



Meeting Minutes

May 27, 2021

7:00 P.M.

Isanti County Government Center, Cambridge, MN

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call/ Establish Quorum
 - a. Counties: Anoka, Isanti, Kanabec
 - b. Cities: Blaine, Braham, Cambridge, East Bethel, Ham Lake, Isanti, Oak Grove, Spring Lake Park
 - c. Townships: Athens, Brunswick, Cambridge, Comfort, Ford, Isanti, Knife Lake
Per JPA Article Vif1 Section 4: 40% of the membership constitutes a quorum (40% of 17 = 6.8)

Members Present: Robyn West (Chair), Anoka County
Julie Braastad, Anoka County
Terry Turnquist, Isanti County
Gene Anderson, Kanabec County
Jon Haukaas, City of Blaine
Brian Mundle, City of East Bethel
Jack Davis, City of East Bethel
Paddy Jones, City of Ham Lake
Sheila Sellman, City of Isanti
Weston Rolf, City of Oak Grove
Barbara Goodboe-Bisschoff, City of Spring Lake Park

Others Present: Troy Olsen, North Metro Mayors Association
Joe MacPherson, Anoka County (Administrative Representative)
Jill Kent, Anoka County (Administrative Assistant)
4. Approval of Minutes from the February 25, 2021 Meeting
[Motion to Approve: Barbara \(Spring Lake Park\)](#)
[Second: Terry \(Isanti County\)](#)
[Motion passed.](#)
5. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Approval of Treasurer's Report
 - b. 2021 Membership Dues Status Report
6. Administrative Representative Report
 - a. Membership List Review/Update



- b. Discuss website updates:
 - i. Review coalition priorities:
 - Joe requested that everyone review website and send him any corrections or additions. This also includes any current and future priorities/projects that should be included on the website.
 - ii. Discuss other items that would be beneficial to include on the website
- c. Discuss status of video production project:
 - First kickoff meeting was held on April 1st. Participants included: Joe MacPherson, Jess Robertson, Jon Haukaas, Julie Braastad, Robyn West, Barbara Goodboe-Bisschoff, Jack Davis & Nolan West. The group provided several great ideas and issues that legislators look for in project scopes/narratives. See attached notes from meeting.
 - i. Review/Approve Invoice No. 1 for HDR:
 - Motion to Approve: Joe MacPherson
 - Second: Brian Mundle (East Bethel)
 - Motion passed.
 - ii. Anoka County drone video/photo flights taking place this week and next week
 - iii. Need information from each agency regarding upcoming events, developments, & points of interest to include in video
 - Terry Turnquist: a lot of growth on east side of 65 – one school and Coborn's, if live within 1 mile then don't get bussed.
 - Brian Mundle: SF girls were hit on 47. Walking bridges were wanted, but MnDOT signalized that intersection. "Think of the Children". East Bethel has frontage road going in by Highway 65/Viking, drone frontage could be taken of that project to show economic development. 65 not changing – UofM has online, historical aerial photos, back to 1930's or before. One was 1954, could see 2 lanes being built in EB!
 - Terry Turnquist: 65 used to go right through heart of Cambridge, and now Cambridge has grown to east.
 - Robin West: talked to friends in Lakeville and Burnsville to relay to representatives about how important this corridor is to the region. When you go past Burnsville or to Rochester, they have giant highways with no traffic.
 - Brian Mundle: if we plan an event, we should plan for legislators to drive through the corridor during rush hour.
 - Terry Turnquist: people don't understand how much traffic 65 gets, compared to 35W.
 - Troy Olson: Legislators like to hear how much "skin" communities have in the game. They like to see how much energy, effort, and support the local communities have and are putting forward to improve the roadway to get to that goal.
 - Jack Davis: City of East Bethel has invested close to \$10M in the past few years to advance improvement projects along the corridor and develop parallel roads to relieve congestion on TH 65.
 - iv. Discussion



7. Programmed Projects

a. MnDOT Metro District: Jennifer Wiltgen

i. Highway 65/Klondike Drive

ii. Highway 65/Viking Blvd:

Jack Davis: Expanded view cameras seem to be working better, better panoramic views which detect vehicles entering the intersection quicker. Moves traffic through much faster. Used to be 3 minutes, now 15-30 seconds.

Brian Mundle: U-turns (J-turns) are working how they were described. Green light at all three places, works smooth. MnDOT hired consultant to study signalized RCI operations and provide input. All aspects of the intersection are being reviewed.

The consultant is working on the final touches of the study report.

iii. 65 PEL Study

b. MnDOT District 3:

Luke Update: project just awarded for High Tension Cable Median Barrier for 2023.

Pedestrian Bridge project is scheduled for 2022. Pavement Preservation project on TH 65 (Reclaim and overlay) from Cambridge to TH 107 scheduled for 2026 funding.

c. Other

8. Community Updates:

Gene Anderson – anxiously waiting for bridge – 2 fatalities for peds last fall. Looking forward to getting it done (accommodations on west side only, no room on other side).

Troy Olson– appreciated the opportunity to join the group. Represents 15 cities in North Metro. Not just north metro cities on 65, but the entire region is supportive of the TH 65 improvements to improve safety and reduce congestion. Moving people and goods through the corridor, including the extremely congested Blaine and Spring Lake Park areas, is good for everyone. When the group lobbies for funding, he is very happy to assist and support the group.

Terry Turnquist - 107/65 is wonderful, nothing but positive comments from Braham community. Traffic flows, SB never stops, just merge in. Has been great. Positive thing on corridor.

Julia Lines – Isanti County. Nice to hear what is going on with this group, and to advocate.

Paddy Jones – Disappointed in J-turns. Must cross 2 lanes to go north. Turn south, cross over, to get to turn lane to go north.

Sheila Sellman – not much to report on 65. Looking at putting ped bridge on Main Street and go over to 6th Avenue. Didn't get funding. Study and Feasibility Report were done, but didn't get the money. CR 5 and 65 are another issue. KwikTrip – County is looking at a RAB. Housing near John Deere (165), another one on Heritage (45 lots), off Whiskey (167). 94 new builds, 1000 permits.



Barbara Goodboe-Bisschoff – HyVee on 81st Avenue is now open, thrilled for tax base. There is a new small development on Monroe that includes 6 lots/homes, price point starts at \$399K to \$500K. Exciting to see new development since the city of Spring Lake Park is fully developed.

Weston Roff– nothing exciting to talk about! A couple RABs being considered on county roadways within our community. Currently the city is experiencing a lot of development, similar to other north metro communities.

Jack Davis – RAB is part of new road design on 197th at 186th. Will be completed in late fall of 2021. The new frontage road along the east side of TH 65 is 0.80 miles in length and includes sewer and water. The contract came in at \$700K over the engineer's estimate. Likely a sign of the high material prices. The corridor will include several new amenities including 40,000 sf commercial building, KwikTrip, housing development, and more.

Robyn West – Bunker Beach opens on June 1st (redone, heated wave pool). The community is very excited to see it reopen.

John Haukaas – PEL was divided into three sections – Segment #2 spans from approximately 97th Ave thru 117th Ave/Cloud Drive. City and County are moving forward on preliminary engineering on segment #2 improvements at 99th, 105th, 109th and 117th. County received funding, and Blaine has \$2M into project. City, in coordination with the County and MnDOT, have hired HDR/TKDA to complete environmental design, to further develop the alternatives resulting from the PEL to determine a selected alternative. We will know by early 2022 what the preferred alternative is for segment #2. Design contract will complete the design work up through final design on 99th and 109th Avenues. The alternatives being considered include frontage road extensions on west side of TH 65 and backage road improvements on the east side of TH 65. Last year the City began working on acquiring funding through a variety of grant programs and legislative requests at the State level. The City was successful in obtaining an HSIP grant for west side frontage road, a \$10M federal grant through the Met Council's 2020 Regional Solicitation, and approximately \$700K through MnDOT's Local Partnership Program (LPP). The current estimate for segment #2 improvements is approximately \$140M, which leaves a funding gap of approximately \$112M. Currently requesting \$2M for environmental documentation/analysis and \$5M for final design through the 2021 legislative session. New BUILD grant funding solicitation is available – City has requested \$25M. The City has also requested \$40M from the federal INFRA grant program. Could have full funding yet this year. Blaine would like to get letter of support from Coalition and North Metro Mayors Association for funding requests.

9. Other Business
10. Adjourn: 8:30 PM