

TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Feb 21, 2025 10:00 AM Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83794470199?pwd=1QLZ6zuaLT9qH6TBHz96CWZsJlxlQ.1>

📍 2222 Cuming Street Boardroom, Main Level ▾

Minutes

In attendance:

TTAC Voting Members

- **Sherri Levers** (Metro Transit)
- **Todd Pfitzer** (Douglas County)
- **Jarrold Walker** (NDOT)
- **Eric Williams** (PMRNRD)
- **Kristine Evans** (City of Omaha)
- **Alex Evans** (City of Papillion)
- **Bryan Guy** (City of Omaha)
- **Joe Soucie** (City of La Vista)
- **Damion Stern** (NDOT)
- **Derek Miller** (City of Omaha)
- **Dennis Wilson** (Sarpy County)
- **Austin Rowser** (City of Omaha)
- **Matt Cox** (City of Council Bluffs)

TTAC Non-Voting Members. Virtual

Attendees. & Guests

- **Jason Carbee** (HDR)
- **Yousef Dana** (High Street)*
- **Dan Carpenter** (Benesch)*
- **Adam Denney** (Felsburg, Holt & Ullevig)
- **Joan Green** (E&A)*
- **Sam Huppert** (Greater Omaha Chamber)*
- **Mark Meisinger** (Felsburg, Holt & Ullevig)
- **Bart Pugh** (Schemmer)
- **John Rasmussen** (Pottawattamie County)*
- **Matt Selinger** (JEO)*
- **Jeff Sobczyk** (City of Omaha)*
- **Scott Suhr** (Iowa DOT)*
- **Andy Wicks** (City of Council Bluffs)*
- **Kevin Carder** (WSP)
- **Lee Myers** (AARP)
- **John Selmer**

MAPA Staff

- **Court Barber**
- **Jim Boerner**
- **Lindsey Button**
- **Elise Emanuel**
- **Rachel Goettsch***
- **Mike Helgerson**
- **Lauren Heilman***
- **Carlos Morales**
- **Elle Ward**

*Attended Virtually

Meeting called to order by Todd Pfitzer at 10:01AM. Quorum requirements were met.

Action Items

For TTAC Approval

A. Approval of the Minutes from [the January 17, 2025 Meeting](#)

A motion to approve the minutes from the January 17, 2025, meeting was made by Pfitzer. It was noted by Court Barber that the minutes had been incorrectly labeled as a joint TTAC-RPAC meeting. This error has been corrected on paper and will be updated on the website following the meeting.

Pfitzer motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Miller. The motion was carried unanimously.

Recommendations to MAPA's Board of Directors

B. Open a Public Comment Period for the [SS4A Draft Comprehensive Safety Action Plan \(CSAP\)](#)

Jim Boerner presented the SS4A Draft Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP) and requested a recommendation to open a public comment period. The draft plan, which will be available for public review through the 24th, includes project recommendations, prioritization, and safety policies, with feedback collected via an online public meeting. The plan is being developed with consideration for three rounds of grant funding.

Matt Selinger asked for clarification on whether the vote was to approve the draft plan itself. Boerner confirmed that the vote was to approve the draft plan and open the public comment period.

A motion to open the public comment period was made by Rowser, seconded by Pfitzer, and passed unanimously.

C. [National Multimodal Freight Network](#)

Jim Boerner provided an overview of the National Multimodal Freight Network (NMFN), which was established under the FAST Act and is currently under review until February 27, 2025. The network, which includes highways, rail, marine ports, waterways, among others, does not impact the National Highway Freight Network (NHFN) nor qualify for NHFP formula funding.

Pfitzer asked about the significant data change between 2022 and 2023, to which Boerner responded that he was unsure as the numbers were system-generated and not analyzed by himself.

A motion to recommend board approval was made by Cox, seconded by Pfitzer, and passed unanimously.

D. [Amendment 4 to the FY2025 Transportation Improvement Program \(TIP\)](#)

Court Barber presented Amendment 4 to the FY2025 TIP, which includes project modifications submitted by the City of Omaha and NDOT. The amendment adds another AC resurfacing package for the City of Omaha and reallocates funding from two placeholder projects to the Omaha 2027 Major Streets Resurfacing Project. NDOT is adjusting the parameters of a project on N-133, with updated cost figures affecting funding allocations. The City of Omaha is also seeking discretionary funding for a streetcar expansion, including a 19th Street extension as part of a Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) implementation.

Stern inquired about the total updated cost for the NDOT project. Barber clarified that the revised number represents the federal aid cost. Eric Williams expressed interest in how this extension connects to the existing line, and a map was offered for further clarification.

A motion to approve the amendment was made by Levers, seconded by Miller, and passed unanimously.

E. [Truck and Travel Time Performance Measures Mid-Period Target Updates](#)

Jim Boerner presented updates to the PM3 performance targets, highlighting that construction remains the main factor affecting interstate travel time reliability. While speeds have increased, most unreliable segments fail during peak hours. Non-interstate NHS trends exceeded 100%, and truck travel time reliability remained stable, but MAPA did not meet its targets. Staff recommended updating the interstate and truck travel time reliability targets.

Eric Williams questioned whether the recommendation was simply to adjust the targets after missing them. Boerner clarified that while the goal is to better assess performance, future adjustments should also include system-wide changes beyond just target modifications. Williams emphasized the need for action beyond just recalibrating targets, while Mike Helgerson and Carlos Morales noted that regional reliability remains strong, with over 90% reliability and a 1.3 travel time index, comparing favorably to other regions. Stern noted that while I-80 is deprioritized, I-680 has more active projects but I-80 will continue to struggle.

A motion to approve the updated PM3 targets was made by the Soucie, seconded by Miller, and passed unanimously.

Discussion Items

F. [Microtransit Pilot Update](#)

Evan Schweitz from Metro Transit provided an update on the Microtransit Pilot, a new service launching in late 2025 as part of Metro Next, funded by philanthropic donors. The \$3-per-ride service will prioritize connections to fixed routes, fill some transit gaps, and serve as a learning tool to assess demand for potential fixed-route expansion.

Mike Helgerson inquired about the new Metro board's stance, and Schweitz noted that the project is still in early stages, emphasizing it as a learning process to identify potential fixed-route conversions. Meyers asked about low-income residents outside service zones, Schweitz explained that budget constraints limit coverage. The vendor selection process was also discussed, with Schweitz confirming that while the contract would be public upon board approval, details of all applicants will not be shared. Carlos Morales inquired about mobile trip booking options, app integration with fixed routes, which Schweitz confirmed the former was the plan, and while the latter is ideal, it is uncertain. McLaughlin asked about the possibility of bicycle accommodations, and Schweitz stated that it is still under negotiation with the selected vendor.

G. NDOT Pavement Candidate List

Jim Boerner presented NDOT's Pavement Candidate List, developed through the TAMP process and Pavement Optimization Program, which recommends resurfacing and rehabilitation projects over a 10-year period. The list, provided annually to MPOs, includes key corridors such as 144th, Harrison, Sorenson, 72nd, 30th, Ames, Harlan, E 6th St, and Franklin, with resurfacing prioritized between 2028-2032 and rehabilitation scheduled for 2026-2027 and 2033-2035.

Eric Williams questioned the timing of resurfacing versus rehabilitation, and Boerner explained it is based on road age and maintenance needs. Rowser asked about Sorenson's resurfacing project, and Boerner clarified that the list is a recommendation tool, not a finalized plan, and jurisdictions can provide feedback to NDOT. Mike Helgerson emphasized that the list is a state-generated candidate list, intended to assess current needs rather than dictate final project plans. No motion was required.

H. Public Comment

Members of the public were offered an opportunity to speak. There were no comments.

I. [Call for Projects - Application Summary](#)

Court Barber summarized applications from the latest TIP call for projects, which received four STBG applications from Iowa and nine TAP/CRP applications (two from Iowa, seven from Nebraska), totaling nearly \$13 million in federal aid requests.

All projects are open for public comment, will be scored and reviewed, and recommendations will move through TTAC before board approval in June. Barber noted there is sufficient funding through 2031. No comments were made.

J. Quarterly Regional Federal Aid Summary

Court Barber presented the first-quarter FY 2025 federal aid update, noting that Iowa has roughly \$19 million and Nebraska \$22 million available, with some deobligations affecting totals. While no projects are currently obligated, all are expected to proceed on schedule.

Carlos Morales reminded project sponsors to notify MAPA if obligations may be delayed past October so adjustments can be made to the TIP. Eric Williams inquired about the Levi Carter Park Trail project, and Barber confirmed there is progress but uncertainty about obligation in 2025. Eric Williams confirmed the CRP fund swap is finalized.

K. State and Federal Policy Updates

Mike Helgerson provided updates on seven Nebraska and Iowa bills MAPA is monitoring, including automated speeding enforcement and EV charger restrictions near Offutt. MAPA has not submitted input on LB600, and debate continues on red-light enforcement on 30th St.. Those wanting to testify should coordinate with Helgerson before the March 21 TTAC meeting. On the federal level, recent Executive Orders are under review for their impact on IRA and IJA, while budget reconciliation discussions could affect tax-exempt municipal bonds.

Eric Williams raised concerns over funding uncertainty affecting project obligations, with Helgerson noting STBG, CRP, and TAP funds seem stable, but IIJA reauthorization remains uncertain. Rowser opposed shifting utility infrastructure costs onto project agencies, confirming it affects finance agreements, including electric projects.

L. Member Agency Updates (time permitting)

- **Council Bluffs**

West Graham - Bidding is scheduled for next month, and no issues are expected for obligation.

- **City of Papillion - Portal STBG Project**

In early stages, with a survey scheduled. Though grant funding only covers part of the project, the entire stretch is being designed. A main break near City Hall will require digging on Sunday for about a week.

Eric Williams confirmed with Papillion that the project extends from 72nd to 106th and Giles, with Papillion clarifying some stops may be broken out at 96th.

- **City of Omaha**

I-480 will be closed this weekend, especially under Harney Street.

- **PMRNRD**

Tree clearing is underway on 40th & Hamilton, with another site following. Multiple trail projects are also set for construction this summer. OPPD has tracked a 10% increase in EVs in one quarter indicating accelerating adoption, meaning EV infrastructure expansion will be needed sooner than expected.

- **Nebraska DOT**

STIP amendments now require USDOT HQ approval rather than local approval, which may impact August redistribution. Efforts are underway with MAPA to mitigate potential delays.

- **NDOT District 2**

The I-480 project begins in March. HW 50 and EMTIS projects start this spring. I-680 high-mast tower work is ongoing. Some bridge projects were postponed due to restructuring and budget cuts, but 72nd & L remains untouched. The Elkhorn Viaduct was delayed to 2028.

- **Sarpy County - Platteview Road**

Several projects are in the works. A significant amount of funding has gone into Platteview Road improvements.

- **City of Omaha - Harney & Farnam Closures**

Harney Street is closed for the rest of the year in Blackstone and Midtown, but Midtown remains open. Farnam will have a full three-week closure for sewer work. NTP design approval has been given for 24th Street.

- **Iowa DOT**

The westbound offramp was closed earlier today and may have reopened already.

- **Bellevue Road Closure (Ft. Crook Rd.)**

Potential full closure with detour via Highway 75.

Jim Boerner confirmed that Ft. Crook Rd. South is already closed with a detour in place.

M. Additional Business (time permitting)

Mike Helgerson announced that on March 12, Ross Van Dongen, the Chief of Infrastructure and Workforce Development at Accelerator for America, will be speaking at the MAPA Council of Officials Luncheon at the Old Mattress Factory.

Meeting adjourned at 11:36AM by Rowser.

Future Meetings & Events

- **MAPA Board of Directors: February 27, 2025**
- **RPAC: April 4, 2025**
- **TTAC: March 21, 2025**

Meeting Quorum: The presence of ten (10) members of TTAC at an officially called meeting shall constitute a quorum.