



## Red Rock Corridor Commission Agenda

4:30 p.m. Thursday, October 28, 2021

*Virtual Meeting*

	<u>Action Requested</u>
1. Introductions	Information
2. Approval of Agenda	Approval
3. Approval of April Minutes*	Approval
4. 2022 Work Plan and Budget*	Approval
5. 2022 Proposed Meeting Schedule*	Approval
6. Presentation – COVID-19 Impacts on Travel Trends <b>Jonathan Ehrlich</b> , Metropolitan Council <i>Manager of Travel Modeling and Research</i>	Information
7. Communications Update*	Information
8. Other	Information
a. Commissioner Reports	
b. Next Meeting ( <i>pending approval</i> )	
<i>January 27, 2022</i>	
9. Adjourn	Approval

\*Enclosures



## Meeting Minutes

April 29th, 2021, 4:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

Commission Members	Agency	Present
Wayne Johnson	Washington County RRA	X
Jim McDonough	Ramsey County RRA	X
Dave Thiede	City of Cottage Grove	X
Jane Prince	City of St. Paul	
Sandi Dingle	City of St. Paul Park	X
Mark Vaughan	City of Hastings	X
Marvin Taylor	City of Newport	X

Staff	Agency	Present
Joe Ayers-Johnson	Washington County RRA	X
Kurt Howard	Washington County RRA	X

Other Attendees	Agency	Present
Lonnie Garland	SWCTC	X
Caroline Ketcham	Ramsey County	X
Andy Gitzlaff	Ramsey County	X

### **Agenda Item #1: Introduction**

Chair Wayne Johnson called the meeting to order, and communicated that due to the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic the meeting is being held virtually.

Roll call was held. Quorum was met.

### **Agenda Item #2: Election of Officers**

Mayor Sandi Dingle nominated Wayne Johnson for chair of the Red Rock Corridor Commission for the year of 2021. All were in favor. **Approved**. Motion Carried.

Chair Johnson nominated Mayor Dingle for vice chair of the Red Rock Corridor Commission for the year of 2021. All were in favor. **Approved**. Motion Carried.

### **Agenda Item #3: Approval of Agenda**

Vice Chair Dingle made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner McDonough seconded. All were in favor. **Approved**. Motion Carried.

### **Agenda Item #4: Approval of Consent Items**

Councilmember Vaughn made a motion to approve the consent items, including minutes from the October meeting. Vice Chair Dingle seconded. All were in favor. **Approved**. Motion Carried.

### **Agenda Item #5: Recognition of Outgoing Members**

Chair Johnson introduced a resolution to recognize outgoing members of the Red Rock Corridor Commission.

Commissioner McDonough made a motion to adopt the resolution recognizing Councilmember Ingemann. Councilmember Taylor seconded. All were in favor. **Approved**. Motion Carried.

Chair Johnson spoke to the importance of recognizing the time Commission Members take to participate in the Red Rock Corridor Commission.

### **Agenda Item #6: Red Rock Corridor Overview**

Joe Ayers-Johnson, Washington County Planner and Red Rock Corridor Project Manager, provided an overview of the Red Rock Corridor for new commission members or members of the public. Mr. Ayers-Johnson described the geography of the corridor, and named the partnering communities that participate in the Red Rock Corridor Commission. He introduced BRT as a transit mode, and described its differences and similarities to other modes. Mr. Ayers-Johnson introduced the Red Rock Corridor Implementation Plan (2017), and described the near-term and long-term recommendations that emerged in that plan, including the ongoing efforts to bring increased transit service to the corridor to demonstrate and grow ridership. Mr. Ayers-Johnson described the 2021 Work Plan adopted by the Red Rock Corridor Commission and the general activities that staff engages in to advance the corridor. The full presentation can be viewed on the Red Rock Corridor Commission playlist on the SWCTC's YouTube channel, and more information on the Red Rock Corridor can be seen in the April RRCC meeting packet or on the Red Rock Corridor project webpage. Following the presentation, Mr. Ayers-Johnson opened the floor to any questions.

Councilmember Thiede expressed some frustration with how projects like the Red Rock Corridor can sometimes drag on and on, and wondered if staff could host a workshop to

generate some analysis or strategy to advance the project more aggressively. If waiting on Metro Transit isn't working, Councilmember Thiede wondered about what kind of alternative solutions could be out there.

Mr. Ayers-Johnson responded that he was open to hosting a workshop to brainstorm or develop new strategies to advance the corridor more aggressively, but shared some of the limitations that exist in terms of ridership that make movement on this corridor a barrier. He indicated that something like a workshop would need the approval of the rest of the commission and opened the question to the RRCC to hear their thoughts.

Vice Chair Dingle responded that she felt it was premature to have a workshop until we have a better idea of what transit looks like coming out of COVID-19. If pre-COVID travel patterns return, and vaccinations roll out, she is hopeful that we would see demand for transit bounce back, but that maybe this is something we revisit at a future date when we know more about a post-COVID travel patterns.

Chair Johnson responded that recent news indicated that transit would likely not bounce back to pre-COVID ridership levels until around 2024/2025. Recommended staying the course until we get a better idea of who is traveling where and when, population trends in the region, and revisiting the question at that point. He thinks we keep the commission alive and on the radar, but wait until clearer picture emerges to make next moves. He expressed concern that if we *did* get federal dollars now to roll out demonstration service, this could be the worst time to do that demonstration.

Councilmember Thiede replied that he is frustrated that Red Rock Corridor isn't even on the map in terms of BRT, referencing his role on East Metro Strong and meetings he has had there, and expressed frustration that we continue to spend money on planning but nothing physical happens in terms of bringing transit here.

No further comments on this item.

#### **Agenda Item #7: Rush Line BRT Update**

Andy Gitzlaff, Ramsey County Planner and Rush Line Project Manager, introduced his colleague Caroline Ketcham, who gave an update on the Rush Line BRT, touching on the project route and background, regional connections, the Environmental Assessment process, station concept plans, and next steps. The full presentation can be viewed on the Red Rock Corridor Commission playlist on the SWCTC's YouTube channel, and more information on the Rush Line BRT can be seen in the April RRCC meeting packet or on the Rush Line BRT project webpage. Following the presentation, Mr. Gitzlaff and Ms. Ketcham stood for questions from the Commission.

Councilmember Vaughn suggested that the Environmental Assessment should come before the transit corridor is determined, in order to better justify any improvements that are ultimately made within the corridor.

Ms. Ketcham responded that something similar was done prior to determining what type of - if any – transit improvements were to be pursued, which included a corridor-wide inventory and assessment of how to best address needs in the corridor, and she thought that something like

that would be of interest to Councilmember Vaughn and would maybe address some of his thoughts. She elaborated that the Environmental Process is a technical phase for transit projects of this magnitude, but that it is not the first time those questions have been asked.

Chair Johnson asked Ms. Ketcham and Mr. Gitzlaff about any concerns they have with regard to budget as a result of potential delays to the process.

Mr. Gitzlaff responded that, with regard to construction costs and materials, they do factor in 'year of' costs and inflate those out so that they capture what they know about costs now but also include a lot of contingency to account for changes over time.

Chair Johnson thanked Ramsey County staff for their time and the presentation.

No further questions or comments on this item.

#### **Agenda Item #8: Communications Update**

Mr. Ayers-Johnson presented a communications update, and explained that communications predominantly take place on the Red Rock Corridor's Facebook page, which currently has 378 likes and 406 followers – a slight increase over the October meeting. Staff tries to post 1-2 times per week about transit related news and other relevant topics. No press has been released about the Red Rock Corridor since the last commission meeting. Mr. Ayers-Johnson stood for questions.

No questions or comments on this item.

#### **Agenda Item #11: Other**

##### **A. Commissioner Reports**

Chair Johnson asked if any Commissioners have any Red Rock Corridor-related news to share.

Vice Chair Dingle commented jokingly on the décor in Commissioner McDonough's office – décor that she also has in her office. A laugh was shared.

No further questions or comments on this item.

##### **B. Next Meeting**

Chair Johnson announced that the next scheduled meeting is July 29, 2021, but that if and where it would happen would depend on need and COVID-19 protocols.

#### **Agenda Item #12: Adjourn**

Chair Johnson made a motion to adjourn. All were in favor. **Approved.** Motion Carried.



**DATE:** October 28, 2021  
**TO:** Red Rock Corridor Commission  
**FROM:** Staff  
**RE:** 2022 Work Plan and Budget

### **Overview**

The proposed 2022 work plan and budget is attached for review. The work plan focuses on commission administration, community engagement, and coordination with partner agencies. The key items are also listed below:

- Inform state and federal legislators of the need for improved transit service in the Red Rock Corridor.
- Offer guidance, monitor progress, and prepare formal comments on studies that are being conducted or that could have an impact on the activities in the Red Rock Corridor.
- Continue communication efforts through the use of social media and updating the website to coincide with the next steps in the corridor implementation.

The proposed 2021 budget is \$17,000. The budget will be covered 100% by existing fund balance.

Staff will provide an overview of the draft work plan and budget at the meeting and will seek approval from the commission.

### **Action**

Approval



# 2022 Work Plan

## Management, Policy, and Administrative Activities

Commission activities will include:

1. Prepare and adopt the annual Work Plan and Budget
2. Prepare the annual financial report
3. Review insurance as needed and procure appropriate insurance
4. Provide commission and staff administration
5. Manage commission expenses
6. Manage the consultant selected for each of the various work tasks undertaken by the commission

## General Activities

The Red Rock Corridor Commission (RRCC) will work with corridor municipalities, chambers of commerce and other business groups, community members, the Metropolitan Council, Metro Transit, the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), and other stakeholders as needed to continue the advancement of the Red Rock Corridor. To accomplish this, the RRCC will do the following:

1. Inform state and federal legislators of the need for improved transit service in the Red Rock Corridor.
2. Offer guidance, monitor progress, and prepare formal comments on studies that are being conducted or that could have an impact on the activities in the Red Rock Corridor.
3. Work with state and local agencies to identify regional priorities for all transportation modes in the corridor.

## Public Involvement

The commission's public involvement activities will build on past communication efforts and strategy as outlined in the Implementation Plan. The commission's activities will include:

1. Distribution of newsletters and project updates at public events including fairs and community festivals.
2. Recognition of commission meetings and events through various media sources (i.e. social media, print, radio, and public access television).
3. Coordination of updates to the project website to coincide with any studies or initiatives being undertaken in corridor area.
4. Project webpage hosting, content management, and social media utilization.



# 2022 Budget

## 2022 Expenditures

Operating Expenditure Category	Amount
Corridor Administration/General Activities <sup>(1)</sup>	
- Corridor Insurance	\$2,000
- Materials/Postage/Printing/Memberships	\$1,000
- Events/Tours/Advertising	\$1,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>
Public Involvement	
- Website Hosting	\$2,000
- Communication Services (incl. possible contract services)	\$6,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$8,000</b>
Contingency	\$5,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$17,000</b>

Notes:

1. *The county regional railroad authorities typically cover administrative functions including mailings. However, such items are eligible for reimbursement as approved by the commission.*

## 2022 Revenue

Revenue Source	% Due	Amount Due	Fund Balance	Total Revenue
Red Rock Corridor Commission Fund Balance	100%	\$0	\$17,000	\$17,000
<b>REVENUE TOTAL</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$17,000<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>\$17,000</b>

Notes:

1. *\$17,000 of the commission's 2021 end of year fund balance (\$87,300 as of this month) will be used to cover RRCC financial members' 2022 budget contributions.*



**DATE:** October 28, 2021  
**TO:** Red Rock Corridor Commission  
**FROM:** Staff  
**RE:** 2022 Proposed Meeting Schedule

The proposed dates for the 2022 Red Rock Corridor Commission meetings are listed below. With the future impact of COVID-19 being unclear, meetings will be planned to be held virtually at 4:30 pm. However, St. Paul Park City Hall has also been reserved for those dates in the event that in-person meetings are resumed.

**Dates**

January 27, 2022

April 28, 2022

July 28, 2022

October 27, 2022

**Action:**

Approval



**DATE:** October 28, 2021

**TO:** Red Rock Corridor Commission

**FROM:** Staff

**RE:** Communications Update

**Facebook**

The Red Rock Corridor Facebook page has 379 likes and a total of 399 people follow the page. These numbers are a slight increase over the numbers from the April meeting. Staff aims to keep the page active by posting transit-related news from across the region 1-2 times per week per the commission's direction. 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**

None

**Action:**

Information