



Meeting Minutes

May 9, 2023, 4:30 p.m.

St. Paul Park City Hall

Commission Members	Agency	Present
Karla Bigham	Washington County RRA	X
Rafael Ortega	Ramsey County RRA	X
Tony Khambata	City of Cottage Grove	
Jane Prince	City of St. Paul	X
Sandi Dingle	City of St. Paul Park	
Dave Pemble	City of Hastings	X
Marvin Taylor	City of Newport	X

Staff	Agency	Present
Andrea Rehm	Washington County RRA	X
Sara Allen	Washington County RRA	X

Other Attendees	Agency	Present
Kevin Roggenbuck	Ramsey County	X
Will Schroeer	East Metro Strong	X

Agenda Item #1: Introduction

Chair Bigham called the meeting to order. Quorum was met.

Agenda Item #2: Pledge of Allegiance

The Commission stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Item #3: Approval of Agenda

Pemble moved approval of the agenda. Prince seconded. All were in favor. **Approved.** Motion carried.

Agenda Item #4: Approval of February 2023 Minutes

Ortega made a motion to approve the minutes. Taylor seconded. All were in favor. **Approved.** Motion carried.

Agenda Item #5: Presentation: Next Steps for a New Red Rock Corridor Vision

Will Schroeer (East Metro Strong) presented the slides included in the meeting packet. He emphasized this is an engagement-heavy scope of work but is not aiming to recreate past engagement, rather build upon and update it. He noted that the team needs to work strategically within the budget which is why focus groups were selected as a means of soliciting community input. He asked for suggestions from the Commissioners on who the project team should engage with.

Bigham noted that Renewal by Anderson has been vocal about the lack of transit options. She added that Marathon (refinery), chambers of commerce, senior homes, and the school district should be included. She stated her goal is that the Newport Station be connected to Gold Line.

Pemble suggested 3M, Anderson Windows, Xcel Energy, Regina Campus (Allina Health United) and other medical facilities. He also suggested that Red Rock present at chamber of commerce and city council meetings to highlight the need for this transit service.

Taylor stated that Newport is anticipating many new units of housing and that developers should be included in the conversation.

Bigham noted that Newport residents pay into the transit tax district but have not been benefitting because Metro Transit service has been suspended there for a few years.

Ortega added that the new residents brought in by development would be an important voice and not captured by previous engagement.

Prince suggested Vomela Companies and the port authority should be engaged.

Bigham stated that transit efforts in the east metro have been focused on north south connection, but that east west connection needs to be on the horizon. She noted that cities should be asked for written comment on Red Rock travel needs and patterns.

Pemble added that Bailey nursery land is anticipated to be developed the next couple of years, adding more pressure for transit.

Agenda Item #6: Communications Update

Rehm reviewed the information included in the meeting packet.

Agenda Item #7: Other

Prince reported that the most recent Great River Rail meeting went well, and that the project is being received well in the state legislature.

Kevin Roggenbuck (Ramsey County) added that funding is included on both the house and senate side – which is promising sign for the project’s ultimate success.

Ortega reported that Gold Line is under construction.

Bigham request a more robust Gold Line update from staff at the next meeting.

Prince complimented the public engagement for Gold Line. She noted that despite the disruptions, the City Council has not heard many citizen complaints, meaning affected parties were well informed.

No other updates.

Agenda Item #11: Adjourn

Chair Bigham adjourned the meeting.