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**The I-35W Solutions Alliance Meeting**

Thursday, September 12, 2013

Richfield Bartholomew Room

6700 Portland Avenue

**Minutes**

**Members and Guests Present**

Board members present were Suzanne Sandahl, Gene Abbott, Tim Busse, Jan Callison, Bob Crawford, Mike Eastling, Lisa Freese, Zach Johnson, Robert Lilligren, John Powell, Ryan Peterson, John Quincy, Mary Sherry, Thomas Terry, Tom Wolf, and Liz Workman; and member staff and visitors, John Apitz (494 Corridor Commission), Charles Carlson (Met Transit), Steve Elkins (Met Council), Jim Gates (Bloomington), John Griffith (MnDOT), Steve Hay (Minneapolis), Jeff Pearson (Richfield), Scott Peterson (MnDOT), Joseph Scala (Hennepin County), Jon Solberg (MnDOT), Rep. Paul Thissen (House Speaker), Zach Rodvold (House Speaker staff), Kim Larson (Bloomington), and Bob Tennesen (Tennesen Law).

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 a.m. by Chair Sue Sandahl.

**Approval of Minutes**

Upon motion made and seconded, the minutes of the August 8, 2013 meeting were approved.

**Acceptance of Treasurer's Report**

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

**Website Task Force**

John Quincy, Chair, said that the final priority projects graphic will be posted on the website with appropriate links.

**Technical Committee**

Ryan Peterson, Chair, presented the final priority project sheet. Per Met Transit's comment, a change was made to Project A, Orange Line. It now notes we need to get projects B (Lake Street) and C (494 interchange) built to have a chance at A occurring. The Orange Line project also now shows project cost down to one \$, because the additional costs beyond the funding needed for projects B and C should be less than \$50 million. We were likely double funding on our past versions that showed the \$\$\$ funding requirement on this project. Upon motion made and seconded, the final priority projects sheet was approved.

**Legislative Update**

Bob Tennesen presented the Legislative Report, a copy of which was included with the agenda packet.

**Minnesota's Transportation Needs Presentation**

Rep. Paul Thissen, House Speaker, presented and discussed the important of transportation, that funding in transportation is not sufficient, and past influence on current transportation issues. Speaker Thissen also discussed the addition monies for the Trunk Highway program; roads and bridges; Corridors of Commerce; and TED program. His highlights of 2014 and 2015 transportation issues included the following:

- Public connection;
- Next phase;
- What happened outside of transportation in 2013;
- Broader-than-bipartisan effort;
- Business community support;
- Public relations campaign to sell package – educate people;
- Set up for future – further than 5 years (long-term solution); and
- Cost escalation of Southwest light rail project.

### **Project Updates**

- I-35W/I-494 Interchange – Study is moving forward. Transit location is driving the interchange design. There will be an open house in October.
- Hwy 13 – Hwy13/Hwy5 project is going well and should have normal operations by winter. Hwy 13 bridge over 35 will be fully operation in a couple of weeks.
- I-494 Corridor Commission – Met yesterday.
- Hwy 169 Corridor Coalition – Meets tonight in St. Peter. In process of voting for top four priorities for Corridors of Commerce program. Also establishing Hwy 169 educational program.
- I-35W/Lake Street Station – Project is moving forward with an anticipated letting in June of 2017 and three to four years of construction. Project partners are MnDOT, Hennepin County, Minneapolis, and Met Transit.
- I-35W BRT – Focus is currently on the Orange line in Bloomington for transit location along with 494/35W interchange. Concept designs are moving ahead for the 66<sup>th</sup> and 98<sup>th</sup> Street stations, as well as beginning work on the Burnsville transit service.
- I-35 Surface Improvements – This is one way in each direction from County Road 2 to County Road 70. On September 26<sup>th</sup> it will be from County Road to County Road 50. There will be a closure north from the split this weekend. Next weekend will see a shorter closure of southbound lane for mill under bridge.

### **Future Topics**

- October, 2013 – American Boulevard Station, Charles Carlson with Met Transit
- November, 2013 – Travel Behavior Inventory, Steve Elkins with Met Council
- January, 2014 – Transportation Commission Charles Zelle
- Future – I-35W Bridge over Minnesota River, MnDOT

### **Next Meeting**

The next Board meeting is scheduled for October 10, 2013, at the Richfield City Hall.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:39 a.m.