



Meeting Minutes

March 28, 2019, 4:30 p.m.

Newport City Hall
 596 7th Avenue
 Newport, MN 55055

Commission Members	Agency	Present
Wayne Johnson	Washington County RRA	X
La Rae Mills	City of Cottage Grove	X
Jim McDonough	Ramsey County RRA	X
Trista MatasCastillo	Ramsey County RRA	
Myron Bailey	City of Cottage Grove	
Jane Prince	City of St. Paul	X
Sandi Dingle	City of St. Paul Park	X
Mark Vaughn	City of Hastings	X
Tom Ingemann	City of Newport	X

Staff	Agency	Present
Emily Jorgensen	Washington County RRA	X
Jan Lucke	Washington County RRA	
Joe Ayers-Johnson	Washington County RRA	X
Sara Allen	Washington County RRA	X
Frank Alarcon	Ramsey County RRA	X
Joe Morneau	Dakota County RRA	X

Agenda Item #1: Introduction

Commissioner Wayne Johnson called the meeting to order, and introductions were made.

Quorum was met.

Agenda Item #2: Election of Officers

Councilmember La Rae Mills nominated Commissioner Johnson to be Chair of the Red Rock Corridor Commission. Councilmember Tom Ingemann seconded. There were no other nominations. All were in favor. **Approved.** Motion Carried.

Councilmember Mark Vaughn nominated Mayor Sandi Dingle to be Vice-Chair of the Red Rock Corridor Commission. Councilmember Mills seconded. There were no other nominations. All were in favor. **Approved.** Motion Carried.

Agenda Item #3: Approval of Agenda

Councilmember Mills made a motion to approve the agenda. Councilmember Ingemann seconded. All were in favor. **Approved.** Motion Carried.

Agenda Item #4: Red Rock Corridor Overview

Emily Jorgensen, Washington County Planner and Red Rock Corridor Project Manager gave a brief overview of the Red Rock Corridor, including some background and a status update with where the work is at currently. She explained that the 2016 Implementation Plan process determined that the route should have all day, bi-directional Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service, and it also recommended a phased implementation strategy. The initial phase of implementation would be to fund a pilot of all-day transit service between St. Paul and Cottage Grove to build ridership in the corridor. This pilot is called Route 363, would cost about \$5.6 million over the span of 2-years, and staff continues to seek funding for this pilot through both legislative asks or grant processes.

Chair Johnson opened the floor for comment and questions.

Vice-Chair Dingle stated that all day bus service, as well as an eventual connection to Hastings, would be key to building ridership in the corridor. She would support looking into a shuttle from Hastings to Cottage Grove to make that connection until the time that a full connection could be made.

Chair Johnson agreed, and added that growth in the East Metro is leading to worsening congestion, which demands timely investments in transit solutions.

Agenda Item #5: Recognition of Outgoing Members

Ms. Jorgensen introduced the resolutions to recognize and thank outgoing Red Rock Corridor Commission members Ramsey County Commissioner Rettman and Newport Councilmember Rahm for their service to the Commission.

Mayor Dingle made a motion to approve the resolution recognizing Commissioner Rettman for her years of service to the commission. Councilmember Ingemann seconded. All were in favor. **Approved.** Motion Carried.

Councilmember Ingemann made a motion to approve the resolution recognizing Councilmember Rahm for his years of service to the commission. Councilmember Mills seconded. All were in favor. **Approved.** Motion Carried.

Chair Johnson added that it is important and admirable anytime people volunteer and take time out of their day for causes such as this to make their community a better place.

Agenda Item #6: Consent Items

Mayor Dingle made a motion to approve the items on consent. Councilmember Mills seconded. All were in favor. **Approved.** Motion Carried.

Agenda Item #7: Liability Coverage Insurance

Ms. Jorgensen introduced the insurance that the Commission has through the league of Minnesota Cities, which must be approved every year. The premium is \$925, which is consistent with the last few years that the Commission has held insurance. It is recommended not to waive statutory tort liability limits, which is also consistent with the practice over the previous years.

Chair Johnson opened the floor to comments and questions. There were none.

Mayor Dingle made a motion to continue the insurance through the League of Minnesota Cities through 2019, and that the statutory tort liability limits not be waived. Councilmember Ingemann seconded. All were in favor. **Approved.** Motion Carried.

Agenda Item #8: Joint Powers Agreement Bylaws

Ms. Jorgensen summarized previous action by the Commission to update their Joint Powers Agreement (JPA), which removed Hennepin and Dakota Counties as well as some cities and ex-officio members from the Commission. This was done following the Implementation Plan as the corridor and route became clearer to better reflect the communities in which the route will actually be. The JPA was approved, and the next step is to amend the bylaws to reflect updated document. Now that Washington and Ramsey County are the only funding partners, their voting power is 3 votes. Corridor cities have 1 vote. That is consistent with the previous Corridor bylaws, but there are now fewer funding partners. The bylaws also update what makes a quorum as well as how often the Commission will meet, and they have been reviewed and approved by both Washington and Ramsey County attorneys.

Chair Johnson opened the floor to comments and questions. There were none.

Mayor Dingle made a motion to approve the bylaws for adoption. Councilmember Ingemann seconded. All were in favor. **Approved.** Motion Carried.

Agenda Item #9: Draft 2019 Work Plan and Budget

Ms. Jorgensen introduced the 2019 work plan and budget, which is consistent with previous years. The Commission will continue to pursue funding for Route 363. It is currently included as a legislative ask for this session, and some commission members and staff recently met with Senator Bigam, who has been a strong advocate for the Red Rock Corridor. The Commission will continue to monitor other studies going on in the East Metro as well as the broader Metro area. The Commission continues to support the Gold Line project, which is further along as any success in the East Metro will shine positively upon the Red Rock Corridor. The Commission

will continue to communicate its efforts through activities that generate enthusiasm for transit such as the State Fair Shuttle.

The proposed budget for the 2019 year is \$20,000, which includes funds to support the rollout of Route 363 if it receives funding from the State. This budget is currently covered by the existing fund balance.

Chair Johnson opened the floor to comments and questions.

Chair Johnson agreed that the Commission could have no better advocate than Senator Bigham at the capitol, who has participated in the Red Rock Corridor in various different roles.

Mayor Dingle made a motion to approve the 2019 work plan and budget. Councilmember Mills seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Approved.** Motion Carried.

Agenda Item #10: 2019 Proposed Meeting Schedule

Joe Ayers-Johnson, Washington County Planner, summarized the upcoming meeting schedule for 2019. There are two additional proposed meetings for 2019 – May 23rd and October 24th. It is proposed that the Commission maintains the meeting time as 4:00 p.m. and the meeting location as Newport City Hall. These meetings do not conflict with upcoming Rush Line or Gold Line meetings.

Chair Johnson opened the floor to comments and questions.

Ms. Jorgensen noted that if Route 363 does receive funding then there may need to be more meetings.

Chair Johnson remarked that that would be a problem we would welcome.

Agenda Item #11: Presentation on transit loop services by DARTS

Ann Bailey and Janet Hix presented to the Commission about their service DARTS LOOP - a reliable, circulator transportation service aimed at aging populations in the Metro Area. DARTS LOOP currently serves 6 communities in the Metro area, including Hastings, and is working to bring the service to Cottage Grove. The presentation can be found in the 3/28 meeting packet.

Councilmember Jane Prince arrived during the presentation.

Chair Johnson opened the floor to comments and questions.

Councilmember Mark Vaughn asked what time the service started and ended in Hastings. Ms. Bailey and Hix responded that the Hastings LOOP ran from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Councilmember Vaughn wondered if there was a way to use future Cottage Grove LOOP service to connect with other service like ride-share or transit. Ms. Bailey and Hix responded that the organization is flexible, but that its mission focuses specifically on aging adults, and would likely not be the cheapest option for folks that don't fit that demographic. Councilmember Vaughn asked if DARTS LOOP had considered offering service to those outside of seniors so as to become a connector route for more community members. They responded that they hadn't, and that their mission is very focused on aging adults.

Mayor Dingle commented that St. Paul Park and Newport having some senior housing in their communities that could maybe be included in the loop with the DARTS LOOP service coming to Cottage Grove. Ms. Bailey and Hix responded that they would have to map those facilities to see if it made financial sense for them to do so. They stressed the importance of utilizing community committees during the formation of these routes to better understand the needs and facilities in the areas they are looking to serve.

Councilmember Mills added that many of those in the Cottage Grove senior housing come from the St. Paul Park and Newport communities, so may like having the connection to those communities. Councilmember Mills is excited to see how the rollout of DARTS LOOP in Cottage Grove could help lay groundwork for introducing the importance of transit to these communities.

Ms. Bailey and Hix responded to a question from the audience that the total cost to DARTS to run a loop is about \$25,000 for 5 hours of operation, and fares range from \$2.00-\$5.00 depending on community.

Ms. Bailey and Hix encouraged any who want to find out more about their organization to check out www.dartsconnects.org.

Agenda Item #12: Communications Update

Mr. Ayers-Johnson summarized Facebook and press communications since the previous meeting. The Red Rock Corridor has 368 likes on Facebook, and there have been no instances where comments had to be removed for abusive or inappropriate language or behavior. Two press articles mentioned the Red Rock Corridor, one in the context of BRT in the Twin Cities and the other in the context of discussing how the Newport Transit Center is used as a State Fair Park and Ride.

Agenda Item #13: Other

Commissioner Reports: Commissioner McDonough discussed the Governor's new transportation bill, which features a gas tax increase as well as increases in funding for transit. He urged support for the bill with legislators.

Agenda Item #14: Adjourn

Councilmember Mills made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Ingemann seconded. All were in favor. **Approved.** Motion Carried.