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The 35W Solutions Alliance Meeting

Thursday, January 8, 2026

Richfield City Hall, Bartholomew Room, 6700 Portland Ave S

Minutes

Members and Guests Present

Jonathan Ahn, Renee Christianson, Joe Gladke, Debbie Goettel, Sean Hayford Oleary, Mary Liz Holberg, Adam Jessen, Matt Johnson, Zach Johnson, Dan Kealey, Erin Laberee, Michelle Leonard, Julie Long, Joe Powers, Mark Ray, Danielle Robertson, Heidi Scholl, Megan Thielfoldt, Seng Thongvanh, Rob Vanasek, Tom Wolf, Liz Workman, Wendy Wulff

Call to Order

Chair Workman called the meeting to order at 7:33 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made and seconded to approve the October 9, 2025 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Nominations/Elections of Officers

Motion made and seconded to elect Dan Kealey as Chair. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made and seconded to elect Sean Hayford Oleary as Vice Chair. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made and seconded to elect Matt Johnson as Secretary/Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made and seconded to appoint Liz Workman as Immediate Past Chair. Motion carried unanimously.

2025 Year in Review; 2026 Outlook

Jonathan Ahn, Metro Transit, provided a presentation on many route changes, ridership numbers, projects underway, and those that are currently planned around the metro in coming years.

Legislative Counsel Update

Vanasek updated the Board that he is moving firms from Capitol Hill to Poul Haas. He shared that Capitol Hill has terminated its contract with the Solutions Alliance and that the Board could reauthorize the Chair to retain Vanasek through 2026 under a contract with Poul Haas. Motion made and seconded to retain Rob Vanasek as legislative counsel for one year beginning January 1, 2026, at \$43,000 per year, and authorize Chair Kealey to execute the contract. Motion carried unanimously.

Legislative Update

Rob Vanasek provided a legislative update.

Project Updates

- 494/35W Interchange – Ryan Wilson sent his regrets this a.m. with emailed update.
- Orange Line – Ridership ticked down slightly to 2,100/day going into the winter months.
- Green Line Extension (SW) – Trains being tested on the tracks and those will increase.
- 494 Corridor Commission – April 14 webinar on 494 project. In 2025, they did 109 community tabling events.
- Hwy 169 Corridor Commission – Decommissioned and should be removed from future agendas.
- Hwy 13 – Nicollet/Quentin completed but two signals still remain – community expressed to MnDOT they don't want 5-7 year gap between major construction impacts to the community in same location. Nicollet

grade separation is funded, but a \$70M funding gap remains for removing the two signals. A Build Grant request was submitted for \$25M. Bonding request for \$68M is being prepared.

- I-35W Bridges in Burnsville – Burnsville Parkway bridge fully open in both directions. Businesses pleased its done. Cliff Road bridge to close in spring 2026.
- I-35 and County Rd 50/5 – Expecting construction in 2029-2030. Bonding request likely for \$23M+ gap.
- I-35 and County Rd 2 – Desire funding by 2030. Still need funding \$35-50M; requesting Transportation Economic Development funding.

Potential Future Agenda Items

- February: MVTA 2025 Review, 2026 Outlook – Eric Callison, Transit Planning Manager, MVTA
- March: I-494 Project 1 Construction and Project 2 Delivery Updates – Ryan Wilson, MnDOT
- April: Mobility, Accessibility in Transit and Transportation – Eric Lind, Center for Transportation Studies, University of Minnesota
- May: South Area Outlook following MHFP and TED grant awards: HWY 13, Cty Rd 50/5, Cty Rd 2 – Bryant Ficek, MnDOT
- June/September: Red Line Study, Metro Transit

Next Meeting

The next Alliance meeting will be held February 12, 2026.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.