



Meeting Minutes
February 25, 2010
Washington County South Service Center
Cottage Grove
3:30 p.m.

Members Present:

Myra Peterson, Washington County
Liz Workman, Dakota County
Mark Stenglein, Hennepin County
Corbin Hopkins, City of Newport
John Hunziker, City of St. Paul Park
Jim Keller, Denmark Township
Jen Peterson, City of Cottage Grove
Janice Rettman, Ramsey County

Others Present:

Mike Rogers, Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority
Andy Gitzlaff, Washington County Regional Railroad Authority
Brian Anderson, Newport
Jonathan Avise, South Washington County Bulletin
Linda Jungwirth, Assistant to Commissioner Rettman
Jon W Solberg, MnDOT
Tom Dobbs, Hay Dobbs

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Bob Kastner, Red Wing
Marc Mogan, Prairie Island Indian Community
Ken Bjornstad, Goodhue County

Chair Peterson called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

Agenda Item #1 Consent Items

- a. Minutes of the December 10, 2009 Meeting**
- b. Minutes of the January 28, 2010 Meeting**
- c. An Invoice from Hay Dobbs (*Added to Agenda)**

An invoice from Hay Dobbs was added to Consent Items. Commission Member Stenglein moved the approval of the Consent Items. The motion was seconded by Commission Member Hopkins and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #2 2010 Workplan and Budget – WCRRA

Andy Gitzlaff indicated that the 2010 workplan and budget is up for approval today. He reminded the Commission Members that this was presented at our December 10, 2009 meeting. He referred the Commission Members to their packets and indicated that there are two main projects the Commission will be working on; the station area and site master planning study, and the east metro railroad capacity study. The east metro railroad capacity involves the Hoffman Junction area which is where the rail lines converge on the Union Depot. The study will be lead by Ramsey County with the Red Rock Corridor Commission being a project partner involved in the decision making process. This study will begin in a month or two and should last about 12 to 18 months.

Mr. Gitzlaff informed the Commission that the 2010 operating budget is at \$70,000. This includes \$30,000 for corridor administration and general activities like insurance, memberships, publishing, printing, advertising and consulting projects. It also includes \$30,000 for advocacy, which could be used for travel and expenses to a national conference, and the final \$10,000 used as contingency. Currently we have a fund balance of \$97,455, which is sufficient to cover the 2010 budget. Therefore, a funding contribution will not be required.

Mr. Gitzlaff briefly reviewed the capital budget including Federal 5339 funds and local matched funds. These funds will be used to cover The East Metro Railroad Capacity Analysis, the economic analysis of the Union Depot and a few additional studies to be completed in the future.

Commission Member Hunziker motioned to approve the 2010 workplan and budget. The motion was seconded by Commission Member Stenglein and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #3 Reaffirm CAC Appointments – WCRRA

Mr. Gitzlaff provided a brief overview of the citizen advisory committee. The citizen advisory committee has been formed consisting of business owners and residents along the corridor. Each community is to appoint two members, one from a business and one from the community. The recommended appointments to the CAC are the following:

<u>City</u>	<u>Business Representative</u>	<u>Community Representative</u>
St Paul	TBD	Betsy Leash
Newport	Greg Hanson	Mary Ann Newman
		Alternate: Kim Brown
Cottage Grove	Perry de Stafano	Richard Remackel
Hastings	Ronald Toppin	Lynn Moratzka

At the January Red Rock Corridor Commission meeting, the Commission appointed Sandi Dingle of the St Paul Park City Council to fill one of the four at-large positions on the CAC. There are still three at-large positions open and Corridor Commission members should submit suggested names and contact information for these remaining positions.

Mr. Gitzlaff informed the Commission that action is required to reaffirm these appointments of the Citizen Advisory Committee. Commission Member Hunziker moved

the approval of these appointments. The motion was seconded by Commission Member Peterson. Commission Chair Peterson suggested the addition of members from the health community; possibly a clinic administrator or a doctor or nurse still active in the medical field. Additionally, someone from the tribal community would be an asset to this committee. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #4 Station Planning Study – TOD Overview- Hay Dobbs

Tom Dobbs presented a brief review of the current project to date. This was a similar presentation that was given to the project management team and the Citizen Advisory Committee.

Mr. Dobbs presented a power point presentation on transit orientated development. The goal is to create places that are connected to transit and make activities at the station to encourage transit. The need to provide service to the pedestrian is a fundamental goal, and the overall goal is to create a better community.

Goals for Transit Orientated Design (TOD):

- Encourage land use activities that increase ridership by increasing density of development within walking distance of a transit station.
- Develop plans which have flexibility and can be phased in over time.
- Integrated with the station area design

The general principles of the TOD area will take into account a ¼ mile radius and a ½ mile radius from the center of the station. The ¼ mile will represent a five-minute walk and ½ mile radius will represent a ten-minute walk from the core. These are natural distances that people will walk to support transit. We need to create the most dense, focused, walkable area within that radius. This involves early development of open space, roadways and sidewalks. Additionally, commuter rail is different than light rail. Commuter rail is accessed in the peak period in the morning arriving at in the downtown core and in the evening returning home. Commuter rail has a big peak of time that we need to be able to accommodate. The TOD plan must accommodate for these peak times.

Planning and development needs to occur around the station core or center, and then move out around the edge. Commuter rail has a broader influence and a ripple effect that doesn't happen in other forms of rail. We need to allow for development to occur near the station. Open space and streets are the two key pieces as we begin to develop the physical structure of the commuter rail center for civic life. This can be developed at the onset and the buildings can be filled in over time.

Commission Chair Peterson commented that the Newport site is a blank slate ready for this development.

Mr. Dobbs indicated that the next CAC meeting will be the 3rd Tuesday of the month, March 16, 2010, here at the Cottage Grove City Hall. After that meeting they will be held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, and the public is welcome to attend. The project

management team meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month, at the Washington County South Service Center.

An audience member commented that he was a former commuter rail user in the Chicago area and he feels that parking availability is the number one issue. He indicated that in the four years he used the service he was only delayed two times. He further commented that in those days, after you got off the train, everyone would just get in their cars and go home. Commission Chair Peterson stated that times have changed. People like the convenience of shopping and obtaining services on their way home after work. We need to plan ahead to develop our communities and help our citizens facilitate their lifestyles.

Agenda Item #5 Minnesota High Speed Rail Commission Update – RCRRA

Mike Rogers presented the commission members with the MN High Speed Rail Website that was launched in January. This is another tool to let people be aware of the commission. The River Route Corridor is the same as the Red Rock Corridor but continues on to La Crosse, Wisconsin. The website lists the commission members, links to the individual counties and cities websites, news and information, and frequently asked questions. We are currently working on a federal request of \$26 million for the Twin Cities to Chicago Corridor for the detailed design work.

He informed the Commission that on March 18, 2010 there will be a joint meeting of MN High Speed Rail and the Empire Coalition Group to get together and talk about how Minnesota and Wisconsin are working together to get high speed rail completed. If the Chicago hub system receives stimulus money, then it will be easier for the next piece of the puzzle to get funding and obtain bonds at the local level for the Madison/Twin Cities link. Prior to the stimulus funds it was a matter of “if” we can get it done; now with this funding, it is only a question of “when”. We are committed to getting these projects done and recognize the three for one benefit of passenger, high-speed, and commuter rail.

Mr. Rogers informed the Commission that on May 18 their Commission is planning on taking the Amtrak train from Red Wing to Lacrosse for the meeting in La Crosse at the Amtrak depot at 11:30. The train is scheduled to arrive at 11:00 AM. He reminded the members that a route has not been selected for high speed rail from Chicago- Madison to the Twin Cities segment yet. Many routes are being considered and a decision should be made by year end so that a detailed, engineer analysis can begin. This process will take two years and by 2013, when the Madison to Chicago segment is complete, we will be able ready to build our segment and be open by 2016-2018. He referred everyone to view their website at www.mnhighspeedrail.com.

Agenda Item #6 Legislative Update

a. State

Andy Gitzlaff informed the Commission at last meeting we approved the legislative platform for this session. Additionally, we have \$500,000 in the House and Senate bonding bill for Park-and-Ride development along the Red Rock Corridor. Commission Chair Peterson reminds us that the Met Council also has this included in their request. Mr. Gitzlaff added that in regard to the bonding bill, the Governor is looking at vetoing it.

Commission Chair Peterson encouraged each of the Commission Members to reach out to our business communities, as well as city council members, to support this bill. She added that this is truly a jobs bill and an investment in our future development.

b. Federal

Andy Gitzlaff reminded the Commission Members that the surface transportation bill is still ongoing with another extension expected this month. An appropriation application was submitted to the Minnesota delegates Klobuchar, McCollum, and Franken's offices for \$4 million for demonstration commuter bus service and Park-and-Ride facility along the corridor. This will be our next item for resolutions of support. Other appropriation requests include Ramsey County submitting for the Hoffman Yard and The Union Depot projects and The Minnesota High Speed Rail Commission submitting for high-speed rail.

Mr. Gitzlaff referred Commissioners to review their Federal update memo for the question and answer piece in regard to the recent changes in the CEI, cost effectiveness index. This formula determines ridership based on the cost per rider, and is a good indicator of how a project will move forward. It will be important to pay attention to this as we go forward.

Agenda Item #7 Resolutions of Support – WCRRA

a. High Speed Rail Federal Appropriation Request

Mr. Gitzlaff presented an overview of the resolutions for the support of the request of the MN High-Speed Rail Commission for \$26 million of Federal funds for environmental engineering work for the Twin Cities to Chicago high-speed rail corridor. Motion was made by Commission Member Rettman. Motion was seconded by Commission Member Workman.

Roll call vote:

- Commission Chair Peterson yes
- Commission Member Workman yes
- Commission Member Rettman yes
- Commission Member Stenglein yes
- Commission Member Keller yes
- Commission Member Jen Peterson yes
- Commission Member Hunzinger yes
- Commission Member Hopkins yes

Motion approved.

b. Hoffman Yard Federal Appropriation Request

Motion was made by Commission Member Rettman.
Motion was seconded by Commission Member Workman.
Roll call vote:

Commission Chair Peterson yes
Commission Member Workman yes
Commission Member Rettman yes
Commission Member Stenglein yes
Commission Member Keller yes
Commission Member Hunzinger yes
Commission Member Hopkins yes
Commission Member Jen Peterson yes

Motion approved.

c. Red Rock Bus Service Federal Appropriation Request

Motion was made by Commission Member Stenglein.

Motion was seconded by Commission Member Rettman.

Roll call vote:

Commission Chair Peterson yes
Commission Member Workman yes
Commission Member Rettman yes
Commission Member Stenglein yes
Commission Member Keller yes
Commission Member Jen Peterson yes
Commission Member Hunzinger yes
Commission Member Hopkins yes

Motion approved.

Agenda Item #8 Chapter 152 Solicitation – WCRRA

Mr. Gitzlaff presented information about the Chapter 152 solicitation program for an overall \$50 million in trunk highway funds to be used for transit improvements by MN/DOT. The majority of those funds have been allocated but about \$20 million is left and MN/DOT has put together a solicitation process to apply for transit improvements along the state highways. There is \$20 million left with a \$6 million cap for individual projects. These funds are for capital only projects like park and ride improvements, or additional lanes for buses. It does not cover the engineering and design costs associated with those improvements. The solicitation deadline is March 31, 2010. There are two potential candidates for this grant:

1. Newport Transit Facility: Washington County will submit a request for those capital dollars.
2. The Hastings Park-and-Ride: The program specifies that the project be directly on a state highway and this location is ¼ mile from the highway. Dakota County will work directly with the City of Hastings to submit the application if the project is eligible.

At our meeting in March there will be resolutions of support back on the agenda for both of these requests to be submitted with the applications.

Agenda Item #9 Other

Commission Chair Peterson invited all Commission Members to attend a Transit Way Impacts on the Twin Cities conference on March 26 from 8:30–1:00 at The Humphrey Ballroom at the Radisson University Hotel. She encourages all to attend and will send the sign-up sheet around. Additionally, please invite your city councils to attend. It is a free conference.

There being no further business Commission Member Hunzinker motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Member Keller and passed unanimously.

The Commission adjourned at 4:50 p.m.