



## **Red Rock Corridor Commission Agenda**

**4:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 16th, 2025**

**St Paul Park City Hall**

	<u>Action Requested</u>
1. Introductions / Roll Call	Information
2. Pledge of Allegiance	Information
3. Comments from the Public	Information
4. Approval of Agenda	Approval
5. Approval of April Minutes*	Approval
6. MnDOT Updates on Highway 61 Study and TH 61 Reconstruction Project (Carver Avenue to I-94) <i>Presenters: Matthew Parent and Alex Raymond</i>	Information
7. 2026 Red Rock Corridor Commission Work Plan and Budget*	Approval
8. 2026 Red Rock Corridor Commission Meeting Schedule*	Approval
9. Communications Update*	Information
10. Letter of Support – Hastings Depot Lot Redevelopment*	Approval
11. Other	Information
a. Commissioner Reports	
b. Next Meeting – July 30, 2026	
12. Adjourn	Approval

*\*Enclosures*



## Meeting Minutes

April 24, 2025, 4:30 p.m.

St. Paul Park City Hall

Commission Members	Agency	Present
Karla Bigham	Washington County RRA	X
Mai Chong Xiong	Ramsey County RRA	X
Monique Garza	City of Cottage Grove	X
Cheniqua Johnson	City of St. Paul	X
Char Whitbred-Hemmingson	City of St. Paul Park	
Marvin Taylor	City of Newport	X

Staff	Agency	Present
Andrea Rehm	Washington County RRA	X
Lyssa Leitner	Washington County RRA	X
Ethan Osten	Ramsey County RRA	X

Other Attendees	Agency	Present

**Agenda Item #1: Introductions / Roll Call**

Chair Bigham called the meeting to order. Quorum was not yet met – the Commission proceeded with non-voting items in the order outlined below.

**Agenda Item #2: Pledge of Allegiance**

The Commission stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Agenda Item #3: Comments from the Public**

No comments.

**Agenda Item #4 Presentation: Red Rock Corridor Overview**

Rehm reviewed the presentation included in the packet.

**Agenda Item #5: Update on Washington County Transit Needs Study**

Leitner presented the information included in the packet, noting that Washington County staff will return to the Red Rock Corridor Commission to share the study findings.

Bigham noted that this study is a high priority of the Washington County Board of Commissioners; she emphasized the importance of transit access to industrial parks and job centers, improving connections to existing transit centers, and connecting people to the area's downtowns and services.

Garza noted her excitement about future expansions into Cottage Grove, and emphasized the importance of more options within the City.

Leitner noted that the County has been promoting Metro Transit's pilot of Metro Micro in Woodbury, in pursuit of demonstrating a successful model of transit for suburban areas to ultimately advocate for its expansion in other parts of Washington County.

Garza added that DARTS operates in Cottage Grove one day a week to serve seniors, and that a more flexible option would be a great addition.

Leiter added that Washington County has dedicated some funding to supporting existing circulator routes; the process for that and coordination with the Cities will likely begin in May.

Johnson asked that the findings of the study be brought back before the Red Rock Corridor Commission, and that other members of the Commission use these meetings to share their best practices and lesson learned from their own communities.

Taylor added that Bailey Farms development, at 300 acres and spanning 3 communities, will bring new density in housing, jobs, and retail. Transit service needs to be a part of planning and should be a discussion item at upcoming meetings amongst the affected agencies.

**Agenda Item #6: Update on Network Now**

Leitner presented the information included in the packet, highlighting the changes Metro Transit made to Network Now in line with the Red Rock Corridor Commission's comments submitted in Fall.

Bigham noted the importance of Route 354 in supporting and building off of Gold Line. She noted that Washington County is coordinating with Metro Transit on Route 301, as the County and City have a number of construction projects programmed in the area over the next several years.

Bigham thanked Met Council Commissioner Sue Vento for her instrumental role advocating for the East Metro, noting that she will be leaving the Met Council.

Johnson stated her appreciation for the changes that came from the Commission's comments, and emphasized the importance of continuing to provide the Commission's input directly to Met Council. She also noted that the City of St Paul passed a resolution in support of the Gold Line expansion to Minneapolis.

**Agenda Item 1: Roll Call (Continued)**

Quorum was met.

**Agenda Item #7: Election of Chair**

Xiong nominated Commissioner Bigham for Chair. Garza seconded. No other nominations were made. All were in favor. **Approved.** Motion carried.

**Agenda Item #8: Election of Vice Chair**

Johnson nominated Councilmember Taylor for Vice Chair. Xiong seconded. No other nominations were made. All were in favor. **Approved.** Motion carried.

**Agenda Item #9: Approval of Agenda**

Garza made a motion to approve the agenda. Xiong seconded. All were in favor. **Approved.** Motion carried.

**Agenda Item #10: Approval of September 2024 Minutes**

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

**Agenda Item #11: Communications Update**

Rehm reviewed the information provided in the packet, including proposed communications and engagement goals and strategies.

Johnson asked if other social media platforms have been used for Red Rock Corridor communications.

Rehm responded that Facebook is the only platform used historically and currently.

Johnson suggested the Commission explore other platforms as staff capacity allows to reach younger age groups. She noted the example of video content and reels used in Gold Line social media engagement.

Johnson asked if there is a strategy for engaging federal, state, and local partners beyond those on this commission.

Bigham and Leitner noted that historically, federal engagement has only been pursued as it related to federal grant programs, many of which no longer exist. Leitner added that we can work with our federal lobbyists on what kind of other engagement can be done in telling a broader story.

Johnson added sharing the story with local folks is equally important, as there is always transition amongst elected officials and many might not be familiar with Red Rock if it doesn't directly include the ward they represent. She suggested materials be created or meetings scheduled to share information about the mission and work of the Commission.

Xiong asked about MnDOT's study of Highway 61 near Lower Afton Road, and if they had connected with staff.

Leitner confirmed that Washington County staff were contacted early in the study; staff shared an overview of engagement history and what BRT might look like in the area in the long term. She added that staff will arrange for a member of the project team to provide an update at a future Red Rock meeting.

#### **Agenda Item #12: Other**

Bigham celebrated that Gold Line is now open as of March.

#### **Agenda Item #13: Adjourn**

Chair Bigham adjourned the meeting.



**DATE:** December 16, 2025

**TO:** Red Rock Corridor Commission

**FROM:** Staff

**RE:** MnDOT Updates on Highway 61 Study and TH 61 Reconstruction Project

**Overview**

Matthew Parent (MnDOT) and Alex Raymond (MnDOT) will present on MnDOT's Highway 61 Study and TH 61 Reconstruction Project (Carver Avenue to I-94).

**Action**

Information



**DATE:** December 16, 2025

**TO:** Red Rock Corridor Commission

**FROM:** Staff

**RE:** 2026 Red Rock Corridor Commission Work Plan and Budget

### **Overview**

In recent years, the vision for transit service in the Red Rock Corridor has shifted. This was documented in the 2024 Vision update, which replaced a singular focus on bus rapid transit along HWY 61 with more comprehensive, interconnected services and a greater emphasis on employer involvement. Since the new vision's adoption, the Commission has seen a number of successes such as new east-west bus service, route 345, and the reopening of the Newport Transit Station (scheduled to begin December 6, 2025). The Commission has also seen some changes that affect how it operates, such as cancellation of meetings due to lack of action items and Hastings' exit from the Commission.

With consideration to the above, staff prepared the attached proposed 2026 work plan and budget for the Commission's review. The work plan focuses on commission administration, community engagement, and coordination with partner agencies. Staff will provide an overview at the meeting and key items are also listed below:

- Continue to build off the new vision, which responds to current transit needs with further consideration to local connections and innovative partnerships with cities, employers, and other stakeholders.
- Work with Metro Transit to communicate new transit services in corridor communities.
- 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 a webpage that will be hosted on the Washington County website.

The proposed 2026 budget is \$10,000. The budget will be covered 100% by existing fund balance.

### **Action**

Approval



# 2026 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 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.

## Advance the Red Rock Corridor Vision

The Commission finalized a re-visioning process and adopted the final report in January 2024. 2026 activities will focus on coordination efforts to investigate and implement the new vision's next steps, including communicating new transit services in corridor communities.

## Public Involvement

The commission's public involvement activities will build on past communication efforts and strategies. The commission's activities will include:

1. Recognition of commission meetings and events through various media sources (i.e., county social media, print, radio, and public access television).
2. Website content will be moved to Washington County's site and will be updated with relevant information.
3. Webpage content management and County social media utilization.





# 2026 Budget

## 2026 Expenditures

Operating Expenditure Category	Amount
Corridor Administration/General Activities <sup>(1)</sup>	
- Corridor Insurance	\$1,500
- Materials/Postage/Printing/Memberships	\$500
- Events/Tours/Advertising	\$1,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>
Public Involvement	
- Communication Services (incl. possible contract services)	\$5,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
Contingency	\$2,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$10,000</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.

## 2026 Revenue

Revenue Source	% Due	Amount Due	Fund Balance	Total Revenue
Red Rock Corridor Commission Fund Balance	100%	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000
<b>REVENUE TOTAL</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$10,000<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>\$10,000</b>

### Notes:

1. \$10,000 of the commission's 2025 end of year fund balance (\$38,814 as of December 2025) will be used to cover RRCC financial members' 2026 budget contributions.



**DATE:** December 16, 2025

**TO:** Red Rock Corridor Commission

**FROM:** Staff

**RE:** 2026 Red Rock Corridor Commission Proposed Meeting Schedule

**Meeting Schedule**

The draft meeting schedule includes one (1) regularly scheduled meeting. One annual meeting allows the Commission to complete required action items and for the joint powers agreement to remain unchanged. Special meetings may be called as necessary and staff will utilize email communications throughout the year to share information and advocacy opportunities to members and other interested parties.

The proposed date for the 2026 meeting of the Red Rock Corridor Commission is below. The meeting is planned to be held in person at St. Paul Park City Hall from 4:30pm-6:00pm.

**2026 Meeting Date**

July 30, 2026

**Action:**

Approval



**DATE:** December 16, 2025

**TO:** Red Rock Corridor Commission

**FROM:** Staff

**RE:** Communications Update

**Website Transition**

The Red Rock Corridor website will be transitioned to a webpage hosted on the Washington County website. The existing website (redrockcorridor.com) design is now 10 years old and it is becoming difficult for staff to update content. This transition avoids the cost of a website redesign and follows the example of other transit corridors in the region. Washington County will retain the redrockcorridor.com URL and set up a redirect to the new webpage. The official transition will occur in the first quarter of 2026.

**Social Media Transition**

Social media content will also transition to Washington County profiles. Staff will partner with Washington County's communications team to share Red Rock Corridor content. This transition will help to increase audience size, and it offers access to additional features such as targeted posts.

**Press**

None

**Action**

Information



**DATE:** December 16, 2025

**TO:** Red Rock Corridor Commission

**FROM:** Staff

**RE:** Letter of Support – Hastings Depot Lot Redevelopment

### **Overview**

The Depot Lot in Hastings was developed by the City of Hastings in 2010 using state funds for a future transit purpose. At this time, the envisioned transit service has not been realized, and the valuable downtown space is being underutilized. The City desires to redevelop the site as multi-family housing. The City and the Metropolitan Council are seeking a letter of support for the redevelopment of the site and the removal of the transit purpose.

A draft letter is attached for the Commission's consideration. It states that while the long-term vision for the corridor still includes transit service to Hastings, the Commission's immediate priority is to support increased density to strengthen future ridership, and therefore the Commission has no objections to the proposed redevelopment.

### **Action**

Approval



December 16, 2025

Mr. Alex Menke  
Economic Development Coordinator  
City of Hastings  
101 4<sup>th</sup> Street East  
Hastings, MN 55033

Dear Mr. Menke,

On January 31, 2024, the Red Rock Corridor Commission adopted a refreshed vision. The new vision reflects an evolving understanding of the Red Rock Corridor, shifting away from a singular focus on north-south transit service and pursuing a more layered, comprehensive approach.

While the long-term vision for the Corridor still includes transit service to Hastings, the Commission's immediate priority is to support increased density and strengthen future ridership. The proposed redevelopment of the Hastings Depot Lot to multi-family housing aligns with this direction. The Red Rock Corridor Commission has no objections to developing the Depot Lot and removing the transit purpose that was previously funded with project funds from the state.

Sincerely,

**Karla Bigham**  
Chair, Red Rock Corridor Commission