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### **The 35W Solutions Alliance Meeting**

Thursday, February 25, 2021

Richfield City Hall, Bartholomew Room, 6700 Portland Ave S

### **Minutes**

#### **Members and Guests Present**

A quorum was present. Members present were: Dan Kealey, Ryan Peterson, Liz Workman, Mary Liz Holberg, Gina Mitteco, Debbie Goettel, Joe Gladke, Chris LaTondrasse, Christina Diaz, Zach Johnson, Joshua Lee, Phil Sterner, Jeremy Schroeder, Amber Blanchard, Grace Vriezen, Sean Hayford O'Leary, Joe Powers, Matt Johnson, Lisa Freese, Tom Wolf, Rob Vanasek, Ruby Wlaschin, James Colclasure

#### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 a.m. by Chair Liz Workman

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Upon motion made and seconded, the minutes of the February 11, 2020 meeting were approved.

#### **Acceptance of Treasurer's Report**

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

#### **Financial Audit**

Moved to April Meeting

#### **2020 Financials**

Moved to April Meeting

#### **Ratification of Previous Meeting Actions**

Upon motion and seconded, the ratification of the November 2020 and January 2021 meeting minutes, January 2021 and February 2021 Treasurer's reports, January 2021 Nominations Committee, election of 2021 officers, January 2021 approval of chair entering into agreement of purchasing insurance for 2021, amendment to 2021 budget to accommodate cost of insurance, and February 2021 legislative priorities were approved.

#### **Website Updates**

The group received bids and recommendation will be sent via e-mail to Chair. Will discuss options in April meeting.

#### **494 Project Update – Amber Blanchard & Andrew Lutaya, MnDOT**

Amber and Andrew provided updates of the MnDOT projects along 494 from the Airport to 169 as well as discussing the TAC implementation plan

#### **Legislative Update**

The February Economic Forecast to be released tomorrow is expected to be greatly improved from the deficit depicted in November in part due to the December COVID relief 2 bill. Legislative committee targets are expected the week of Mar. 22. Chair Zelle and Commissioner Kelliher shared yesterday that the Highway User Tax Distribution Fund is down resulting in an expected 9% cut to local government road budgets and express bus ridership is down 76% and local ridership is down 48% resulting in only 90,000 rides per day and a cut of 20% of operating miles. There is a continued focus on the ridership experience, especially transit safety and cleanliness even post-COVID. Highway and interstate corridors are being thought of more holistically for transit.

SF 655, Duckworth, would cause loss of funds to 35W transit services. Identical to language we fought off two years ago that retools and repeals Urban Partnership law allowing 35W to keep money generated in the corridor for use in the corridor. Commissioner Holberg has engaged Senator Duckworth on this.

**Project Updates**

- Will update in April meeting

**Next Meeting**

The next Board meeting is scheduled for May 13th, 2021.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.