



Draft Meeting Minutes

December 12, 2013
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	X
Cam Gordon	City of Minneapolis	
Amy Brendmoen	City of St. Paul	

Ex-Officio Members	Agency	
Bob Kastner	City of Red Wing	
Marc Mogan	Prairie Island Indian Community	X
Jess Greenwood	Goodhue County	

Staff	Agency	Present
Andy Gitzlaff	Washington County RRA	
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
Deborah Carter McCoy	RCRRA
John M Burbank	City of Cottage Grove
Chuck Darnell	Hennepin County
Stuart Krahn	STANTEC
Patricia Johnson-Keller	Citizen

The meeting was video recorded and can be viewed online at:
http://swctc.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=4681

Chair Lehrke called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

Agenda Item #1: Introductions

Introductions were made by those present.

Agenda Item #2: Consent Items

- a. **Checks and Claims**
- b. **Minutes of the October 31, 2013 Meeting**

Motion made by Higgins to approve the October 31, 2013 meeting minutes and checks and claims. Seconded by Slavik. **All in favor.** Motion carried.

Agenda Item #3: AAU Study

- a. **Public Outreach Update**

Lyssa Leitner gave an update on the Alternatives Analysis Update Public Outreach as presented in the packet.

- b. **Review Implementation Plan and Next Steps**

Leitner gave an update on the Alternatives Analysis Update Implementation Plan and Next Steps in a PowerPoint presentation.

Rettman requested adding the words freight into the first ongoing strategy because many of their lines are being used and it would be consistent with several of the things that Red Rock has supported or have been involved with in the past. Chair Lehrke clarified the first ongoing strategy to read “advocate for integrated multi-modal investments including pedestrian and bicycle facilities, freight, rail, highway and transit improvements that support mobility throughout the Red Rock Corridor.” Rettman stated it would also be good to include passenger into the first ongoing strategy. Chair Lehrke agreed that it would be good to add both of those modes to the first ongoing strategy. Leitner stated those changes will be made.

Commission member Gallagher joined the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

Leitner stated that historically the long term thought process has always been Commuter Rail. This study has shown that with Bus Rapid Transit there is an emerging mid-day market that is a less expensive option that could serve more people with a broader range market. There are Express Buses which are a completely different market than BRT. Leitner stated these buses could benefit from some of the capital improvements including pedestrian ways or on and off ramps. The peak period market will always be a very high demand and is a different market from the all-day station-to-station in both direction BRT service. The express service is what would potentially be transitioned to something else in the future. Leitner stated the third ongoing strategy is being put in to look long term that BRT is what the Commission would be looking to implement in the near future and then continuing to monitor the Express Bus, so when it hits capacity that is inefficient to support buses, the option of adding Commuter Rail could be looked at. Commuter Rail and BRT could act parallel to one another and would

be complimentary services just like Express Bus and BRT would be. Leitner stated Commuter Rail would be long term beyond 2030 unless there were changes in development patterns or other items.

Rettman asked if there is a paragraph in the Draft AAU Report that states this is the thought process and that Commuter Rail is not being ruled out because in 2007, Commuter Rail was the mode of choice. Leitner stated it would be appropriate to add more narrative about this. Slavik stated he is concerned that it would be going into too much detail, but addressing it in the foreground would be more acceptable. Chair Lehrke stated she agreed with adding it to the foreground, but is concerned that another mode might be the next progression and not just Commuter Rail.

c. Release Draft AAU Report for Public Comment

Leitner gave an update on the Draft Alternatives Analysis Update Report for public comment in a PowerPoint presentation and handed out a document that summarizes the AAU.

Leitner let the Commission members know that copies of the summary document are available for them if they would like to hand them out or just have available at their office. Leitner stated they have not been printed yet, so changes can still be made. Chair Lehrke requested the website be changed to read redrockcorridor.org. Rettman requested the time of the public comment to be changed to starting at 4 pm. instead of 4-4:30 pm. Higgins requested the word “and” replace all ampersands.

Rettman suggested on page iii in the Draft AAU Report to change “transportation problems” to needs, issues or opportunities because it is a problem, but also an opportunity. Rettman also suggested on page vii, to change the third bullet point to include jobs. Leitner stated the wording was taken from the objectives, but the word jobs can be added. Gallagher suggested the third bullet point state “create and expand employment opportunities.” Rettman suggested adding the word “freight” on page 2.39 under the Union Station Assessment.

Motion made by Slavik to approve the Draft AAU Final Report for release for public comment. Seconded by Keller. **All in Favor.** Motion carried.

Agenda Item #4: 2014 Work plan and Budget

Leitner discussed the 2014 work plan and budget as presented in the packet.

Rettman asked if there is any other fund balance other than the \$30,000 that will remain in contingency. Leitner stated she is unaware of any other fund balance. Josh Olson stated he believed there were some additional funds beyond the \$30,000 but it has been drawn down on in the last couple of years and that staff would check into it.

Motion was made by Rettman to approve the 2014 work plan and budget. Seconded by Gallagher. **All in favor.** Motion carried.

Roll Call Vote: Commissioners Lehrke, Slavik, Rettman, Higgins, Hollenbeck, Keller, Peterson, and Gallagher in favor. Motion carried. Franke, Brendmoen and Gordon absent.

Agenda Item #5: Support Red Rock Bonding Request

Leitner discussed the Resolution Supporting State Bond Fund Request for Red Rock Corridor as presented in the packet.

Motion was made by Peterson to approve the Resolution Supporting Washington County State Bond Fund Request for Red Rock Corridor. Seconded by Hollenbeck. All in favor. Motion carried.

Roll Call Vote: Commissioners Lehrke, Slavik, Rettman, Higgins, Hollenbeck, Keller, Peterson, and Gallagher in favor. Motion carried. Franke, Brendmoen and Gordon absent.

Agenda Item #6: 2014 Meeting Schedule

Leitner discussed the 2014 meeting schedule as presented in the packet. Slavik suggested combining the November and December meetings to one meeting and having meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month. Higgins asked if the meetings could be held every other month. Leitner stated this year the meetings were cancelled almost every other month and it is up to the Commission to decide which way they would like it. Rettman stated it is better to have it on the calendar and take it off then try to add a meeting to the calendar and also likes the fourth Thursday of every month.

Leitner clarified the January meeting will change to the 23rd, the May meeting will change to the 22nd, the July meeting will change to the 24th and the October meeting will change to the 23rd. Chair Lehrke requested an updated meeting schedule be sent to the Commission members. Leitner stated the public hearing date will change from the 30th of January to the 23rd and notices will be sent out with the changed date.

Motion was made by Hollenbeck to approve the 2014 meeting schedule as amended. Seconded by Peterson. **All in favor.** Motion carried.

Agenda Item #7: Communications Update

Leitner discussed the Facebook and website communication update as presented in the packet.

Agenda Item #8: Legislative Update

a) State

Olson discussed the State Legislative Update as presented in the packet. The MnDOT Commissioner Charlie Zelle and Met Council Chair Sue Haigh are having town halls and the last one is on December 17 at Burnsville High School.

b) Federal

Olson discussed the Federal Legislative Update as presented in the packet. There was a bipartisan deal reached on the budget on the House side. It is a positive deal for transit as it only represents a 2% cut in transit specific to New Starts, TIGER and Amtrak. Olson stated this is not a done deal as there still needs to be an agreement between the House and the Senate.

Rettman stated Intercity Passenger Rail was talking about the legislation in terms of funding the request for bonding as well as some of the transportation funding that is needed. All of the counties have received a copy of the draft resolution and would like to have it here for everyone to look at it. Commissioner Zelle has not approved it yet. Chair Lehrke requested a copy of the draft resolution be sent out to the Commissioners. Leitner will send copies out to the Commissioners.

A motion was made by Peterson to ask for support for the bonding request from the cities. Seconded by Rettman. **All in favor.** Motion carried.

Agenda Item #9: Other

a) Newport Transit Station Ground Breaking Recap

Chair Lehrke recapped the Newport Transit Station Ground Breaking. Lehrke stated the turnout was incredible with the tent being so packed, people were outside the tent. Senator Amy Klobuchar, Congresswoman Betty McCollum, state officials, city officials, and several others were in attendance. Chair Lehrke stated it was a historic day for the City of Newport. Gallagher stated the County did an excellent job putting the event together and the City of Newport was proud to showcase what the future could look like.

b) Next scheduled meeting is Thursday, January 23, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.

Agenda Item #10: Adjourn

Motion made by Slavik to adjourn. Seconded by Higgins. **All in favor.** Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 4:51 p.m.