



Approved Meeting Minutes

August 30, 2012
Cottage Grove City Hall
4:00 p.m.

Commission Members	Agency	Present
Joe Harris, Chair	Dakota County RRA	X
Autumn Lehrke	Washington County RRA	X
Janice Rettman	Ramsey County RRA	X
Jan Callison	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	
Kathy Higgins	Denmark Township	
Cam Gordon	City of Minneapolis	
Amy Brendmoen	City of St. Paul	

Alternate Commission Member	Agency	Present

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

Staff	Agency	Present
Andy Gitzlaff	Washington County RRA	X
Mike Rogers	Ramsey County RRA	X
Lyssa Leitner	Washington County RRA	X
Adele Hall	Hennepin County RRA	X

Others	Agency	
Carl Jensen	MNDot	
Tom Dobbs	Hay Dobbs	

The meeting was video recorded and can be viewed online at:
http://swctc.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=3838

Chairman Harris called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

Agenda Item #1: Consent Items

- a. **Minutes of the June 28, 2012 Meeting**
- b. **Checks and Claims**

Commission Member Callison had multiple corrections to the June 28 meeting minutes. Corrections were recorded and are reflected in the approved minutes document.

The Checks and Claim items as presented in the packet, no additions or changes were made.

Motion made by Callison to approve the consent items. Second by Rettman. **All in favor.** Motion carried.

Agenda Item #2: Insurance Approval - WCRRA

Gitzlaff provided information about the Red Rock Corridor Commission's insurance policy with the League of Minnesota Cities. He noted that the policy is up for renewal in September 2012 which covers open meeting, municipal liability, auto and crime. The premium last year was \$927.00 and was paid by the Commission.

Gitzlaff stated that the League of Minnesota Cities would like confirmation from the Red Rock Corridor Commission if they would like to waive the statutory tort liability limits. The Commission chose not to waive such limits in the past. Waiving the limits would limit a claimant to recover no more than \$300,000. If the limits were waived a claimant could recover up to \$1 million.

Rettman asked for Gitzlaff to confirm the recovery limit for a claimant if the Commission chose not to waive. Gitzlaff stated that the recovery limit would be \$300,000.

Motion made by Rettman to continue the insurance coverage with the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust for 2012/2013 and that the statutory tort liability limits not be waived. Seconded by Lehrke. **All in favor.** Motion carried.

Agenda Item #3: Red Rock Corridor Alternatives Analysis Update Consultant Selection Process - WCRRA

Leitner provided information about the background of the Alternatives Analysis Update (AAU) RFP, including the approval of the release of the RFP at the June Red Rock Corridor meeting, that there is \$250,000 allocated to the study and it will take approximately nine months to complete.

She also stated that the RFP will be released the week of September 3rd and will be posted on the Washington County website and in the Lillie Suburban. She also explained the

consultation selection process. The selection committee will have representatives from county, city and agency staff.

Leitner also said that after while the RFP is posted, there will be a pre-proposal meeting on September 18th and the proposals will be due on October 11th (note: since the meeting, this date has been changed to October 12th). Oral interviews will be preformed, if needed, the week of November 11th and the Commission will be approving the consultant for the study at the November 29th meeting.

Rettman asked if there has been approval from the FTA. Leitner responded that they have seen the RFP and staff spoke to them in person about it earlier this summer. Commission member Rettman also asked if the Metropolitan Council has signed the necessary documents in order to release the RFP. Leitner said that she spoke with staff at the Council earlier in the day and they will have everything finalized by September 4th.

Agenda Item #4: East Metro Rail Capacity Study Results - RCRRA

Rogers gave the Commission a presentation with the study results of the East Metro Rail Capacity Study.

Lehrke asked what effect the costs outlined in the results of this study would have on Red Rock Corridor. Rogers said that it was still too early to give a concrete answer. Some of the cost allocation will come down to what service is built first, Red Rock or High Speed Rail. If things are incrementally implemented than some of the improvement costs will be taken care of over time. Lehrke asked if the costs of this study would be in addition to the \$350 million already estimated for Red Rock Corridor. Rogers responded that the track improvement numbers from the East Metro Study are the most accurate but there would also be costs to build stations and purchase train vehicles. Gitzlaff noted that the AAU will take into account all the cost estimates from the East Metro Study in order to estimate an accurate capital cost number for Red Rock Corridor alternatives.

Rettman noted that there was an article in the Pioneer Press today that quoted a Minneapolis Chamber member that discusses that if the Minneapolis-St. Paul region doesn't invest in transportation now, we will be leap frogged by other regions in the nation. She also stated that it was interesting that this study showed that there are more bottlenecks in the East Metro and that it highlighted what the value added will be for the freights and provides the ability to leverage funds for the passenger rail. Rogers responded that the freights were surprised by the amount of issues in the system but they told them that it is a much larger issue than the East Metro but a statewide issue of how to be competitive.

Callison asked when the freights expect to reach the 36 percent growth that was assumed in the study. Rogers responded that there is not a set timeframe for that amount of growth; it was a realistic assumption that the freights agreed would happen in the near future. It will probably be in the 10-15 year range, the passenger trains will be the trigger for some of the larger investments. Callison also asked if we would expect the railroads to commit much money. Rogers answered that on some projects they would not contribute much but CP did commit money to a grant application project even when 90 percent of the benefit would go toward the public.

Lehrke asked if the projection of the growth rate was on top of the pre-recession numbers or recession numbers. Rogers answered that the freights did not want to use recession numbers since that was an artificial low. It was decided to use the pre-recession numbers because the freights were confident that they would get back to those numbers.

Agenda Item #5 Legislative Update – RCRRA

Rogers summarized new activity to date from what was provided with the meeting packet.

a. State

Rogers said that there is not a lot to report on the State side besides the special session that convened to discuss flood relief in northern Minnesota.

b. Federal

Rogers provided information about the new transportation bill, MAP-21. It is a two year bill that was signed into law but money has not actually been appropriated for the \$120 billion bill. Overall MAP-21 keeps funding levels fairly similar (with small increases for inflation) to the past bill, there is not a lot of increase in funds for any program. One of the additional pieces to the New Starts program is that core capacity projects can now be funded in order to keep older systems in proper working order. Bus Rapid Transit was also more clearly defined in the bill.

Commissioner Lehrke asked that Gitzlaff speak about the Metropolitan Council's highway BRT study so the Commission can be informed. Gitzlaff said that the Council is studying highway BRT on multiple corridors throughout the metro. Washington and Ramsey County staff is meeting with Metropolitan Council staff in order to find out more details. Rettman asked if they could be informed of the list of corridors once it is established.

Agenda Item #7 Other

a. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 27, 2012

Motion by Lehrke to adjourn. Seconded by Peterson. **All in favor.** Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:01p.m.