**Meeting Minutes**

February 25, 2021

7:00 P.M.

via WebEx

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call/ Establish Quorum
   1. Counties: Anoka, Isanti, Kanabec
   2. Cities: Blaine, Braham, Cambridge, East Bethel, Ham Lake, Isanti, Oak Grove, Spring Lake Park
   3. Townships: Athens, Brunswick, Cambridge, Comfort, Ford, Isanti, Knife Lake

*Per JPA Article Vlf1 Section 4: 40% of the membership constitutes a quorum*

*(40% of 17* = 6.8*)*

Members Present: Robyn West (Chair), Anoka County

Terry Turnquist, Isanti County

Gene Anderson, Kanabec County  
 Jess Robertson, City of Blaine

Jon Haukaas, City of Blaine

Robert Knowles, City of Braham

Brian Mundle, City of East Bethel

Jack Davis, City of East Bethel

Weston Rolf, City of Oak Grove

Barbara Goodboe-Bisschoff, City of Spring Lake Park

Others Present: Angie Huss, Lock Law

Ann Lenczewski, Lock Law

Luke Wehseler, MnDOT District 3

Jennifer Wiltgen, MnDOT Metro District

Troy Olsen, North Metro Mayors Association

Matt Jensen, Resident

Joe MacPherson, Anoka County (Administrative Representative)

Jill Kent, Anoka County (Administrative Assistant)

1. Membership list review/update
2. Approval of Minutes from the October 22, 2020 Meeting  
   Motion to Approve: Jess (Blaine) and Gene (Kanabec County)
3. Treasurer's Report
   1. Approval of Treasurer's Report-
   2. 2021 Membership Dues Status Report -
4. Programmed Projects
   * MnDOT Metro District: Jennifer Wiltgen
   * Highway 65/Klondike Drive:
   * Moving into construction late spring/summer. Work in turn lane area will start in Mid-April. There will be turn lane impacts mid-April, with main impact being the median closure on 65 at Klondike. They will start in median and move to outside. Expect construction impacts to last 45 days.

* After median work, construction will begin. One-week full closure on west side, one week full closure on east side, but not at the same time. To take left onto Klondike, detour will go up to Sims Road and back to WB Klondike; to go right onto Klondike, detour will go down to Viking Blvd and back to EB Klondike.
* Detour will be in effect until Stage 1 completed.
* Stage 2 detour will last 15 days.
* A newsletter article in January reached out to nearby businesses and homeowners and was mailed to homes and businesses.
* 65 PEL Study
* Compiled info into report and wrapping up report. Positive news coming out of the study.
* Highway 65 and Viking Blvd
* Compliance has been high; no RT crashes since implement of No Turn on red. The system detects motorists sooner to reduce delay for U-turn. Have made multiple signal timing adjustments. Consultants studied and identified short, mid, and long-term improvements, and looked at signage and complexity of intersection.
* City of Blaine – Blaine and Anoka County working together on RFP. Searching for funding. Jess Robertson - Great and exciting things happening, excellent momentum. Jon H – even before completion of PEL, Blaine has been working on 99th Intersection – access to NSC, heavy industrial areas, west side residential. Successful in receiving $12M in grants, entered into partnership, asking for environmental proposals for the segment of TH 65 between 97th Avenue and 117th Avenue/Cloud Drive, 30% design for all intersections, goal to have complete design for 99th Avenue and CSAH 12 (109th Avenue). Moving forward. Bipartisan support in legislative for $25M funding – will depend on bonding bill. INFRA Grant notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) was just published – 4 weeks to submittal – hired HDR to complete application with an approximate ask of $60-$75M to complete 99th and 109th Avenue intersection improvements. Congressman Emmer is on board, senators are hopefully supportive, gaining attention and recognition. Want to make something happen, as it benefits everyone up and down the corridor.

* 1. MnDOT District 3 – Luke – quiet up north. 2022- bridge south of Mora will be replaced. Approval for HSIP funding for tension cable barrier from AC to County 43 south of Cambridge.
  2. Other

1. Administrative Representative Report
   1. Discuss existing website maintenance service contract with Matt Braaten – Cambridge Middle School Teacher – existing service contract – he came on board shortly after the Coalition started, has IT experience and knowledge, and is willing to help out. Contracted for 2 hours per month at $35 per hour. Not involved with coalition any longer, he has asked if he is the right person to do this. Invoice for 3 hours for last few months of 2020. Wants to talk about it, does anyone have someone who will do this? He does have other priorities – but he is willing to do it if we don’t have anyone else. The coalition recommended asking him to continue until we find someone else to do it. Joe to talk to him. If anyone in the group has the skill to help out, let us know.
   2. Discuss quotes from HDR to develop short videos to showcase the TH 65 corridor and the needed improvements – talked about ideas that were shared in the meeting minutes. At the group’s direction, Joe reached out to HDR and asked them to submit a quote and come up with work plan and deliverable item to share with group. HDR would provide service, to include work and donation of time from several coalition members (looking for 4-5 members) that want to be active, to tell the story of the corridor, from Spring Lake Park to Cambridge. Some ideas – storyline, what is the corridor, the benefits of it. Kickoff would be a meeting to discuss drone footage needs, community members, existing businesses, develop storyboard and script. Will take that and develop concept, video script and style fames. 1-minute video, and will be able to sub-divide into smaller videos. Could have mini videos to pass along to senators, social media, coalition website, etc. ... can either put out the script on website, voice.com, people from community that have good voices can read the script, submit and we can pick the voice, or someone from HDR can do it. Video production, Coalition can review it, will get draft and final 1-minute video. 2 scenarios – a lot of live video, interviews, less stills, $18,814.83. Upfront time, admin, meetings with coalition members, meetings with leads, cost for narrating the script and delivery. If include stills, then $15,726.96. Still capture storytelling, economic development, a little less video capture. HDR teams – indicate that it is key that coalition members participate, volunteer and are willing to contribute to the video. Weston Rolf – first night here, taking all in, explain point of this. Past summer, we talked about where the coalition wants to go, capture attention of legislators, purpose to help produce things like this, enhanced websites, cable tv, videos. Short snippet videos, people are very focused, get message out on social media rather than putting on website. Cab target audiences as they drive through corridor, it will advertise video to your phone and give info about the coalition. Helps lobbying, legislature, get info out there, PEL study is complete, continue to grow the corridor along Highway 65. Right in line with other costs for other projects. Has been very successful in using for meetings, advertising. Erin, Nolan have been very excited for these projects – a lot of people outside of corridor come to Blaine, absolutely an effective tool, a little sticker-shocked, feel momentum, can push and round the bases. Legislators want to hear environmental, personal stories, economic development impact. 1-minute video that contains everything that people are looking for is a great tool. Ann – anything we can do to bring attention to, targeting, we should not spend the effort to get legislators involved, they are legislators and are already engaged. Troy – metro mayors association really do understand regional impact – Highway 10 – pivoting and growing momentum for Highway 65. Having message to “slice and dice” to delegation – from outside looking in, Councilwoman Robertson is right now. Robyn – Jess is budget hawk, Highway 10 is well funded, this is a completely different project. Jack – did miss previously – account for $31,642 – only expenditures made for website and domain name. Not accumulating in bank account, need to put funds into action. Recognize that solving problems begins in Blaine. Jack made motion to go ahead with $18,814.83 contract for video production, Brian Mundle seconded motion. Joe to get sample videos to Weston. Commissioner Turnquist – time to move forward, accumulating $$ for a long time, time to move forward with video. Robyn- this is what works now, money has been accumulating. Jess – all of us up and down the corridor understand the value of the region. All use 65 – find value for entire corridor. Jack – I’ve been on this committee as long as everyone; 6 years ago, congestion on 65 was selected as priority to address. Solving congestion on 65 starts on Highway 10 and goes to Bunker. Cannot divide up $$, everyone is behind the priorities and it is a benefit to all of us. Motion Passes – will work through who will participate, think about what you will contribute to it. Jess will help. Robyn – great addition, a lot of experience with the area. Robyn willing to help as well.
2. Community Updates – Braham – made the news a lot. No need to comment.
3. Other Business
4. Adjourn

Next Meeting – Thursday, March 25, 2021