



Meeting Minutes

March 26, 2014

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	X
Jim Keller	Denmark Township	
Cam Gordon	City of Minneapolis	
Amy Brendmoen	City of St. Paul	

Ex-Officio Members	Agency	
Marc Mogan	Prairie Island Indian Community	X
Jess Greenwood	Goodhue County	

Staff	Agency	Present
Jan Lucke	Washington County RRA	
Andy Gitzlaff	Washington County RRA	X
Lyssa Leitner	Washington County RRA	X
Jimmy Shoemaker	Ramsey County RRA	
Joe Morneau	Dakota County RRA	
Josh Olson	Ramsey County RRA	X

Others	Agency	
Katie White	Met Council	
Jay Demma	STANTEC	
Lynne Bly	MnDOT	
Chuck Darnell	Hennepin County	

The meeting was video recorded and can be viewed online at:
http://swctc.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=4815

Chair Lehrke called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m.

Agenda Item #1: Introductions

Introductions were made by those present.

Agenda Item #3: Intercity Passenger Rail Group Representation

Andy Gitzlaff discussed the Minnesota Intercity Passenger Rail Transportation Forum as presented in the packet.

Motion made by Higgins to appoint Peterson to the Minnesota Intercity Passenger Rail Transportation Forum. Seconded by Hollenbeck. **All in favor.** Motion carried.

Agenda Item #4: Consent Items

- a. **Checks and Claims**
- b. **Minutes of the January 23, 2014 Meeting**

Motion made by Peterson to approve the January 23, 2014 meeting minutes and checks and claims. Seconded by Higgins. **All in favor.** Motion carried.

Agenda Item #5: AAU Study

- a. **Review Comments Received**

Lyssa Leitner discussed the Alternatives Analysis Update comments received from the public as presented in the packet.

Lehrke asked if individual responses were provided to the people that took time to comment. Leitner stated they did not unless they had specific questions or if the comment included misinformation.

Lehrke asked Leitner to clarify for the public the comparison of the cost of this BRT Corridor to the Red Line BRT Corridor. Leitner stated the Red Line in Dakota County reconstructed the road curb to curb throughout a large area of the project and this project would not be doing that. This project would look at the construction costs of potentially building direct access ramps at some of the stations and only reconstruct the shoulders for the buses to be able to handle BRT service and not reconstruct the entire road system as was done on Cedar Avenue which is the main cost differentiator.

Commission Member Rettman joined the meeting at 4:16 PM.

- b. **Final Report Adoption Resolution**

Motion made by Slavik to approve Resolution Adopting the Alternatives Analysis Update Final Report. Seconded by Hollenbeck. **All in favor.** Motion carried.

Slavik stated the Dakota County Regional Rail did endorse and support this Alternatives Analysis contingent upon this Commission approving it.

Roll Call: Hollenbeck-Y, Slavik-Y, Lehrke-Y, Peterson-Y, Rettman-Y, Higgins-Y, Gallagher-Y.

Leitner stated the next step for this is to ask each city and member to pass resolutions with their own communities, boards and councils supporting the findings of the study. Staff will prepare a draft resolution template for use.

Agenda Item #2: Election of Officers

Gitzlaff discussed the Election of Officers as presented in the packet.

Motion made by Gallagher to take from the table the Election of Officers. Seconded by Hollenbeck. **All in favor.** Motion carried.

Chair Lehrke opened nominations for Chair. Motion made by Gallagher to nominate Peterson. Motion made by Slavik to nominate Lehrke.

Chair Lehrke asked the Commission if they would like the candidates to state why they would represent the Commission best. Commission members agreed that it was a good idea.

Peterson stated she is interested in being the Chair of the Red Rock Corridor Commission specifically in relationship to Commission Lehrke having to recuse herself from a significant vote that related to this Corridor and so there is good representation that does not have another interest at stake or potential conflict.

Lehrke stated she is interested in being the Chair as she believes it should be a County Commissioner in the position as they are the funding partners for the Corridor. It is also important for what opportunities and relationships the Chair is going to have and as a County Commissioner, she serves on several Joint Power Boards where she connects with other County Commissioners. Lehrke stated she is also the Vice Chair of the GEARS Committee and is an alternate for CTIB; dealing with the transportation stakeholders who are making the decisions. Through the relationships she has built, she is trying to find a way to get Red Rock moved up in the funding line and be worked into the phase one program of projects for CTIB. Lehrke stated she is very passionate about the Corridor and as far as the conflict; there was one vote she had to recuse herself on and that vote is done. Lehrke stated she has no worries in her ability to advocate and is prepared to do it.

Voice vote for Peterson: Hollenbeck-N, Slavik-N, Lehrke-N, Peterson-Y, Rettman-N, Higgins-N and Gallagher-Y. Motion failed on voice vote to elect Peterson as Chair.

Voice vote for Lehrke: Hollenbeck-Y, Slavik-Y, Lehrke-Y, Peterson-N, Rettman-Y, Higgins-Y and Gallagher-Y. Motion passed on voice vote to elect Lehrke as Chair.

Chair Lehrke opened nominations for Vice Chair. Motion made by Slavik to nominate Peterson. Seconded by Gallagher. **All in favor.** Motion carried.

Rettman encouraged Lehrke to continue to get involved with High Speed Rail and get Washington County back in it.

Agenda Item #6: Financial Management Services Agreement

Gitzlaff discussed the Financial Management Services Agreement Renewal as presented in the packet.

Motion made by Rettman to approve the renewal of the financial management services agreement through December 31, 2017. Seconded by Gallagher. **All in favor.** Motion carried.

Gitzlaff stated this will need to be signed by Vice Chair Peterson as Chair Lehrke is also the Chair of the Washington County Board.

Agenda Item #7: Release Website Services RFP

Gitzlaff discussed the 2014 Website and Communication Services RFP as presented in the packet.

Rettman asked if the branding may potentially change the Red Rock Corridor logo. Gitzlaff stated the logo may change to be more neutral, with the transit mode not being included, but the logo still reflecting the corridor.

Rettman asked if Hay Dobbs contract has been completed. Gitzlaff stated yes, they were on for the station planning study and in 2012 they were kept on for another year to provide communication services while App-E provided the website services. Last year Hay Dobbs was not included due to the AAU Study being done and their services were not needed. Rettman stated she wanted to make sure there were no connections left with Hay Dobbs.

Gallagher asked if the County has an IT Department that could subcontract the web hosting for \$30,000. Gitzlaff stated this would be outside of their core function. They manage the County's website and prefer to have it separate due to the needs being separate.

Slavik asked if Hennepin County could be added in 1C of the RFP as they were omitted. Gitzlaff stated yes it was an oversight and Hennepin County will be added.

Motion made by Hollenbeck to approve the release of an RFP by the Washington County Regional Railroad Authority (WCRRRA) on behalf of the Commission for website and communication services for June 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015 for a not to exceed amount of \$30,000. Seconded by Slavik. **All in favor.** Motion carried.

Agenda Item #8: Communications Update

Gitzlaff discussed the communication update as presented in the packet. Gitzlaff stated content has been added to the Facebook page related to Red Rock and to transit. If there are items that would be good for Facebook, please send them to him.

Agenda Item #9: Legislative Update

a) State

Josh Olson discussed the State Legislative Update as presented in the packet. There are two companion bills being shuttled around the Capital right now. Olson stated there is a bill on the Senate side (2107) which is the Transportation Finance Bill. A major component of this is a quarter cent sales tax; an expansion of transit funding. Olson stated Red Rock is identified within the bill as well as the House bill. The bill went out of Transportation and is now in the Finance Committee. On the House side, a similar bill did pass the Transportation Finance Committee and has moved to the Taxes Committee. Olson stated right after the House bill had been passed in Committee, the Speaker of the House stated the timing was not good for a large transportation bill, largely indicating a lack of business support and Republican support.

b) Federal

Olson discussed the Federal Legislative Update as presented in the packet. The cliff, as related to the Highway Trust Fund, is set to run out of cash around the July timeframe. It is a worrisome thing, but is not unexpected as it has happened in the last few years before seeing a transportation bill or extension come through. Olson stated this is probably what will happen this upcoming year; part of the problem is there has not been a whole lot of movement on the transportation side. Olson stated there will most likely be an extension of Map21, which is the current Federal Transportation Bill, because of the election cycle and other things happening in Washington. September 30 is the current expiration date for Map21 as it was a two-year bill.

Rettman stated when the President came to town, there was a lot of buzz about his initiatives in things like this. Rettman asked if any of this will affect any monies that Red Rock will be going after and what is happening with that going forward. Olson stated a critical piece that came out of the President's visit and his announcement of a next round of TIGER funding, is that it is moving forward and it could be an option for this Commission to proceed for funding. TIGER in the past has been about capital grants, which Red Rock is not quite there, but TIGER in at least two or three instances offered planning assistance which this Commission could go after. Rettman asked if it gives this Commission an opportunity to potentially look at it for the next meeting unless it is timelier than that. Olson stated yes they will look at it and gauge interest from County partners to see what projects they may be pursuing for TIGER as it important to know potentially if competition arises. Olson stated in years past, a TIGER Grant was sought by Ramsey County for east metro rail capacity improvements and it may be pursued again.

Rettman stated she did have an opportunity to meet with Senator Sieben in regards to the dollars for the Hoffman Yards, which are critical, and there is a little part in Ramsey

County but it also impacts this Commission and the freight rail 5% is really critical. Even if it is not specific to Red Rock, it could be used for other rail capacity which helps in terms of Amtrak also. Rettman would like the Commission to support anything that would assist in raising the capital even if it does not affect Red Rock. Gitzlaff stated in the past, the Commission has taken supportive positions of the east metro capacity improvements as well as other improvements in the Corridor, including Highway 61 and 19 roadway improvements. Gitzlaff stated they will want to talk with Ramsey County staff to see if they will be submitting first, so if the Commission can put together potentially a resolution if there is time for a meeting or a letter can be done in the interim period.

Higgins stated that people need to pay a lot of attention to the Legislature right now as Majority Leader Bakk announced he would like everyone to go home by Easter which is mid April. Things will be getting fast and furious; if things are not aligned, they will fall by the wayside. Higgins stated there will be significant differences in the targets for transportation between House and the Senate; House has fifty million dollars and the Senate they do not know yet. There is a lot at stake and if it isn't ready to go, it isn't going to go.

Marc Mogan stated the deadline for the TIGER Grants is April 28, so it is a tight schedule.

Gitzlaff stated Hausman's bill in the House side does have a pot of money with fifty million and Red Rock is one of the projects. It is not the best to be one project in a pot, because of how the money gets allocated. Gitzlaff stated this is a good time to send Hausman or your Legislators a note or phone calls to let them know the importance of Red Rock. It is highly unlikely that Red Rock is going to get its own testimony this year. Gitzlaff stated it is going to rely on Commission Members, elected officials or business members to make phone calls, send emails or even visit to make sure the Red Rock million dollars is on the radar and works its way into a final bill. Even when it gets into a final bill and goes to the Met Council, we need to make sure there is a strong group reiterating the fact that Red Rock is one of the projects that needs to move into the next phase.

Agenda Item #10: Other

- a) Next scheduled meeting is Thursday, April 24, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.

Peterson asked if the option of phone or video attendance for these meetings would be possible being there has been issues this year getting enough attendance at the meetings. Gitzlaff stated in the past when this has come up, the counterpoint of transparency has come up, and if votes are called in there wouldn't be that level of transparency. The staff has never been asked in the past to bring forward different options; meetings are only held if there are things of importance and if meetings can be cancelled or had with fewer members, then they go in that direction. Higgins stated she will not be at the next meeting.

Agenda Item #11: Adjourn

Motion made by Higgins to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Hollenbeck. **All in favor.**
Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:57 p.m.