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The 35W Solutions Alliance Meeting

Thursday September 9, 2021

Richfield City Hall, Bartholomew Room, 6700 Portland Ave S

Minutes

Members and Guests Present

A quorum was present. Members present were: Karl Keel, Dan Kealey, Ryan Peterson, Mary Liz Holberg, Mark Krebsbach, Bryce Schuenke, Debbie Goettel, Joe Gladke, Cristina Diaz, Zach Johnson, Joshua Lee, Wendy Wulff, Charles Carlson, Jeremy Schroeder, Andrew Lutaya, Amber Blanchard, Aaron Tag, Aaron Bartling, Sean Hayford O'Leary, Joe Powers, Matt Johnson, Seng Thongvanh, Lisa Freese, Tom Wolf, Rob Vanasek, Britta Torkelson, Steve Elkins, Kyle Olson, and James Colclasure

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 a.m. by Vice Chair Dan Kealey

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion made and seconded, the minutes of the June 10, 2021 meeting were approved.

Acceptance of Treasurer's Report

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

Adjustments to I-35W Solutions Alliance Agenda for the day

Upon motion made and seconded, the Legislative Priority Map Updates and Website Updates were added to the agenda for the day.

I-494/I-35W Funding and Construction Updates with Amber Blanchard & Andrew Lutuya, MNDOT

Plans are to finish environmental documentation in July or August of 2022 so that the project is in a good spot to get a contractor on board. Letting date is April 19, 2023 but goal is to get done early so the design build contractor can come in early and still do construction in summer, 2023. Layout is nearly finish. Second round of comments came yesterday and to be finalized in a week or so. Basis to include public art could be included in first project. Major Project Leadership Team approved first project budget for \$320 million for construction letting. Working with project partners to identify cost participation portions and ensure funding. Project One includes EZ Pass from 100 to 35W in both directions, retaining walls, ramps, turbine interchange, replacing bridges at Portland, Nicollet and 12th, building pedestrian bicycle structures, drainage and connectivity for ADA and bike/ped.

Legislative Update

Senate Majority Leader Paul Gazelka stepped down to run for Governor and former President of the Senate Jeremy Miller has been elected to fill that role. The Senate Minority Leader stepped aside last week and on Monday the Senate minority party will hold an election for their minority leader. House Majority Leader Winkler announced he is exploring a run for Hennepin County Attorney. House's special session that was scheduled for this month will be in October rather than September. 2022 is a bonding year, the budget is balanced, but they do have about \$1 billion in federal dollars to spend and possibly a state surplus for a supplemental budget.

Legislative Priority Map Update – Ryan Peterson, City of Burnsville

D-Line BRT and 77th Underpass both funded or under construction. I-35W/I-494 Interchange phase 1 essentially funded. Currently we are about halfway through our project map with funding/construction. Sub-committee of Ryan Peterson, Mary Liz Holberg, Matt Johnson, Bryce Schuenke, Mark Krebsbach, Karl Keel, Lisa Freese, Debbie Goettel, Joe Gladke and Zach Johnson to convene to discuss updating the priority project map.

Website Updates

Template is currently set up and staging site is established. Some of the content is moved already. Next stage is the branding and projects feature and meeting agendas to be built. I-35W Logo will need to be redrawn, either updated to a newer logo, or redrawing the old logo for better presentation. Sean presented three variations of the logo that would be recommended to proceed forward with.

Upon motion made and seconded, it was agreed that the option A logo with the I-35W shield moved to the left of the logo was the option to move forward with.

Project Updates

- I-35W/Lake Street Access/94 bridges – September 10th the project will be substantially complete with all ramps and lanes open. Some temporary traffic mitigation was in place that will be reverted back over the coming months. Press conference is also scheduled for the 10th. On the 12th of September, a community celebration is scheduled for the opening.
- Orange Line (35W) – With highway work completing, the Lake Street training development can begin with the station expected to open for service this fall. Other work continues toward a December opening for the Orange Line. Currently still remain on schedule and under budget, and received an additional \$11.4 million award of covid relief funds to the project this summer, which will offset local funds within the project.
- I-35W Bridge over River – Only piece remaining is to raise the trail above the flood plain. Otherwise project is officially completed.
- Hwy 77 – Congestion Mitigation Study public outreach began August 18th and conducting stakeholder meetings to determine what the purpose of the project will be. Next steps would be screening and design options.
- Green Line Extension (SW) – Construction is continuing and currently at about 50%.
- Federal Transportation Updates – Just finished August recess. House has passed appropriations bill, waiting to see decision from the Senate. Next week Burnsville will have an event to do a walking tour through the heart of the City of Burnsville to show current and future projects.
- Highway 13 – draft EA public comment period was in July and proceeding towards the end of the environmental process. Letting is still planned for February 2022 with a two-year construction project.

Next Meeting

The next Board meeting is scheduled for October 14th, 2021.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 a.m.