



Red Rock Corridor Commission Agenda 4:30 p.m. Thursday, March 24, 2016

Newport City Hall
596 7th Avenue
Newport, MN 55055

	<u>Action Requested</u>
1. Introductions	Information
2. Approval of Agenda	Approval
3. Consent Items*	Approval
a. Checks and Claims	
b. Minutes from the January 26, 2016 Commission Meeting	
4. Implementation Plan Update*	Discussion
5. Communications Update*	Information
6. Other	Information
a. Meeting Location and Time*	
b. Commissioner Reports	
c. Next Meeting	
April 28, 2016, time and location TBD (see item 6a)	
7. Adjourn	Approval

**Enclosures*



DATE: March 14, 2016
TO: Red Rock Corridor Commission
FROM: Staff
RE: Checks and Claims

Included is the:

<u>Johnson Group</u> January Invoice	\$10,755.56
<u>Kimley Horn</u> December Invoice	\$15,604.49
January Invoice	\$25,695.52
February Invoice	\$43,081.12
TOTAL	\$95,136.69

Details on the overall status of the budget for these contracts are attached.

Action:
Approval

Red Rock Corridor Communications

Consultant Johnson Group
 Contract No. 8922
 Expiration Date
 Business Unit Public Works
 Object Code
 Updated

Task No.	Task Description	Johnson Group	Task Total
1.0	Email Marketing	\$7,200.00	\$7,200.00
2.0	Social Media Posting and Mgmt	\$2,100.00	\$2,100.00
3.0	Collateral Materials	\$6,900.00	\$6,900.00
4.0	Awarness Campaign	\$12,200.00	\$12,200.00
5.0	Community Outreach	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
6.0	Video Production	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
7.0	Website Updates & Maintenance	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
8.0	Website Hosting	\$180.00	\$180.00
NA	Contingency	\$1,920.00	\$1,920.00
	Total Contract Cost	\$44,000.00	\$44,000.00
	Total Project Cost	\$44,000.00	\$44,000.00

Invoice Number / Date	Tasks									Total Contract Cost	Total Project Cost
	Email Marketing	Social Media	Collageral Materials	Awareness Campaign	Community Outreach	Video Production	Website Updates	Website Hosting	Contingency		
1019740 / 5/1/15	\$900.00	\$1,295.00		\$1,805.00		\$2,500.00	\$150.00			\$6,650.00	\$6,650.00
1019797 / 5/29/15		\$1,120.00					\$75.00	\$180.00		\$1,375.00	\$1,375.00
1019865 / 6/29/15	\$600.00	\$150.00		\$1,890.00			\$75.00		\$1,875.00	\$4,590.00	\$4,590.00
1019942 / 7/29/15		\$175.00		\$945.00						\$1,120.00	\$1,120.00
1020003 / 8/27/15		\$175.00		\$945.00			\$75.00			\$1,195.00	\$1,195.00
1020067 / 10/1/15	\$600.00	\$175.00		\$945.00						\$1,720.00	\$1,720.00
1020268 / 10/30/15		\$175.00		\$945.00			\$37.50			\$1,157.50	\$1,157.50
1020309 / 11/30/15		\$150.00		\$945.00						\$1,095.00	\$1,095.00
1020366 / 12/30/15	\$600.00	\$225.00	\$3,412.50	\$945.00					\$825.00	\$6,007.50	\$6,007.50
1020429 / 1/29/16		\$175.00	\$2,614.56	\$945.00	\$7,021.00					\$10,755.56	\$10,755.56
										\$0.00	\$0.00
										\$0.00	\$0.00
										\$0.00	\$0.00
										\$0.00	\$0.00
										\$0.00	\$0.00
										\$0.00	\$0.00
										\$0.00	\$0.00
Amount Billed to Date	\$2,700.00	\$3,815.00	\$6,027.06	\$10,310.00	\$7,021.00	\$2,500.00	\$412.50	\$180.00	\$2,700.00	\$35,665.56	\$35,665.56
Percent Complete	37.5%	181.7%	87.3%	84.5%	117.0%	100.0%	8.3%	100.0%	140.6%	81.1%	81.1%
Amount Remaining	\$4,500.00	(\$1,715.00)	\$872.94	\$1,890.00	(\$1,021.00)	\$0.00	\$4,587.50	\$0.00	(\$780.00)	\$8,334.44	\$8,334.44

Red Rock Corridor Implementaion Plan

Consultant Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.
 Contract No. 9342
 Expiration Date 10/31/2016
 Business Unit
 Object Code
 Updated 3/16/2016

Task No.	Task Description	Task Total
1.0	Project Management and Coordination	\$70,116.87
2.0	Review and Assess Previously Completed Work	\$3,053.60
3.0	Public Engagement and Agency Coordination	\$58,886.28
4.0	Ridership Forecast	\$79,613.60
5.0	Service Plan Development	\$19,004.48
6.0	Capital and Operating Costs	\$35,055.60
7.0	Update Station Planning to Reflect BRT	\$21,446.16
8.0	Implementation and Financial Plan	\$28,518.10
9.0	LPA Process	\$19,599.52
10.0	Draft and Final Report	\$17,102.48
11.0	Miscellaneous Services-Contingency	\$190,000.00
	Total Contract Cost	\$542,396.69
	Direct Expenses	\$7,460.00
	Total Project Cost	\$549,856.69

Invoice Number / Date	Tasks											Total Contract Cost	Direct Expenses	Total Project Cost
	Project Management and Coordination	Review and Assess Previously Completed Work	Public Engagement and Agency Coordination	Ridership Forecast	Service Plan Development	Capital and Operating Costs	Update Station Planning to Reflect BRT	Implementation and Financial Plan	LPA Process	Draft and Final Report	Miscellaneous Services-Contingency			
6550933 2/28/201	\$1,843.31	\$1,183.22	\$8,100.61									\$11,127.14	\$0.00	\$11,127.14
6633503 3/31/20	\$14,182.08		\$2,202.72	\$6,955.56								\$23,340.36	\$80.51	\$23,420.87
6710352 4/30/20	\$7,792.39	\$1,309.94	\$10,571.09	\$23,537.55							\$55.37	\$43,266.34	\$400.25	\$43,666.59
6787282 5/31/201	\$5,982.93	\$560.44	\$3,032.82	\$211.71							\$389.64	\$10,177.54	\$67.86	\$10,245.40
6880852 6/30/201	\$3,899.06		\$4,329.96	\$5,455.49	\$5,050.64	\$499.82			\$44.32			\$19,279.29	\$173.29	\$19,452.58
6964217 7/31/201	\$3,734.28		\$13,590.87	\$1,839.24	\$2,686.78				\$531.66			\$22,382.83	\$4,630.20	\$27,013.03
7048838 8/31/201	\$3,039.89		\$4,122.00	\$19,184.37	\$2,606.21						\$45.24	\$28,997.71	\$694.56	\$29,692.27
7138466 9/30/201	\$2,850.13		\$3,885.98	\$6,685.08	\$5,684.66	\$1,062.65						\$20,168.50		\$20,168.50
7205932 10/31/20	\$3,584.87		\$3,635.61	\$6,569.14	\$2,913.50	\$16,798.16						\$33,501.28		\$33,501.28
7324195 11/30/20	\$4,964.52		\$1,317.12	\$3,405.58		\$7,043.27	\$443.00		\$322.75			\$17,496.24	\$57.05	\$17,553.29
7416893 12/31/20	\$5,509.93		\$3,743.70	\$181.51	\$43.92	\$354.40	\$5,771.03					\$15,604.49	\$123.05	\$15,727.54
7523604 1/31/201	\$7,928.25		\$5,305.26			\$1,317.19	\$11,144.82					\$25,695.52	\$472.10	\$26,167.62
7607649 2/29/201	\$7,425.01		\$44.55	\$3,889.60		\$1,624.34	\$24,115.40	\$4,846.73			\$917.15	\$42,862.78	\$218.34	\$43,081.12
Amount Billed to Date	\$72,736.65	\$3,053.60	\$63,882.29	\$77,914.83	\$18,985.71	\$28,699.83	\$41,474.25	\$4,846.73	\$898.73	\$0.00	\$1,407.40	\$313,900.02	\$6,917.21	\$320,817.23
Percent Complete	103.7%	100.0%	108.5%	97.9%	99.9%	81.9%	193.4%	17.0%	4.6%	0.0%	0.7%	57.9%		
Amount Remaining	(\$2,619.78)	\$0.00	(\$4,996.01)	\$1,698.77	\$18.77	\$6,355.77	(\$20,028.09)	\$23,671.37	\$18,700.79	\$17,102.48	\$188,592.60	\$228,496.67	\$542.79	\$229,039.46



Meeting Minutes

January 28, 2016

Newport City Hall

4:30 p.m.

Commission Members	Agency	Present
Marion Greene	Hennepin County RRA	X
Janice Rettman	Ramsey County RRA	X
Jim McDonough	Ramsey County RRA	
Karla Bigham, Chair	Washington County RRA	X
Mike Slavik	Dakota County RRA	X
Jen Peterson, Vice Chair	City of Cottage Grove	X
Myron Bailey	City of Cottage Grove	
John Kummer	Denmark Township	
Mark Vaughn	City of Hastings	X
Cam Gordon	City of Minneapolis	
Tracy Rahm	City of Newport	
Jane Prince	City of St. Paul	
Keith Franke	City of St. Paul Park	X

Ex-Officio Members	Agency	
Ron Allen	Goodhue County	
Jess Greenwood	Goodhue County	
Judy Mitchell	Canadian Pacific Railway	
Marc Mogan	Prairie Island Indian Community	

Staff	Agency	Present
Jan Lucke	Washington County RRA	
Lyssa Leitner	Washington County RRA	X
Hally Turner	Washington County RRA	X
Laura Kearns	Washington County	X
Kevin Roggenbuck	Ramsey County RRA	X
Matt Parent	Dakota County RRA	X
Joe Scala	Hennepin County	X

Others	Agency
Brian Smalkoski	Kimley Horn
Betsy	District 1
William Loeffler	Unknown

Agenda Item #1: Introduction

Chair Bigham called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. Introductions were made by commission members, staff and others present.

Agenda Item #2: Election of Officers

Chair Bigham opened nominations for Chair. Motion made by Commissioner Slavik to nominate Commissioner Bigham. Seconded by Councilmember Vaughn. No other nominations. All in favor. Motion Carried.

Chair Bigham opened nominations for vice chair. Motion made by Commissioner Rettman to nominate Councilmember Peterson. Seconded by Mayor Franke. No other nominations. All in favor. Motion Carried.

Agenda Item #3: Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Commissioner Slavik to approve the agenda. Seconded by Councilmember Peterson. All in favor. Motion Carried.

Commissioner Greene arrived at 4:38PM

Agenda Item #4: Consent Items

Motion was made by Councilmember Peterson to approve the check and claims and the meeting minutes from the December 2, 2015 Commission Meeting. Seconded by Mayor Franke. All in favor. Motion Carried.

Agenda Item #5 Liability Coverage Insurance

Ms. Turner gave a brief review of the insurance renewal request. Ms. Turner stated in previous years the commission chose **not** to waive the monetary limits on tort liability limits. Commissioner Rettman made a motion to approve the 2016 Insurance Renewal **without** waiving the statutory tort liability limits. Seconded by commissioner Slavik. All were in favor. The motion carried.

Agenda Item #6: Implementation Plan Update

Ms. Turner gave an update on the phased transit improvements discussed as part of the Implementation Plan since the beginning of 2015. The Implementation Plan will determine short- and long-term strategies for implementing BRT and will tie the strategies to funding needs. The study will take approximately fifteen (15) months to complete and is expected to be completed by spring of 2016. During outreach with surrounding communities since the conclusion of the Alternatives Analysis Update,

there was a desire to add a route that would better serve the communities. Ms. Turner said two (2) options were presented Route 1 (alternative 1) which was modeled after the AAU, but with the addition of St. Paul Park and Route 2 (Alternative 2) to provide direct connections to corridor or communities by stopping at some specific areas along Highway 61. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Business and Civic Advisory Committee (BCAC) recommended alternative # 2.

Commissioner Slavik said there is still a lot of confusion on what Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) actually is. The lack of express bus in the corridor adds more confusion for people. Commissioner Slavik said on the northern part of the corridor, we need to think about what people's time is as they connect into Gateway Corridor and the financial aspect of it. On the southern end of the corridor he has received strong support for additional stations in Cottage Grove and Hastings. People have commented the need for three (3) stops in Hastings is not necessary. Commissioner Slavik said he has received a lot of negative responses about stop # 2 in Hastings.

Commissioner Bigham said that it is important to let people know that the express bus is not going away.

Mayor Franke made a motion to approve Alternative #2 for final analysis in the Implementation Plan. Seconded by Councilmember Peterson. All in favor. Motion Carried.

Agenda Item #7: 2016 Engagement

Ms. Turner said staff will continue to educate the corridor communities on what Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) is as well as on the development of the Implementation Plan. There will be a public hearing at the conclusion of the study with action from the corridor counties and cities to follow. Ms. Turner said with guidance from the Red Rock Corridor Commission, staff is available to work with businesses along the corridor for input on the study. Ms. Turner said the City of Cottage Grove is convening interest businesses within the city to discuss the project. Ms. Turner asked the commission members if they would like to invite staff into their cities to discuss the study to please let them know. Ms. Turner said the A Line in St. Paul will be opening up some time this spring. This is an arterial bus rapid transit route traveling along Ford Parkway and Snelling Avenue. The Red Rock Corridor Commission could tour the A Line to experience the different ways BRT can be implemented.

Councilmember Peterson suggested having staff look into the Cottage Grove Chamber Business of Commerce show case on April 16, 2016 from 10AM – 2PM. This would be a good opportunity for businesses and area residents to receive more information on the corridor.

Agenda Item #8 Website and Social Media Update

There have been 3890 website views in the last 30 days. The Facebook page is now up to 319 like, 12 of those were from one week. A press release will be sent out on January 29, 2016 about Alternative option #2.

Agenda Item #9 Other

Item a: Commissioner Bigham said Washington County Regional Railroad Authority (RRA) met and appointed Commission Bigham and Commissioner Weik with Washington County as chair and vice chair to the RRA. Gateway Corridor has been in the news, stating that the City of Lake Elmo has chosen to support the corridor to travel through their city.

Commissioner Greene said the Bottineau Corridor had their first public hearing joint with the Metropolitan Council. The hearing went very well.

Motion made by Commissioner Slavik to adjourn. Seconded by Councilmember Peterson. All in favor. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:19 p.m.



DATE: March 14, 2016
TO: Red Rock Corridor Commission
FROM: Staff
RE: Implementation Plan Update

Background

An Implementation Plan for phased transit improvements in the corridor, including eventual bus rapid transit (BRT) service, has been underway since the beginning of 2015.

The Implementation Plan goals are to:

- identify more specific construction and capital costs;
- revise station area plans guided by market analysis for bus rapid transit;
- determine a funding plan; and
- establish a staged approach for implementation of the plan.

The Implementation Plan will determine short- and long-term strategies for implementing BRT and to tie those strategies to funding needs. It is expected that the plan will be completed by spring 2016.

Meetings and Events

Meeting/Event	Date
Saint Paul Station Area Planning Meeting #2	February 17, 2016
St. Paul Park Station Area Planning Meeting #2	February 17, 2016
Newport Station Area Planning Meeting #2	February 17, 2016
Cottage Grove Station Area Planning Meeting #2	March 2, 2016
Hastings Station Area Planning Meeting #2	March 8, 2016
Red Rock Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting	March 21, 2016

Selection of Route Alternative for Further Analysis

At the January meeting, the Red Rock Corridor Commission selected Alternative 2 to advance for further analysis. This route provides direct access to residents via stations located in the center of communities rather than along Highway 61. Two bus rapid transit route alternatives were reviewed comparing travel time data, projected ridership, capital costs, and operating considerations. Feedback from the community was also provided at an open house and via the website redrockcorridor.com. This information was reviewed at the January Commission meeting prior to the approval.

Alternative 2 Analysis

Kimley Horn staff will present information on station area planning, evaluation, and financial planning at the March Red Rock Corridor Commission meeting. The TAC will review the same data on March 21 prior to the Commission meeting. The Commission will be asked for feedback about the specific BRT phases. Once the feedback is collected the project team will begin putting the financial plan together.

Next Steps

Specific locations on the route in Cottage Grove and Hastings are being finalized by working directly with those cities as part of the station area planning process. Kimley Horn staff will present additional information for Alternative 2 at the April Red Rock Corridor Commission meeting including details on the recommendations for phased implementation. The Implementation Plan is anticipated to be completed in Spring 2016 and will include project schedule, ridership forecasts, service plans, capital and operating expenses, and station area plans.

Action

Discussion



DATE: March 14, 2016
TO: Red Rock Corridor Commission
FROM: Staff
RE: Communications Update

Video

A short video was created to provide a high-level overview of the BRT route. The video was posted on the YouTube page (<https://youtu.be/7fJLwQBpCCQ>). This is a simple way to show stakeholders about the route and point them to where they can find more information.

Website

There have been 1259 website views in the last 30 days.

Facebook

The Facebook page is up to 318 likes. There have been no instances where comments needed to be removed from the Facebook page in accordance with the Commission's Facebook use policy.

Press

News articles published since the last Red Rock Corridor Commission meeting are attached.

1. January 26, 2016 South Washington County Bulletin
2. January 29, 2016 Prairie Business
3. February 1, 2016 South Washington County Bulletin

Action:

Information

SOUTH WASHINGTON COUNTY
Bulletin

Cottage Grove favors 'HyVee,' business park stops for Red Rock

By [swente](#) on Jan 26, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.

The Cottage Grove City Council wants bus rapid transit stops on both sides of Highway 61.

Council members told Red Rock Corridor Commission staff they prefer an 80th Street transit stop east of the highway, near the commercial area at East Point Douglas Road.

The council wants the second bus rapid transit stop in Cottage Grove near 95th Street and Jamaica Avenue, west of the highway.

Council members stated their preferences during a Jan. 20 workshop on the Red Rock project. The input came ahead of the commission's vote Jan. 28 on a route between Union Depot in St. Paul and Hastings.

A decision on the location of the two Cottage Grove stops is not needed before the Jan. 28 vote, but commission staff wanted some input from the council last week.

Council members favored a stop east of the highway at 80th Street to serve the Gateway North retail district and the planned HyVee grocery store on the site of the former Rainbow Foods. A senior housing project also is planned near 80th Street east of the highway.

For the second stop, council members considered both sides of the highway at Jamaica Avenue, but leaned toward the west side because they said a stop at 95th Street could serve workers in the nearby business park as well as future

commercial growth in that area.

Council member Steve Dennis, who initially favored a Jamaica Avenue stop east of the highway, said the west side makes sense for long-term planning.

“It’s playing to the future, instead of now,” he said.

The business park is a big reason for a station on the west side of the highway. Red Rock commission chair Karla Bigham, also a Washington County commissioner, said companies in the business park have told her improved transit is important as they recruit workers.

The route between the Cottage Grove stops also is being discussed. The council ruled out using Hadley Avenue west side of the highway.

Mayor Myron Bailey said Hadley Avenue residents already have complaints about traffic volume and speed along that residential street.

“We can’t do that; it’s not an option,” council member Dave Thiede said.

There also are concerns with West Point Douglas Road because buses would cross the railroad tracks at Belden Boulevard, likely creating problems with the route schedule.

Using East Point Douglas Road and crossing over the highway at Jamaica Avenue is another option but that would require backtracking near the 95th Avenue stop, which Red Rock staff said planners try to avoid when developing bus routes.

Red Rock project manager Lyssa Leitner said commission staff will meet with Cottage Grove staff to further discuss route options.

Route alternatives

The commission's Jan. 28 vote is on whether to plan a six-stop route costing an estimated \$28.7 million or a 12-stop route with a \$43.7 million price tag. The 12-route alternative has been recommended for its potential to serve more people and population areas along the corridor. It would include three stops along the Gateway Corridor near Interstate 94 in east St. Paul before traveling along Highway 61. Buses would stop at Upper Afton Road, Newport, St. Paul Park, Cottage Grove and Hastings. Three stops are proposed in Hastings, with the route ending at the Dakota County Government Center.

The project would expand Metropolitan Transit bus availability and rider options in south Washington County. Metro Transit express buses already run between Hastings, Cottage Grove, Newport and St. Paul during morning and evening commuting hours, but a bus rapid transit system would operate 19 hours a day on weekdays, 17 hours on weekends. Stop times would range from every 15 minutes to every half-hour, depending on time and day.

While service would span the full corridor, bus rapid transit is designed to serve riders who want to get on and off along the route. Riding the complete 12-stop route would take 65 minutes, but commission leaders and staff say the average Red Rock trip time would be 20 minutes. They have used examples of a Newport resident riding to Cottage Grove to shop, or a Cottage Grove resident who works in St. Paul riding bus rapid transit home after staying downtown for dinner or evening entertainment.

ADVERTISEMENT

Published January 29, 2016, 09:59 AM

Red Rock Corridor Commission votes for 12-stop rapid bus system

ST. PAUL -- The Red Rock Corridor Commission has doubled down on its vision for a bus rapid transit system in South Washington County.

By: William Loeffler, Forum News Service

ST. PAUL -- The Red Rock Corridor Commission has doubled down on its vision for a bus rapid transit system in South Washington County.

The commission voted Thursday to pursue a 12-stop bus option instead of a six-stop alternative. The vote by the seven member quorum was unanimous.

The route will run along a 30-mile corridor from Union Depot in St. Paul through east St. Paul, Newport, St. Paul Park and Cottage Grove to Hastings. The \$43.7 million cost would

cover station construction, buses, right-of-way acquisition and other expenses. It would piggyback on the Gateway Corridor in east St. Paul before splitting off to head through south Washington County.

But residents in those communities will have a say in the ultimate number and location of stations.

"When you're going to build sidewalks, let the people walk and then build the sidewalk where they're walking," said commission member and Ramsey County Commissioner Janice Rettman.

Bus rapid transit would offer service from 5 a.m. to midnight weekdays and from 7 a.m. to midnight weekends. Supporters see benefits to both business commuters and area residents looking to get around for shopping and other purposes. It could be 10 years before the route is operational.

The other alternative would have featured six stops at a cost of \$28.6 million. It would have traveled mainly along Highway 61, making it less accessible to some cities and communities along the way.

Karla Bigham, Red Rock Corridor Commission chairwoman and a Washington County commissioner, said the scale of the 12-stop option would have the most positive impact on the southeast suburbs, whose population is expected to increase by 100,000 in 20 years.

"The amount of people we would be able to serve is greater and the amount of land for economic development is greater," Bigham said.

Hally Turner, planner for Washington County, said that the commission has to do a better job of telling residents that the bus rapid transit was not going to eliminate the current express bus service that runs from park-and-ride lots in Cottage Grove and Lower Afton Road to the Twin Cities.

"The service is in addition to the express service," she said.

Preliminary plans call for the bus rapid transit system to take riders from Union Depot in St. Paul to stations at Mounds Boulevard, Earl Street and Etna Street in St. Paul before heading southeast along Highway 61 to stops at Upper Afton Road, Newport and St. Paul Park. In Cottage Grove it would stop near 80th Street and near the Jamaica Avenue-Highway 61 interchange. In Hastings, buses could stop at the depot and Lions Park before ending at the Dakota County Government Center.

Mike Slavik, commission member and a Dakota County commissioner, said that there was "very strong support for additional stations in Cottage Grove and Hastings." However, he said some Hastings residents told him that two of the stations were too close together. He wasn't sold on an even dozen, either, he said.

"I still don't think 12 is the answer, but I still think more than six is the answer," Slavik said.

The vote means that the commission's technical advisory committee can proceed with the final phase of its implementation plan, which will address projected ridership, cost per stop, and how to pay for the project. They will work with consultants at Kimley-Horn and Associates.

"We're going to be looking at how we'll phase and finance construction of the stations and procurement of buses," said Brian Smalkoski, transportation engineer and planner at Kimley-Horn.

First, however, Washington County staffers and Kimley-Horn representatives will meet with officials in cities along the route to get feedback on the best location for their particular stops.

Additional commission members at the meeting included St. Paul Park Mayor Keith Franke, Cottage Grove City Council member Jen Peterson, Hastings City Council member Mark Vaughn and Marion Greene of Hennepin County.

Tags: [bus rapid transit system](#), [red rock corridor commission](#), [south washington county](#), [washington county](#), [transportation](#), [minnesota](#)

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Red Rock commission selects 12-stop BRT route

By [William Loeffler](#) Today at 1:42 p.m.

The Red Rock Corridor Commission has doubled down on its vision for a bus rapid transit system in South Washington County.

The commission voted Thursday to pursue a 12-stop bus option instead of a six-stop alternative. The vote by the seven member quorum was unanimous.

The route will run along a 30-mile corridor from Union Depot in St. Paul through east St. Paul, Newport, St. Paul Park and Cottage Grove to Hastings. The \$43.7 million cost would cover station construction, buses, right-of-way acquisition and other expenses. It would piggyback on the Gateway Corridor in east St. Paul before splitting off to head through south Washington County.

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“I still don’t think 12 is the answer, but I still think more than six is the answer,” Slavik said.

The vote means that the commission’s technical advisory committee can proceed with the final phase of its implementation plan, which will address projected ridership, cost per stop, and how to pay for the project. They will work with consultants at Kimley-Horn and Associates.

“We’re going to be looking at how we’ll phase and finance construction of the stations and procurement of buses,” said Brian Smalkoski, transportation engineer and planner at Kimley-Horn.

First, however, Washington County staffers and Kimley-Horn representatives will meet with officials in cities along the route to get feedback on the best location for their particular stops.

Additional commission members at the meeting included St. Paul Park Mayor Keith Franke, Cottage Grove City Council member Jen Peterson, Hastings City Council member Mark Vaughn and Marion Greene of Hennepin County.

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DATE: March 14, 2016
TO: Red Rock Corridor Commission
FROM: Staff
RE: Meeting Location and Time

Background

Red Rock Corridor Commission meetings begin at 4:30 pm at Newport City Hall. In the past, meetings began at 4:00 pm and were at Cottage Grove City Hall. The change was made to make it easier for members to attend.

At that time of the location and time shift, Newport City Hall had no scheduling conflicts. Recently, the Newport Park Board changed their meeting times to begin at 6:00 pm on the fourth Thursday of the month. Therefore, Red Rock Corridor Commission meetings will have to be done by 5:50. Recent Commission meetings have lasted between 45 and 90 minutes.

Commission members will be asked to discuss meeting location and time for future Commission meetings.

Action:
Discussion