

U.S. Department of Transportation
BEAUTIFYING TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE COUNCIL

**Meeting Minutes
May 27, 2026**

The Beautifying Transportation Infrastructure Council (BTIC or the Council) met Wednesday, May 27, 2026, on *Government Zoom*. Justin Shubow, BTIC Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time. In accordance with the provisions of Public Law 92-463, the meeting was open to the public.

The following individuals participated in the meeting:

Council Members

Justin Shubow, Chair
Bradley Cambridge
Maryam Ghyabi-White
Bryan Jones
Gary Meisner
Jason Pike
Peter Quintanilla
Kim Vierheilig

Governmental Representatives

Julianne S. Schwarzer, Designated Federal Officer, U.S. DOT
Rachel McBrien, Facilitator, U.S. DOT Volpe Center
Samuel Waite, U.S. DOT Volpe Center

Call to Order

Justin Shubow called the meeting to order. Julianne Schwarzer welcomed the participants to the meeting.

Meeting Logistics

Rachel McBrien provided an overview of the meeting logistics and agenda.

Approval of Minutes from March 31, 2026, Meeting

Ms. McBrien presented the minutes from the Council's meeting on March 31, 2026, noting they were circulated to Council members in advance of this meeting. Mr. Shubow moved to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved by the Council.

Resume Deliberations and Finalize Recommendations for Task 26-01: Expanding the Principles for Beautiful Transportation

Ms. McBrien reintroduced Task 26-01, highlighting the meeting's goal to refine and finalize

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Council recommendations regarding the five core U.S. DOT design principles: 1) uplifting and inspiring travelers, 2) harmonizing with surrounding landscapes, 3) complementing local architectural heritage, 4) incorporating art and design features, and 5) harnessing form to advance function. Information, including notes, for Task 26-01 is available on the Council's [meetings page](#).

U. S. DOT Beautifying Transportation Infrastructure Challenge Update

Samuel Waitt provided a status update on the U.S. DOT Beautifying Transportation Infrastructure Challenge design competition, which seeks innovative, multimodal concepts from the public celebrating civic beauty and regional heritage aligned with the America 250 vision. Over 80 submissions across 3 distinct tiers were received: Professional, Public, and Student (grades 6-12). The competition is currently in the evaluation phase. The Secretary of Transportation is anticipated to announce 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners for each tier in early July 2026. A showcase event highlighting the winning designs on U.S. DOT platforms will follow.

Introduction of Task 26-02: Developing Aesthetic Performance Metrics

Ms. McBrien introduced Task 26-02, which requests recommendations regarding metrics that can be cultivated to assess the aesthetic value of transportation infrastructure and facilities when considering the development or revitalization of transportation projects. The U.S. DOT asks that these performance metrics consider all modes of transportation and respect regional heritage and preferences. Ms. Schwarzer noted that the task's concepts are intentionally open to the Council's interpretation, spanning both pre-construction evaluation and post-construction impact assessments. Mr. Shubow provided a draft performance metrics framework to help guide the conversation. Task 26-02 notes and Mr. Shubow's draft performance metrics framework are available on the [Council's meetings page](#).

Closing Remarks and Next Steps

Ms. Schwarzer noted that the next BTIC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 24, 2026, and additional meeting dates will be announced.

Before concluding the meeting, the Council requested materials that could help with continuation of the discussion. These include Federal guidelines, such as the General Services Administration's Design Excellence selection documents and The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations' procedures and flowcharts; updated literature detailing the U.S. DOT's existing context-sensitive solutions framework; and brief case studies of recent large-scale U.S. DOT projects.

Public Input

No materials were received from the public for Council consideration in advance of the meeting.

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Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:16 PM after providing closing remarks.

We hereby certify that, to the best of our knowledge, the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.

____//Signed//_____
Justin Shubow, Chair

____//Signed//_____
Julianne S. Schwarzer, Designated Federal Officer