



**June 30, 2011
Cottage Grove City Hall
4:00 p.m.**

Members Present:

Joe Harris, Dakota County
Janice Rettman, Ramsey County
Autumn Lehrke, Washington County
John Hunziker, St Paul Park
Cam Gordon, Minneapolis
Barb Hollenbeck, City of Hastings
Jen Peterson, City of Cottage

Others Present:

Andy Gitzlaff, Washington County Regional Railroad Authority
Josh Olson, Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority
Sam O'Connell, Dakota County Regional Railroad Authority
Betsy Leach, District 1 Community Council, St. Paul
Linda Jungwirth, Assistant to Commissioner Rettman
Tom Dobbs, Hay Dobbs
Jon Solberg, Mn/DOT Metro District

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Marc S Mogan, Prairie Island Indian
Community

Chair Harris called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

- Agenda Item #1 Consent Items**
- a. Minutes of the May 26, 2011 Meeting**
 - b. Checks and Claims**

Commission Member Hunziker moved the approval of the Consent Items. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Member Lehrke.

Roll call vote:

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| Rettman | Yes |
| Lehrke | Yes |
| Hunziker | Yes |
| Harris | Yes |
| Peterson | Yes |
| Hollenbeck | Yes |

Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #2 Station Area Planning Study Draft Report Release- WCRRA

Mr. Gitzlaff indicated that the Station Area Planning Study has been a twenty-month process with the final report now completed. He noted that we have gone through the public process, as well as the investigation of all the constraints of the stations, and developed plans for each individual station consistent with the corridor's goals. Mr. Gitzlaff reminded Commission Members that at the last meeting we went over the contents of the report and a draft version was sent out to all Commissioners prior to this meeting for comments and corrections. He did not receive any notices of corrections or changes. Tonight we will be asking for the approval to release this draft for public comment as well as adoption and endorsement by the city and county partners. Meetings will be scheduled for Cottage Grove, Hastings, Newport and St. Paul to go through their review processes. He indicated that he would provide these meeting dates, at a later time, to the Commission Members so they have the opportunity to attend these meetings. He reviewed the schedule as we move forward. Tentatively, we will approve the release tonight, followed by a posting to our RRCC website with hardcopies available upon request, as well as an e-news alert that will be sent out to about 500 people. He noted that we will skip the July meeting and at the September meeting the Commission will review the report with changes incorporated, and adopt a final report. Commissioner Rettman commented that we should remember it is still a work in progress and questioned if the changes or comments should be sent to Mr. Gitzlaff. Mr. Gitzlaff confirmed that the report will be posted on the website and they could comment directly by that method, which will be linked directly to his email address for any comments.

Commission Member Hunziker motioned to approve the release of the Station Area Planning Study Draft Report. The motion was seconded by Commission Member Gordon and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #3 Hwy 61 Bridge Update/Hastings Transit Service- Mn/DOT

Mr. Solberg from Mn/DOT indicated that currently they are behind schedule on the bridge construction due to the fall and spring flooding. They have recently got the approval to work overtime, as soon as the State's budget is approved. They are currently working on the land portions of the bridge construction while the water level is up. Specifically, they are working on the south side of the bridge, pier number five as well as some work on the north side. They were planning to put in a full day today, possibly until midnight tonight and if no budget is approved, there will be no work done until the new budget is approved. Specifically, Mr. Solberg indicated that each piece of material is inspected by the State of Minnesota inspectors, so the lack of state inspectors would end all work unless the County makes other arrangements for the inspections on the bridge. The traffic will continue on the bridge uninterrupted.

Mr. Solberg provided an update on transit service. In 2010 a law was passed to authorize the use of \$250,000 of trunk highway funds to establish transit service for the City of Hastings to mitigate the construction impacts of the bridge construction. They have met with the City of Hastings Staff, RRCC, as well as Metro Transit and other contractors to determine interest in the transit service. Currently, they are in a holding pattern due to the government shutdown as well as trying to develop the level of interest for the service needed for the City of Hastings. Mn/DOT would commit to continuing the service through the duration of the construction project as long as there are funds available. They have presented two services to the City to review. A bus service and a van service option, which

could be an initial inexpensive step service. They are waiting for feedback from the City of Hastings. Commission Chair Harris questioned Commission Member Hollenbeck in regard to the Hastings transit situation. She indicated that the Transit Committee met last Tuesday and the committee was caught in a tough situation, due to the fact that the funds from Mn/DOT have a required match from the City. Due to the current budget constraints and the amount of people initially committing to the service, it looks like it may not be supported by the Committee in the future. The initial language from the legislature and Mn/DOT did not include that matching requirement. Unless they are able to locate another source of revenue, it will be difficult to support. Mr. Solberg indicated that the local match requirement by Mn/DOT is to ensure continuance of a service once the bridge reconstruction is complete. Commission Chair Harris confirmed with Mr. Solberg that there will be limited disruptions to the driving public during the construction time, and most disruptions will be at off-peak hours.

Agenda Item #4 Legislative Update – WCRRA

a. State

Mr. Gitzlaff informed the Commission that at the State level it is only six and one half hours until the likely shut down of the government. He indicated that the effect for the Red Rock Corridor Commission directly is minimal. The contract for the station planning project is through a grant with Mn/DOT for Federal funds which is reimbursed to Washington County and our consultants are paid by them on a quarterly basis. Therefore, the impact should be minimal for the Red Rock Corridor Commission.

b. Federal

Mr. Gitzlaff indicated that at the Federal level, the main discussion is on the debt ceiling and the need to raise it prior to the August 2, 2011 deadline. The Senate will remain in session over the 4th of July weekend to work on this issue. Budget discussions for 2012 are ongoing and the main focus has been the military appropriations and aid bills, which seem to be less controversial.

Agenda Item #5 Other

a. Federal Livability Grant Announcement

Mr. Gitzlaff noted that it was recently announced, by Secretary LaHood, that there will be another round of solicitations for the livability grants. This is through the partnership between the DOT, HUD and the EPA which finds ways to address affordability housing, transportation needs and environment considerations. During the last round of grants, one of the big projects that came from it was the Corridors of Opportunities Project which Met Council and some local partners are working on now. Washington County did submit a grant request under that program last year, for AA funds building of the work that was done in the alternative analysis. It was combined with Rush Line's AA proposal. The Washington County Regional Railroad Authority Board did pursue this last year, and it may come up again this year to pursue another grant request. He noted that the Red Rock Corridor Commission did pass a resolution of support last year for

the grant last year and if they submit another grant request this year, the resolution will still be valid. There is a deadline of July 22, 2011 for the grant submittal.

b. Next Meeting- August 25, 2011

Mr. Gitzlaff noted that with no July meeting..

There being no further business, Commission Member Hunziker moved a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Member Lehrke and passed unanimously.

The Commission adjourned at 4:25 p.m.