



Approved Meeting Minutes

May 30, 2013
Cottage Grove City Hall
4:00 p.m.

Commission Members	Agency	Present
Autumn Lehrke, Chair	Washington County RRA	X
Mike Slavik	Dakota County RRA	X
Janice Rettman	Ramsey County RRA	X
Linda Higgins	Hennepin County RRA	X
Barb Hollenbeck	City of Hastings	X
Jen Peterson, Vice-Chair	City of Cottage Grove	X
Keith Franke	City of St. Paul Park	
Steve Gallagher	City of Newport	
Jim Keller	Denmark Township	X
Cam Gordon	City of Minneapolis	
Amy Brendmoen	City of St. Paul	X

Ex-Officio Members	Agency	
Bob Kastner	City of Red Wing	
Marc Mogan	Prairie Island Indian Community	X
Ken Bjornstad	Goodhue County	X

Staff	Agency	Present
Andy Gitzlaff	Washington County RRA	X
Lyssa Leitner	Washington County RRA	X
Josh Olson	Ramsey County RRA	X
Joe Morneau	Dakota County RRA	X
Adele Hall	Hennepin County RRA	

Others	Agency
Katie White	Met Council
Cole Hiniker	Met Council
Carl Jensen	MnDOT
John M Burbank	City of Cottage Grove

The meeting was video recorded and can be viewed online at:
http://swctc.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=4365
Chair Lehrke called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

Agenda Item #1: Introductions

Introductions were made by those present.

Agenda Item #2: Consent Items

a. Checks and Claims

b. Minutes of the April 25, 2013 Meeting

Motion made by Higgins to approve the April 25, 2013 meeting minutes and checks and claims. Seconded by Slavik. **All in favor.** Motion carried.

Agenda Item #3: Support TH61/CR19 Improvements

Gitzlaff discussed the Cottage Grove TIGER grant application for the TH61/CR19 interchange improvements as presented in the packet. The request is for \$10 million instead of the \$7 million as stated in the memo.

Rettman asked if the letter references previous support of the project by the Red Rock Corridor Commission. Gitzlaff stated it does reference the previous support.

Motion made by Peterson to approve the letter of support by signature of the Chair for the Cottage Grove TIGER grant application for TH 61/CSAH 19 interchange improvements. Seconded by Keller. **All in favor.** Motion carried.

Agenda Item #4: AAU Update

a) Outreach Summary and Next Steps

Leitner gave a presentation on the Alternatives Analysis Update in a PowerPoint presentation.

Brendmoen asked if the presentation could be presented at employment centers in order to get other people using the transit that are not currently using it. Leitner stated yes and potentially working through the existing chambers could be a way to get into an existing group to hold a meeting. Rettman asked if they have presented at District 1. Leitner stated they are on the agenda for the summer, but would likely be moved back. Leitner stated that new residents in District 1 are receiving flyers at this time.

b) Goals and Objectives

Rettman requested to have TOD spelled out instead of using the acronym. Lehrke stated she would like to see "cost effective" added to the first objective in goal #2 to read "Implement a service with operating costs per rider that are consistent with other cost effective transit systems in the region." Rettman stated she agrees with adding cost effective to goal #2. Higgins asked how you measure a cost effective piece of a goal. Lehrke stated she would like to see the transit system fit the needs where the subsidy is cost effective and minimized to the extent possible. Higgins stated she is stuck on the

implementation of the goal. Higgins asked if it means there might just be a bus as it is the cheapest service or does it mean the system will run 24 hours a day regardless as that might be the cheapest way. Leitner stated Met Council does have transitway guidelines that would help with the baseline for operating costs. All of the alternatives would be looked at including their operating costs and the number of people in service per hour and compare them to each other. Leitner stated after the comparison is done, they would look at what makes most sense for this particular corridor along with what has happened within this region in the past. Brendmoen asked if it is compared to what it costs to subsidize highways and other roadway infrastructure. Leitner stated that typically that is not done as those numbers are hard to establish. Leitner stated they could potentially look into it, but it would be hard to figure out where to stop. Higgins stated the public needs to be reminded that roads are subsidized along with bike lanes and bike paths as they are a public entity, not just public transit.

Rettman stated cost effectiveness is going to generate more people and business within the area and must be a factor that goes into the Corridor. Rettman stated she wants to make sure it is a good return on investment of the citizens and the riders. Lehrke stated her intent to add “cost effective” to the objective is to look at the data and make sure it is cost effective and that the economic development piece is being looked at to help bring new businesses into the area along with people to help support current businesses.

Peterson stated there was a meeting a few years back with Congresswomen Betty McCollum on what subsidy rates are for roads, bridges and highways versus rail, but there just is not a good comparison out there.

Slavik stated he would hope that within the entire goal, the objectives would be cost effective, but does not have a problem with adding “cost effective” to the objective.

Motion made by Rettman to approve the Problem Statement, Goals and Objectives with amended language. Seconded by Hollenbeck. **All in favor.** Motion carried.

Agenda Item #5: Legislative Update

a) State

Olson discussed the State Legislative Update as presented in the packet. Olson stated metro area Regional Railroad Authorities can now plan, fund, construct and operate BRT. Lehrke stated Washington County Commissioner Weik and herself testified at the capital regarding expansion of the Regional Railroad Authorities to include investments in BRT. Gitzlaff clarified it was for funding for construction and operation not for the rail authorities to actually operate the system, that is the role of the Met Council.

Lehrke stated the Wheelage Tax Expansion was passed this session. This wheelage tax is an example of a road subsidy that is a user fee. Lehrke stated that 100% of people use roads and this is paid for by these types of subsidies.

b) Federal

Olson discussed the Federal Legislative Update as presented in the packet.

Agenda Item #6: Communication Update

Gitzlaff discussed the Facebook and website communication update as presented in the packet. E-News blasts have been going out and there will be enough information about the AAU study as well as the Newport Transit Station project for another one. Gitzlaff stated as of tomorrow, requests for bids will be out for the development of the transit station project and site with construction starting in mid-July and the station opening in the fall. A ground-breaking event will be held with the details coming out at a later time.

Agenda Item #7: Highway Corridor Transitway Study

Cole Hiniker, Met Council, gave a presentation on the Highway Corridor Transitway Study in a PowerPoint presentation.

Agenda Item #8: Other

a) Next scheduled meeting is Thursday, June 27, 2013 at 4:00 p.m.

Slavik invited the Commission along with the public to the opening of the Red Line on June 22. There is a kick off at noon with a few speeches and activities all weekend including free rides. Lehrke stated some economic benefits as a result of this BRT include an outlet mall in Eagan and Apple Valley is also looking into adding multiple levels to their retail shops downtown.

Agenda Item #8: Adjourn

Motion made by Higgins to adjourn. Seconded by Slavik. **All in favor.** Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 4:57 p.m.