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The 35W Solutions Alliance Meeting

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Bloomington Public Works Training Room, 1700 West 98th Street

Minutes

Members and Guests Present

Board members present were Chair-Liz Workman, Vice Chair-Tom Wolf, Secretary/Treasurer-Gene Abbott, Jan Callison, Zach Johnson, Karl Keel, Jon Oleson, Jeff Pearson, Ryan Peterson, and John Quincy; and member staff and visitors, Representative-Elect Andrew Carlson, Charles Carlson (Met Transit), Senator Jim Carlson, Bob Crawford (Elko New Market), Senator-Elect Rich Draheim, Senator Dan Hall, Steve Hay (Minneapolis), Jarrett Hubbard (Scott County), Representative Jon Koznick, Jen Lehmann (MVTA), Representative Bob Loonan, Kathleen Mayell (Minneapolis), Jon Solberg (MnDOT), and Rob Vanasek (Vanasek Consulting).

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Liz Workman.

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion made and seconded, the minutes of the October 13, 2016 meeting were approved.

Acceptance of Treasurer's Report

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

Appointment of Nominations Committee

The Nominations Committee (Tom Wolf, Trish Timmons, and Jon Oleson) have not met. Item continued to January 2017 meeting.

Draft MnSHIP Plan Comment Letter

Rob Vanasek summarized the comment letter sent to MnDOT.

Project Updates

- I-35W/I-494 Interchange – Jon Solberg provided an update to the 86th Street bridge replacement project and its delay due to the lack of legislative action on funding appropriations.
- 494 Corridor Commission – Jon Solberg provided an update on the 494/62 Congestion Relief Study.
- Hwy 169 Corridor Coalition – Andrew Carlson noted that the Coalition is meeting less frequently. Jen Lehmann provided an update of the 169 Transportation Study. Jon Solberg informed the group that 169 will be closed between Bren Road and 7th Street from January-October 2017.
- I-35W/Lake Street Station – Jon Solberg offered to have MnDOT make a presentation at a future meeting regarding this project and projected traffic delays during construction. He noted that previously reported delays of 90 minutes were in error and that projected delays are more in the range of 9 minutes.
- I-35W Bridge over River – Jon Solberg provided an update including MnDOT's current direction to build the project utilizing design/build, March 2019 at the earliest.
- Orange Line (35W) – Charles Carlson provided an update including acknowledgment that the environmental review documents were complete.
- Green Line Extension (SW) – Jan Callison reported that project development continues.

- Federal Transportation Updates – Rob Vanasek noted that both the platforms of both presidential candidates included increased support for transportation funding.

Legislative Update

Rob Vanasek presented the Legislative Report noting the potential for a Special Session to resolve health care funding and the unfinished Bonding and Tax Bills.

2017 Legislative Priorities

After approval last month, the 2017 Legislative Priorities have been finalized.

Discussion with Area Legislators – 2017 Transportation Priorities

Members and Legislators discussed a wide range of transportation issues including projects in the Alliance’s Legislative Priorities and individual legislator priorities and predictions for the upcoming legislative session. Topics discussed include BRT, the Lake Street/Orange Line project, 35W Bridge and 35W floodproofing, suburb to suburb transit service including service from the MOA to Shakopee, the Dan Patch “gag-order,” potential river crossings in the vicinity of the Minnesota River Swing Bridge, and the need for a comprehensive transportation funding solution.

Future Topics

None discussed.

Next Meeting

Members discussed 2017 meeting location options. By consensus, it was agreed to move future meetings back to Richfield City Hall beginning in January. Therefore, the next Board meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2017, at Richfield City Hall.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m.