30pm - 10:00am

Location: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Action Items:

1. MnDOT staff will send meeting notes 1 week from today (July 29, 2021), including an update on MnDOT’s actions related to the STAC 2020 recommendations.
2. MnDOT will request input from the STAC on whether to hold virtual or in-person meetings for the remainder of CY2021.
3. MnDOT will reach out to the MnDOT Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicles to discuss opportunities to incorporate sustainability into the freight optimization tool.

Attendees

Council Members Present

- 1) Margaret Anderson Kelliher (Co-chair)
- 2) Chris Clark (Co-chair)
- 3) Sen. Scott Dibble
- 4) Katie Bell
- 5) Katie Frye
- 6) Dorian Grilley
- 7) Greg Ilkka
- 8) Ashwat Narayanan
- 9) Michael Noble
- 10) Rolf Nordstrom
- 11) Daniel Schellhammer
- 12) LaShella Sims
- 13) Russ Stark
- 14) Emma Struss
- 15) Peter Wagenius
- 16) Tara Wetzell
- 17) Patrick Seeb
- 18) Lisa Thurstin
- 19) Rep. Frank Hornstein

Council Members Absent

- 1) Vishnu Laalitha Surapaneni
- 2) Katie Jones
- 3) Amy Vennewitz (interim replacement for Nick Thompson)
- 4) Sen. Scott Newman

MnDOT Staff Present

- Emily Houser, MnDOT
 Ben Lowndes, MnDOT (facilitator)
 Jessica Oh, MnDOT
 Tim Sexton, MnDOT
 Jeffrey Meek, MnDOT
 Samuel Brown, MnDOT
 Jacob Loesch, MnDOT

Meeting Notes

Technology Introductions and Announcements

Tim Sexton introduced the technology platform for the meeting with best practices.

Co-Chairs' Welcome

Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) Commissioner Margaret Anderson Kelliher and co-chair Chris Clark, President of Xcel Energy, welcomed council members and attendees.

Update on Transportation Systems Resilience Work Group Recommendations

Jeffrey Meek summarized the MnDOT response to the recommendations.

Recommendation #1: Define and Measure Sustainability and Resilience within the Transportation System

Components of Recommendations	MnDOT Proposed Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Define sustainability and resilience as it relates to transportation systems.Develop metrics and goals for sustainability and resilience to evaluate new and existing transportation systems. (e.g., Goals could be incorporated into statewide plans, such as MnDOT TAMP.)	<p>Explore Further:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Continue to coordinate with SMTP and MnSHIP update processes to integrate sustainability and resilience metrics and goals. These plans set the direction for all agency efforts, and both plans are currently undergoing an update, completion scheduled for 2022.Continue to track and report on sustainability and resilience through annual MnDOT Sustainability Report. Include content in 2021 report that compiles and highlights related agency planning efforts (i.e. add any new measures and goals).

Recommendation #2: Design-Build Project Delivery

Components of Recommendations	MnDOT Proposed Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Incorporate sustainability and/or resiliency goals and objectives into Design-Build projects.Increase the use of Design-Build for smaller projects, including sustainability and/or resiliency goals and objectives.Encourage sustainable construction practices criteria into Design-Build	<p>Support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Work with partners to compile examples of design build projects that used sustainability or resilience criteria (regionally and nationally)Convene temporary workgroup to develop criteria for one (or more) of the focus areas.Work with staff to identify a project and funding to implement DB with new criteria in next 1-2 years.

Recommendation #3: Proactive Asset Management

Components of Recommendations	MnDOT Proposed Action
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen communications and share information across organizations (i.e., highway transportation systems versus public works) regarding asset management as it relates to improved infrastructure sustainability and resiliency. Educate and partner with local departments to implement a robust, cohesive transportation asset management system that maintains and strengthens both local and state supported transportation systems. Offer peer reviews and information sharing between local, state and (possibly) national asset managers. 	<p>Support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and propose a convening or workshop on sustainability/resilience in transportation asset management with other entities within the state (to discuss: e.g. <i>what is working, what other places have done, new innovative solutions/ideas for incorporating more resilience in AM, identifying where the need is greatest, and how can MnDOT's efforts benefit smaller entities</i>) Highlight online TAM work related to sustainability and resilience efforts.
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Additional Transportation System Resilience workgroup recommendations:

- Review the Design-Bid-Build method for opportunities to incorporate sustainable construction practices into the construction specifications.**
 - Explore Further** – examples are limited and MnDOT supports looking into this more to identify case studies and opportunities to test.
- Review existing sustainability measuring systems, such as Greenroads Rating System, for potential applicability of transportation system performance.**
 - Support** – MnDOT supports efforts to better understand the tradeoffs of using a related rating system to determine their potential benefit to the agency.

STAC members noted benefits of more guidance to address road with repeat flooding (i.e. how many times does a road have to flood before we do something different?). MnDOT is conducting qualitative and quantitative analysis to identify areas where flooding is more likely and encouraging the Federal Highway Administration to allow federal aid funds to be used for repairs that make our roadways more resilient to flooding.

Update on MnDOT actions on STAC 2020 Recommendations

Tim Sexton shared an update on MnDOT actions related to the 2020 STAC Recommendations.

All Recommendations

STAC Recommendation	Action	STAC Role	Status
All STAC Recommendations	STAC Op-Ed	Consult	MnDOT review

Fueling and Powering Transportation Tier 1 Recommendations

STAC Recommendation	Action	STAC Role	Status
Clean Fuels Policy	Stakeholder process to develop a Clean Fuels Policy	Collaborate	Not started – Explore STAC role, co-lead effort? Support facilitation?

EV Rebates	Support efforts by Governor and legislature to promote EV use	Inform	Ongoing
EV Charging Infrastructure	EV charging infrastructure	Inform	EV Plan in progress. No action from Leg.

VMT Reduction and Transportation Options Tier 1 Recommendations

STAC Recommendation	Action	STAC Role	Status
VMT goal Stop highway capacity expansion Prioritize Transit and HOV	VMT reduction strategy through new intergovernmental council on climate change and transportation	Collaborate	<i>July-Aug:</i> messaging and I3CT scoping <i>Sept-Jan:</i> tools, guidance, and I3CT coordination <i>Feb-March:</i> finalize w/ SMTP engagement
Stop highway capacity expansion	Add a new tier to mobility investment strategy for TDM	Inform	In progress
	New reporting process to track mobility project decisions	Consult	In progress
Stop highway capacity expansion Prioritize Transit and HOV	Engage STAC in MnSHIP and SMTP updates	Consult	MnSHIP engagement at Sept. 2021 STAC meeting
Prioritize Transit and HOV	Transit and HOV communications strategy	Involve	Begin Fall 2021

Fueling and Powering Transportation Tier 2 Recommendations

STAC Recommendation	Action	STAC Role	Status
Multi-state EV MOU	Multi-state EV corridor MOU	Inform	Meeting with MN, WI, IL, IN, MI, OH; potential to sign this fall.
NextGen Highways	Co-locate broadband and electric transmission in highway ROW	Inform	Coordinating internally and externally on MN pilot
State Plan for medium/ heavy duty EVs	Minnesota 2021 Strategic EV Plan	Consult	Steering Committee reviewed second draft of plan this week (Sept '21)
Increase EV manufacturing	Support EV manufacturing	Inform	Initial conversations with DEED to support for EV/EV related industry
ZEV and bus MOU	ZEV Trucks/buses MOU	Inform	Paused due to capacity and freight sector concerns. May revisit after multi-state MOU

VMT Reduction and Transportation Options Tier 2 Recommendations

STAC Recommendation	Action	STAC Role	Status
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Conduct spending audit	STIP expansion projects list	Inform	In progress
Support local gov't with low carbon and active transportation	ID opportunities in METC EV Planning study	Consult	In progress
	Promote Complete Streets resources with locals	Consult	Begin Fall 2021
Discard auto-centric metrics in favor of people-centered metrics	Multimodal accessibility tool pilot	Inform	In progress

Additional updates shared related the items above:

- A couple of items were heard at the legislature, but did not pass
- The Minnesota EV Strategic Plan is progressing
- I3CT scope is developing and aiming to launch in next couple months
- Multi-state MOU going well, lots of interest
- Medium/Heavy-duty ZEV MOU paused for now

STAC members commented on the importance of including recommendations in MnSHIP and SMTP.

MnDOT will investigate if the new statewide freight optimization tool can include sustainability considerations.

Standing Item: STAC Work Group Updates

Work group co-chairs provided updates to the STAC on 2021 workgroup activities and priorities.

- **Powering and Fueling Transportation:** Katie Frye, Rolf Nordstrom
Working to identify new recommendations and voted on the ones of most interest.
Draft 2021 Recommendations:
 - Lead by example by transitioning state fleet to zero-emission vehicles
 - Leverage existing collaborative partnerships to accelerate electrification of transportation
 - Revisit medium- and heavy-duty MOU
 - Financial incentives for purchase of medium- and heavy-duty EVs
 - Upper Midwest DC fast charging corridors
 Draft 2021 Secondary Recommendations:
 - Invest in charging for medium- and heavy-duty EVs
 - Expand eligibility under the existing MN Railroad Service Improvement Program to include grants to railroads to decarbonize rail
 - Evaluate and adopt 2-4 strategies to advance equitable access to EVs and EVSE in the next 18 months
 - Collaborate with other state agencies (MN Dept. of Commerce, MPCA) to design and implement an EV incentive program (either for all Minnesotans or only for income-qualified families)

Next steps: The workgroup will continue to work through and refine these potential recommendations. The workgroup will meet with the VMT Reduction and Transportation Options workgroup and the Transportation Systems Resilience workgroup to get feedback.

Discussion:

- Governor's Council on Freight Rail had excellent presentations from railroads on efforts to decarbonize rail (e.g., regenerative braking, renewable diesel, hybrid-electric and hydrogen fuel cells).
- EV charging for renters, including on-street EV charging in urban centers around the state.
- Encouraged business engagement to explore opportunities to fund EV charging.

- **VMT Reduction and Transportation Options:** Ash Narayanan, Emma Struss

The co-chairs shared the two major focus areas:

1. Deepening understanding of VMT reduction, barriers to implementation and hearing from a wide range of stakeholders
2. Communicating recommendations to diverse audiences

The co-chairs also noted that the WG decided not to focus on new major recommendations, instead their goal is to ensure 2020 recommendations advance toward implementation.

- **Funding:** Tim Sexton

MnDOT aims to start workgroup within the next month and first meeting scheduled for Aug 25th. There is still space for new participants to join – please email Sam Brown (samuel.brown@state.mn.us).

Full STAC discussion covered the need to increase charging corridors, and the increased interest/support from national organizations. E.g., Electrify America interest the Upper Midwest DCFC corridor (<https://media.electrifyamerica.com/en-us/releases/149>). National partners are providing 100 or so local union electricians (about 1/2 of them women and BIPOC) with free training in EVTPI, the primary EV charging installation/operations certification.

Members noted that biking and walking are important part of the solution and return on investment is high. They expressed appreciation to the legislature for funding the Safe Routes to School and the first ever state Active Transportation Grant Program, at \$5 million each.

STAC Future Planning

Tim Sexton walked through the calendar for the remainder of 2021 (below).

Activity	Timeline	Notes
STAC #4 meeting	July 22, 2021	STAC outline of draft 2021 recommendations, Discuss workgroup co-chair roles for 2022
STAC workgroup coordination	Sept. 2021	MnDOT facilitates cross-workgroup coordination on draft 2021 recommendations
STAC #5 meeting	Sept. 22, 2021	STAC updated 2021 draft recommendations, discuss equity implications
STAC workgroup coordination	Nov. 2021	MnDOT facilitates cross-workgroup coordination on final 2021 recommendations
STAC #6 meeting	Nov. 16, 2021	STAC updated 2021 draft recommendations
STAC #7 meeting	Dec. 15, 2021	STAC final 2021 recommendations due

Tim Sexton also noted that there will be a new STAC Term process, and that MnDOT will be asking that everyone re-apply. The group also noted that meeting will continue to have a virtual option for the remainder of 2021, but meeting in person is still TBD.

Public Comment Period

Anjali Bains shared that there is interest in an Upper Midwest DCFC corridor from Electrify America. Their initial press release already mentioned funding an Upper Midwest DCFC corridor (<https://media.electrifyamerica.com/en-us/releases/149>)

Next Steps – Action Items

1. MnDOT staff will send meeting notes 1 week from today (July 29, 2021), including an update on MnDOT's actions related to the STAC 2020 recommendations.
2. MnDOT will request input from the STAC on whether to hold virtual or in-person meetings for the remainder of CY2021.
3. MnDOT will reach out to Rep. Elkins to discuss opportunities to incorporate sustainability into the freight optimization tool.

Optional Special Topic

Equitable Access to EVs and EVSE - Neda Deylami, Midwest Program Manager, EVHybridNoire

Speaker Bio: Neda Deylami is EVHybridNoire's Midwest Program Manager. Neda is an e-mobility advocate and attorney based in Chicago and leads much of EVHybridNoire's work in the Midwest. Previously, Neda worked across the Midwest and other states advancing EV policy, advocacy, and outreach work at the Electrification Coalition. Neda will be presenting on best practices for crafting equitable e-mobility policies and specific policies that EVHybridNoire recommends through its community-based research and engagement.

During the Q&A the group discussed the need for EV carshare to be a sustainable mobility model for low income residents, dealer education and training, including for used car dealers, and the related work [St. Paul is doing](#).

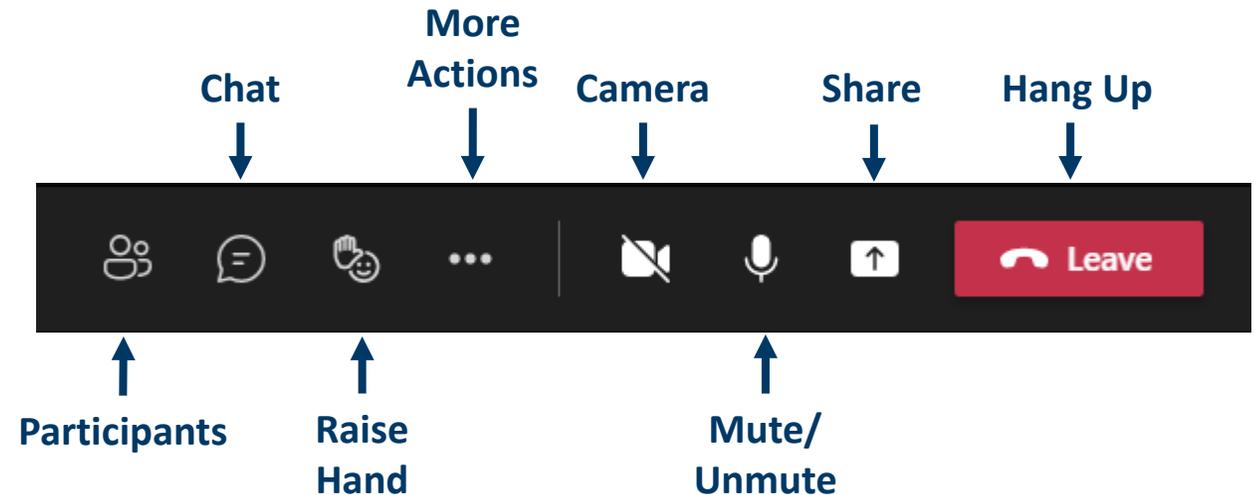
Connection Point

Something fun while you wait – feel free to enter responses in the chat box or share verbally

What is your favorite way to stay cool in the heat?

Technology Introduction

- Please mute your microphone unless speaking
- Click on the chat/participant icon to open the chat box/participants list
- For questions, use the raise hand button or comment in the chat
- MnDOT staff will call on members or read comments if there are audio issues
 - Please unmute your microphone and consider turning on your video if you are called on
- Discussion is for members only until the public comment period





Sustainable Transportation Advisory Council

Thursday, July 22, 2021

- Welcome and Member Introductions
- Update: Transportation Systems Resilience Workgroup Recommendations
- Update: MnDOT Actions on STAC 2020 Recommendations
- STAC Workgroup Updates
- STAC future planning
- Public Comment
- Post-meeting: Optional: Equitable Access to EVs and EVSE - EVHybridNoire

Public Comment Period Instructions

- Discussion is for members only until the public comment period
- Public comment period at end of meeting at approximately 9:50 am
- If you are a member of the public here to provide a comment, please send your name to Emily Houser in the chat before 9:30 am

Co-Chairs Welcome



Chris Clark

President, Xcel Energy – Minnesota,
South Dakota, North Dakota



Margaret Anderson Kelliher

Commissioner, MnDOT

Member Introductions

- Name
- Role
- Organization

Please try keeping to 30 seconds

Transportation System Resilience Workgroup Update

Jeffrey Meek, MnDOT

Tara Wetzel and Greg Ilkka, co-chairs

Transportation System Resilience Workgroup

Recommendation 1: Define and Measure Sustainability and Resilience within the Transportation System

Components of Recommendation	MnDOT Proposed Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Define sustainability and resilience as it relates to transportation systems.• Develop metrics and goals for sustainability and resilience to evaluate new and existing transportation systems. (e.g., Goals could be incorporated into statewide plans, such as MnDOT TAMP.)	<p>Explore Further:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue to coordinate with SMTP and MnSHIP update processes to integrate sustainability and resilience metrics and goals. These plans set the direction for all agency efforts, and both plans are currently undergoing an update, completion scheduled for 2022.• Continue to track and report on sustainability and resilience through annual MnDOT Sustainability Report. Include content in 2021 report that compiles and highlights related agency planning efforts (i.e. add any new measures and goals).

Transportation System Resilience Workgroup

Recommendation 2: Design-Build Project Delivery

Components of Recommendation	MnDOT Proposed Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Incorporate sustainability and/or resiliency goals and objectives into Design-Build projects.• Increase the use of Design-Build for smaller projects, including sustainability and/or resiliency goals and objectives.• Encourage sustainable construction practices criteria into Design-Build	<p>Support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work with partners to compile examples of design build projects that used sustainability or resilience criteria (regionally and nationally)• Convene temporary workgroup to develop criteria.• Work with staff to identify a project and funding to implement DB with new criteria in next 1-2 years.

Transportation System Resilience Workgroup

Recommendation 3: Proactive Asset Management

Components of Recommendation	MnDOT Proposed Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strengthen communications and share information across organizations (i.e., highway transportation systems versus public works) regarding asset management as it relates to improved infrastructure sustainability and resiliency.• Educate and partner with local departments to implement a robust, cohesive transportation asset management system that maintains and strengthens both local and state supported transportation systems.• Offer peer reviews and information sharing between local, state and (possibly) national asset managers.	<p>Support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop and propose a convening or workshop on sustainability/resilience in transportation asset management with other entities within the state (to discuss: e.g. what is working, what other places have done, new innovative solutions/ideas for incorporating more resilience in AM, identifying where the need is greatest, and how can MnDOT's efforts benefit smaller entities)• Highlight online TAM work related to sustainability and resilience efforts.

Transportation System Resilience Workgroup

Second Tier Recommendations

- Review the Design-Bid-Build method for opportunities to incorporate sustainable construction practices into the construction specifications.
 - **Explore Further** – examples are limited and MnDOT supports looking into this more to identify case studies and opportunities to test.
- Review existing sustainability measuring systems, such as Greenroads Rating System, for potential applicability of transportation system performance.
 - **Support** – MnDOT supports efforts to better understand the tradeoffs of using a related rating system to determine their potential benefit to the agency.

Transportation System Resilience Workgroup

Recommendations

Recommendation 1	Explore Further
Recommendation 2	Support
Recommendation 3	Support
Tier 2 Recommendations	Explore Further, Support



Update: MnDOT Actions on STAC 2020 Recommendations

STAC Workgroup Updates

Fueling and Powering Transportation Workgroup Updates

Co-chairs, Katie Frye and Rolf Nordstrom

2021 Draft Recommendations

1. Lead by example by transitioning state fleet to zero-emission vehicles
2. Leverage existing collaborative partnerships to accelerate electrification of transportation
3. Revisit medium- and heavy-duty MOU
4. Financial incentives for purchase of medium- and heavy-duty EVs
5. Upper Midwest DC fast charging corridors

2021 Draft Secondary Recommendations

- Invest in charging for medium- and heavy-duty EVs
- Expand eligibility under the existing MN Railroad Service Improvement Program to include grants to railroads to decarbonize rail
- Evaluate and adopt 2-4 strategies to advance equitable access to EVs and EVSE in the next 18 months
- Collaborate with other state agencies (MN Dept. of Commerce, MPCA) to design and implement an EV incentive program (either for all Minnesotans or only for income-qualified families)

VMT Reduction and Transportation Options Workgroup Update

Co-Chairs, Ash Narayanan and Emma Struss

We had two major focus areas:

- Deepening our understanding of VMT reduction, barriers to implementation and hearing from a wide range of stakeholders
- Communicating our recommendations to diverse audiences

We decided not to focus on making new major recommendations, instead our goal is to make sure our 2020 recommendations were advanced toward implementation as much as possible

- Biweekly workgroup meetings continue
- We have heard from diverse presenters: MnDOT and Met Council staff and outside experts, folks with lived experiences with our transportation system.
- We have created a calendar to present to a wide range of audiences including cities, counties, MnDOT lunch and learn, health professionals, TAB and other groups
- If you have a group you'd like us to present to, please let Ash or Emma know!

Funding Workgroup Update

Discussion: Workgroup updates

Fueling and Powering Transportation

Draft Recommendations:

1. Lead by example by transitioning state fleet to zero-emission
2. Leverage existing collaborative partnerships to accelerate electrification of transportation
3. Revisit medium- and heavy-duty MOU
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Reducing VMT / Transportation Options

Focus Areas:

- Deepening understanding of VMT reduction, barriers to implementation and hearing from a wide range of stakeholders
- Communicating recommendations to diverse audiences

We decided not to focus on making new major recommendations, instead our goal is to make sure our 2020 recommendations were advanced toward implementation as much as possible

STAC Future Planning

2021 Calendar

Activity	Timeline	Notes
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Highlights of new STAC term process

Public Comment Period

www.dot.state.mn.us/sustainability/

Thank you!