

MnDOT Sustainable Transportation Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Date: 06/03/2020

Time: 9:00 A.M. – 11:00 PM

Location: WebEx

Meeting materials will be available on the [MnDOT Sustainability Website](#)

Action Items:

1. STAC members: rank order preferred work group participation.
2. STAC members: share observations about pandemic response.
3. MnDOT will send meeting notes 1-week from today (June 10).
4. MnDOT will send survey for next meeting dates, aiming for late July, early August.
5. MnDOT will attempt to form work groups and attempt to organize initial work group meetings before the next STACT meeting.

Attendees

Council Members Present

- 1) Margaret Anderson Kelliher (Co-chair)
- 2) Chris Clark (Co-chair)
- 3) Katie Bell
- 4) Sen. Scott Dibble
- 5) Katie Frye
- 6) Dorian Grilley
- 7) Rep. Frank Hornstein
- 8) Lisa Thurstin
- 9) Greg Ilkka
- 10) Katie Jones
- 11) Ashwat Narayanan
- 12) Michael Noble
- 13) Rolf Nordstrom
- 14) Daniel Schellhammer
- 15) Patrick Seeb

16) LaShella Sims

17) Russ Stark

18) Emma Struss

19) Vishnu Laalitha Surapaneni

20) Peter Wagenius

21) Tara Wetzel

Council Members Absent

1) Sen. Scott Newman

2) Nick Thompson

MnDOT Staff Present

Sethey Ben

Brian Christensen (technical support)

David Elvin

Ben Lowndes (facilitator)

Tim Sexton

Siri Simons

Nissa Tupper

Meeting Notes

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.

Member Introductions

Council members introduced themselves, described the organizations and entities they represent, and shared their thoughts on a book, movie or TV show that has provided a new perspective. Members also discussed recent events and some shared how they are struggling to bring more racial justice into their lives and work.

STAC Charter Review

MnDOT shared the final draft Charter (DRAFT STAC Charter) to clarify updates and provide an opportunity for members to give feedback on comments that were added since the last STAC meeting.

Members discussed the importance of including environmental justice impacts in the Charter. Three suggestions were made, which will be integrated after this meeting.

- Add “environmental justice” to the paragraph before “Purpose of the STAC” to read “...to maximize benefits from the changing transportation landscape to reduce carbon pollution, while also promoting equity, environmental justice, and economic development.”
- Integrate content within “Goal of the STAC” section that articulates the importance of net-zero without disproportionate impact on frontline communities in order to achieve that goal.
- Add content to capture the sentiment of disproportionate impacts for vulnerable populations and neighborhoods in the urban core and the fact that communities of color are more vulnerable to climate change due to urban heat island, exposure to air pollution, and health disparities.

Members approved the STAC Charter with the understanding that the three suggested environmental justice content additions would be integrated. Approval via voice vote (19-0).

Clean Transportation Funding Pilot Program Review

Michael Noble and Anjali Bains introduced the Clean Transportation Funding Pilot Program recommendations (DRAFT Framework for Clean Transportation Pilot Program). A subcommittee of the STAC met three times to develop the recommendations.

Members discussed the proposed Project Evaluation rubric that aligns with program goals and similar to how MPCA evaluates Volkswagen settlement funding requests. Members identified the need to clarify the nuances of applying environmental justice scoring criteria (e.g. would full or partial points be

awarded for projects that are not entirely situated within an environmental justice area?). MnDOT will work internally to clarify that scoring criteria in the document.

No formal vote taken. Proposal sent to MnDOT for refinement. MnDOT will give the STAC another opportunity to provide feedback before MnDOT makes the final decision on program eligibility, criteria, scoring, and selection.

Another big thanks to Anjali and Micheal at Fresh Energy for leading the work group coordination around this effort.

Work Group Structure Review

MnDOT shared information about the work group structure (DRAFT Work Group Structure). There were no concerns voiced about the proposed structure from members so the STAC will move forward with the following four work groups:

- 1) Fueling/powering transportation
- 2) Reduce VMT and improve transportation options
- 3) Funding transportation
- 4) Improving resilience of the transportation system.

Members agreed that equity, safety, and maximizing co-benefits must be integrated into all work groups. Each group will develop their own method for approaching the work (e.g. form new sub-group, work in collaborating with an existing group).

Members discussed expectations for members and agreed there should be an opportunity for every STAC member to serve on at least one committee and members allowed serve on more than one committee, if they desire. A STAC member is also expected to chair each committee and will have MnDOT staff support. Outside members with topic-area expertise can join meetings on ad-hoc basis.

Members were asked to think about which group they would like to participate in and voice feedback on the structure. MnDOT will follow-up with members to solicit interest and populate the work groups. The goal is to hold meetings for at least two work groups before the next full STAC meeting.

Discussion about how recent events have influenced your thinking about sustainability and transportation

The Commissioner began the discussion and welcomed members to share their thoughts and feelings about recent events. Members acknowledged the importance of creating space for this conversation. Several members contributed to the conversation but it was clear that more time was needed for this discussion and MnDOT agreed to allocate at least one hour in the next meeting to continue this conversation and provide some prompt questions for members to think about in advance.

Public Comments

MnDOT reserves time at the end of each meeting for public comments. No public comments were made.

Decisions

- **STAC Charter:** Approved by members (19-0 voice vote) with the understanding that the three suggested environmental justice content additions are integrated.
- **Clean Transportation Pilot Program:** Proposal will move to MnDOT for refinement and shared with the STAC before MnDOT finalizes.
- **Work groups:** the STAC agreed to move forward with the proposed work group structure.

Next Steps – Action Items

1. Charter
 - Review updated version of the charter and send any critical comments on the changes only. Existing charter text was approved.
2. Work Group
 - MnDOT: survey STAC Members on preferred work groups
 - STAC Members: rank order preferred work group participation
 - MnDOT: organize at least two work group meetings before the next STAC meeting
3. Conversation about recent event: COVID, George Floyd killing and civic response to structural racism, sustainable transportation
 - MnDOT: will send questions to guide the conversation at next STAC meeting
4. Meeting notes and logistics
 - MnDOT: send meeting notes 1-week from the meeting - June 10
 - MnDOT: survey for next meeting dates in early August