



AGENDA

Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting

12:00 PM - Wednesday, June 10, 2026

City Hall Council Chambers

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1. CALL TO ORDER	
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES	
2.1. Approval of the Transportation Advisory Committee December 10, 2025 meeting minutes.	3 - 5
12-10-2025 Meeting Minutes	
3. TOPICS OF DISCUSSION	
3.1. Update of Propane Buses	
3.2. Fixed Route Stops Review	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review of operating two buses with personnel to drive them allow adding stops or shorten wait time	
3.3. Update on Free Fare for Riders to Farmer's Market on Hermann Express and Heartland Express	
3.4. Holiday Hours	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Juneteenth• 4th of July• Labor Day• Veterans Day• Thanksgiving• Day after Thanksgiving• Christmas Eve• Christmas Day and New Year's Day	
3.5. Emerson Union Bench Ideas	
3.6. Continue meetings with software companies to find the "best fit" for our fixed route needs	
3.7. Explore Additional Advertising for Hermann Express	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Due to budget reduction, advertising was reduced	
3.8. Hermann Express 2027 Funding	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Received a 3% increase for 2027, which is the amount received in 2026. Some transit systems see no increase, or a decrease in funding.	
3.9. New Ulm Bike Group - Bob Beck	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nothing to report at this time	
3.10. Update from Sarah Berg, Lead Driver	
Ridership report usage:	
2025	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 479 in December	
2026	

- 414 in January
- 443 in February
- 524 in March
- 454 in April
- 532 in May

January - May 2026: 2,367 riders, 48 subsidized, 24 pre-K compared to
January - May 2025: 2,509 riders, 73 subsidized, 63 pre-K.
Recorded 142 less rides in 2026 compared to the same time-frame in 2025.

Staffing:

Continue to train newly hired Heartland drivers for the Hermann Express route

3.11. Other discussion

4. MEMBERSHIP

4.1. Fill vacancies for following members:

- Michelle Markgraf resigned 12-11-2023 (Citizen Representative)
- Kim Marstone resigned 11-15-2025 (Brown County Representative)

5. NEXT MEETING

5.1. Select next meeting date of December 2, 9 and 16, 2026

6. ADJOURNMENT

City of New Ulm Transportation Advisory Committee

December 10, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Attendance

Pat LaCourse, Chair	Present	Vacant Brown County Rep	
Nathan Moldan, Vice-Chair	Present	Eric Warmka	Present
Joseph Stadheim, Secretary	Present	Chris Dalton	Absent
Anne Broskoff	Present	Tom Henderson	Present
Scott Windschitl	Present	Vacant Citizen Representative	

1. Call to Order

1.1 Meeting was called to order by Chair LaCourse.

2. Secretary's Report

2.1 Eric Warmka made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the June 11, 2025 Transportation Advisory Committee meeting, seconded by Scott Windschitl. All ayes and carried.

3. Discussion

3.1 Low or No Emission Grant Update

Brown County was awarded a grant for two propane buses and associated infrastructure. Timeline is unsure at this time as award notification was just sent.

3.2 Elixir Building Update

No updates at this time. More updates to come with the grant award notification for the propane buses. Propane tank storage was discussed for possibly including that somewhere at the Elixir site. Will need to have an idea of Elixir building layout for grant purposes.

3.3 Lead Driver Update

Ridership updates: 479 June, 579 July, 514 August, 621 September, 707 October, 580 November, up 1054 rides over 2024. Continue to train new Heartland Express drivers on Hermann route. The Bicycle Group asked about bike parking stands at the bus stops. Bicycle Group would be willing to fund the stands. Will visit in the future once permanent route and stop infrastructure has been determined. Hermann Express was in the Parade of Lights again this year.

3.4 Free Fare Update

Free rides for the Farmers Market visitors, 21 Hermann rides and 9 Heartland rides.

3.5 Free Rides for National Guard Members

Greg Peterson brought this item to Pat for discussion. We include free rides for veterans but not currently Guard members. Eric was comfortable moving

forward as was the consensus of the Board. Pat will work with Greg for cards/documentation.

3.6 Holiday Hours

Will run until noon on Christmas Eve and closed on Christmas and New Years.

3.7 Emerson Union Bench

Submitted funding request to Optimist Club but needed to work through installation and location issues. Will reapply for funding once details are worked out for who is installing and location to be installed.

3.8 Additional Advertising

Numbers have been decent without much for advertising. There are funds allocated within the budget for this and wondering if we should move forward. Eric thought of using radio ads for a couple of weeks. Ridership does decrease in the winter. There is an ad in the visitors guide. Scott mentioned a billboard, Pat will look into pricing.

3.9 2026 Funding

Same 10% match as 2025. Will need 15% match moving past 2026.

3.10 Other Discussion

Discussion on installing bike rack on the bus. The racks on the front of the bus create maintenance issues and additional items for drivers to account for.

Need for CDL licenses for bus drivers. We utilize non-CDL buses. 15 riders or under does not require a CDL. We have had a full bus two times. The propane buses will be non-CDL buses. May need to revise County seatbelt policy to allow riders to stand while riding.

Routing software discussion. Looking at other options to our current software, which has increased in cost and is cumbersome for users. May be beneficial for Hermann and are looking at options for new software. Will continue to work on this through 2026. Would be funded 80% by MnDOT and includes hardware that would be needed.

4. Membership

4.1 Filling Current Vacancies

City and County representatives are currently open. Possibly have Sarah talk to some riders to see if there is any interest. Will continue to work on this with an update at the June meeting.

5. Next Meeting

5.1 Next meeting date selection

Next meeting date was set for June 10, 2026 at 12:00 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers.

6. Announcements and Adjournments

6.1 Chair LaCourse adjourned the meeting at 12:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Stadheim
City Engineer