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The 35W Solutions Alliance Meeting

Thursday, May 14, 2020

Richfield City Hall, Bartholomew Room, 6700 Portland Ave S

Minutes

Members and Guests Present

Members present were: Chair – Liz Workman, Tom Wolf, Liza Freese, Jamie Verbrugge, Amber Blanchard, Rob Vanasek, Karl Keel, Aaron Bartling, Joe Gladke, Zach Johnson, Mary Liz Holberg, Josh Berg, Debbie Goettel, Dan Kealey, Mark Krebsbach, Wendy Wulff, Charles Carlson, Jeremy Schroeder, Aaron Bartling, Andrew Lutaya, Mike Burns, Joe Powers, Maria Regan Gonzalez, Britta Torkelson, Ryan Peterson, Margaret Anderson Kelliher

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m. Chair Liz Workman

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion made and seconded, the minutes of the March 12, 2020 meeting were approved.

Acceptance of Treasurer's Report

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

A Conversation with Minnesota Department of Transportation Commissioner Margaret Anderson Kelliher

Commissioner Margaret Anderson Kelliher provided an update on state transportation changes through the COVID-19 pandemic and answered group questions regarding current and future projects throughout the I-35W corridor.

Legislative Update

Four days remain of the regular session – they can pass bills until the end of Sunday. In past years, committee chairs would exchange offers, and a multitude of backroom conversations would take place across public press conferences on an assortment of policies occurring daily. Unfortunately due to COVID 19 this is not the case. On Tuesday an amendment to HF 2692 was adopted that created a House bonding bill. It passed to the House floor on a party line vote. The Minority Leader has announced his caucus will not support the bill until the peace time emergency is over. On May 13th, the Governor announced an extension of that emergency until June but did not extend the stay at home order after it expires on Monday. Many expect the emergency order to be extended a couple more times through the summer and COVID 19 cases to peak in MN in July. Unless there is a change by the minority party by Saturday the House bill will fail on the floor. The Senate was expected to release a bonding bill this week, but it has not yet been made public. This year, a bonding bill will not come together unless there is a global agreement by leaders of the four legislative caucuses and the Governor. Due to lack of car sales, drop in motor fuel purchased, fewer auto registrations and a reduction in auto parts sold, the tax revenues that fund the Highway User Tax Distribution Fund are projected to be reduced by almost \$400M from the \$5.05B February forecast – about an 8% decline. A special session is expected on June 12, due to the expectation that the Governor will extend his peace time emergency declaration and that triggers the legislature to return. The order continues unless both chambers vote to end/reject the declaration, which is very unlikely.

Website Updates

No website updates

Project Updates

- I-35W/I-494 Interchange – Business listening session schedule, invites coming out today.
- I-35W Bridge over River – Still on schedule. Contractors are looking to accelerate the work beyond what was originally proposed. Looking at potential completion by the end of this year. Southbound Black Dog Road is closed all summer. South bound Cliff Road closed 3 months starting in August.

- Green Line Extension (SW) – Construction is continuing. FTA has finalized their review of the grant agreement and looking at the 30-day Congressional Review.
- Hwy 169 Corridor Coalition – Did some outreach meetings before COVID and will try to follow up on those.
- Highway 13 – Study has continued to move forward.

Next Meeting

The next Board meeting is scheduled for June 11th, 2020.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 a.m.