

Metropolitan Council Meeting 04/22/26
Chair Hutcheson Remarks

As the region's lawfully designated Metropolitan Planning Organization, which has been affirmed by the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration, we remain compliant with all federal transportation planning requirements. The Transportation Advisory Board represents the voices of local elected government – a majority of the TAB, technical experts, and the public. To all TAB members who have dedicated their time to this process by showing up to meetings, seeking to understand, engaging in conversation and debate, and spending countless hours acting in the best interest of this region, I thank you for your incredibly high level of dedication to the process.

I'd like to address some of the feedback we've received since the TAB voted on the regional solicitation criteria. I have spoken with Dakota County Commissioners Holberg, Atkin and Chair Halverson. And I have spoken with Scott County Administrator Vermillion, and I have reached out to Chair Ulrich. I have heard their concerns, and we have also talked about our opportunities for collaboration.

Because of the robust discussion regarding some of the criteria, its important that we review the outcomes of this regional solicitation process prior to issuing funds for the following year. To this end, I am instructing the Regional Administrator to work with staff to review the outcomes of this round of regional solicitation prior to issuing the next call for projects in 2028, and to engage the Transportation Advisory Board to discuss the function of the adopted criteria, and to potentially make adjustments to ensure transportation goals are met.

With that, I will entertain comments and questions from the Council.