

U.S. Department of Transportation
BEAUTIFYING TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE COUNCIL

**Meeting Minutes
June 24, 2026**

The Beautifying Transportation Infrastructure Council (BTIC or the Council) met Wednesday, June 24, 2026, on *Government Zoom*. Justin Shubow, BTIC Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 am (ET). 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
Peter Quintanilla
Kim Vierheilig

Governmental Representatives

Julianne Schwarzer, Designated Federal Officer, U.S. DOT
Nate Deshmukh-Towery, Facilitator, U.S. DOT Volpe Center
Michelle Ethun, Office of the Secretary of Transportation, U.S. DOT

Call to Order

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

Meeting Logistics

Nate Deshmukh-Towery provided an overview of the meeting logistics and agenda.

Approval of Minutes from May 27, 2026, Meeting

Mr. Deshmukh-Towery presented the minutes from the Council's meeting on May 27, 2026, noting they were circulated to Council members in advance of the meeting. Mr. Shubow requested a motion to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously by the Council.

Resume Deliberations and Finalize Recommendations for Task 26-02: Developing Aesthetic Performance Metrics

Mr. Deshmukh-Towery introduced BTIC Task 26-02, which was first discussed at the May 27th meeting, highlighting the Council's goal to provide feedback to the Department of

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Transportation regarding metrics that can be cultivated to assess the aesthetic value of transportation infrastructure and facilities when considering the development of new or revitalization of existing transportation projects. Information, including notes from the Council's discussion of Task 26-02, is available on the Council's [meetings page](#).

U. S. DOT Beautifying Transportation Infrastructure Challenge Update and Discussion

Michelle Ethun provided an update on the Beautifying Transportation Infrastructure Challenge, a design competition that seeks innovative concepts that elevate classic design elements in transportation infrastructure. The competition received 81 submissions across three tiers: 23 Professional, 48 Public, and 10 Student. Ms. Ethun led a discussion with the Council to receive their feedback.

Introduction and Discussion of Task 26-03: Implementing the Principles of Beautiful Design

Mr. Deshmukh-Towery introduced BTIC Task 26-03, which requests that the Council provide recommendations to DOT on the principles that guide the development of more aesthetically pleasing transportation projects. DOT is specifically seeking input on how the Department, its partners, and stakeholders can implement these principles. Task 26-03 discussion notes are available on the Council's [meetings page](#), along with a draft performance metrics framework provided as a starting point by Mr. Shubow.

Introduction of Subcommittees

Ms. Schwarzer introduced the formation of two subcommittees to complement the Council's work. One subcommittee will focus on Principles, highlighting best practices and real-world examples for the five core design principles proposed by BTIC. The second subcommittee will focus on how to embed these practices and lessons from real-world examples into standard DOT procedures. The subcommittees, which will be coordinated by the DOT Volpe Center, may develop recommended content that may be used for a prospective U.S. DOT Guidebook on Beautifying Transportation Infrastructure Principles.

Closing Remarks and Next Steps

Ms. Schwarzer noted that the next BTIC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 29, 2026. At this upcoming meeting, the Florida and Texas Departments of Transportation will present beautification programs from a state-level perspective.

Public Input

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

Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:10 pm (ET) after providing closing remarks.

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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