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The 35W Solutions Alliance Meeting

Thursday, February 11, 2021

Richfield City Hall, Bartholomew Room, 6700 Portland Ave S

Minutes

Members and Guests Present

A quorum was present. Members present were: Shawn Nelson, Dan Kealey, Ryan Peterson, Melanie Meso Lee, Liz Workman, Mary Liz Holberg, Mark Krebsbach, Bryce Schuenke, Debbie Goettel, Joseph Scala, Chris La Tondra, Cristina Diaz, Zach Johnson, Wendy Wulff, Phil Sterner, Charles Carlson, Jeremy Schroeder, April Crockett, Andrew Lutaya, Amber Blanchard, Kyle Olson, Grace Vriezen, Sean Hayford O'Leary, Joe Powers, Matt Johnson, Seng Thongvanh, Lisa Freese, Tom Wolf, Rob Vanasek, Ruby Wlaschin, James Colclasure

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 a.m. by Chair Liz Workman

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion made and seconded, the minutes of the January 14, 2020 meeting were approved.

Acceptance of Treasurer's Report

Upon motion made and seconded, the treasurer's report was approved subject to audit.

Metro Transit / Orange Line Construction Update – Charles Carlson, Metro Transit

Charles Carlson provided updates of the public transit changes due to Covid-19 as well as related regulatory changes. The group was also updated on the construction progress along the Orange Line.

Joint Powers Agreement Process Update

All cities besides Minneapolis and Bloomington have provided their signed JPA page and resolution to Burnsville. Bloomington did approve in December. Minneapolis will approve in next city council cycle.

Website Updates

The group heard from Sean Hayford O'Leary on what can be provided for a website update for the I-35W Solutions Alliance Group. The website sub-committee will meet after the 35W Alliance meeting to discuss in-depth options and request a quote. Will present quote and motion to vote on web host in following meeting.

Legislative Priorities

The sub-committee brought forward proposed changes to the legislative priorities with the group to be discussed. Upon motion and second, the Legislative Priorities for 2021 were approved.

Legislative Update

Significant constraints are placed on committees at the legislature due to Covid-19, limiting time to engage in questioning or debate, and making it difficult to have meaningful and full discussions in hearings. It's been challenging to get legislative language processed and introduced as bills. Please review the legislative reports from both January and February.

Detailed 494/35W Project Changes Update – Amber Blanchard and Andrew Lutaya, MnDOT

Amber and Andrew updated the 35W Solutions group on MnDOT projects along 494/35W since June, and important discussion points for transportation with these projects on community impact and accessibility. MnDOT reported the state collected \$244M less than the last economic forecast projected. Drops in the gas tax, registration fees, auto sales taxes and assorted other revenues were identified as contributors. The full legislative report can be found on the website.

All items motioned and approved from today's meeting will be placed on a consent agenda for ratification during the next February, 2021 meeting.

Project Updates

- Hwy 77 – Preliminary engineering study in coming months.
- Federal Transportation Updates - \$100 billion in reconciliation funding bill was announced with \$30 billion earmarked for transportation and \$8 Billion for airports.
- Highway 13 – Design of Dakota / Highway 13 Intersection is in process.

Next Meeting

The next Board meeting is scheduled for February 25th, 2021.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 a.m.