



Meeting Minutes
December 16, 2021
Isanti County Government Center
7:00 PM

1. Call to Order – 7:05 PM
2. Pledge of Alliance
3. Roll Call/ Establish Quorum
 - a. Counties: Anoka, Isanti, Kanabec
 - b. Cities: Blaine, Braham, Cambridge, East Bethel, Ham Lake, Isanti, Spring Lake Park
 - c. Townships: Athens, Cambridge, Comfort, Ford, Isanti, Knife Lake
Per JPA Article VI f1 Section 4: 40% of the membership constitutes a quorum (40% of 16 = 6.4)

Members Present (In-Person or via WebEx): Terry Turnquist (Chair), Isanti County
Robyn West, Anoka County
Julie Braastad, Anoka County
Dennis McNally, Kanabec County
Brian Mundle, City of East Bethel
Jon Haukaas, City of Blaine
Barbara Goodboe-Bisschoff, City of Spring Lake Park
Todd Christensen, Athens Township

Others Present (In-Person or via WebEx) Stephanie Roth, HDR
Jennifer Wiltgen, MnDOT
Luke Wehseler, MnDOT
Ann Lenczewski, Lock Law
Joe MacPherson, Anoka County (Administrative Representative)
Jill Kent, Anoka County (Administrative Assistant)
4. Approval of Minutes from the September 30, 2021 Meeting
Motion to Approve: Todd Christenson
Second: Brian Mundle
Motion Passed
5. Approval of Treasurer's Report
Balance from last report on 09-30-2021 was \$29,979.75. Balance from this statement, dated 11-30-2021, is \$28,436.08. There were three interest payments credited, and one check in the amount of \$1,546.09.
Motion to Approve: Brian Mundle
Second: Julie Braastad
Motion Passed



6. Administrative Representative Report
 - a. Discuss status of video production project

Stephanie: showed the current video. Script is coming along well. Aiming for a 2-minute video, to be effective, persuasive information, sense of urgency. Three parts to the video: introduction; body of video; and call to action. Gave kudos to review team, as they have had wonderful conversation, great ideas, and opinions. “Story-booking” will come next, giving the opportunity to pair with the script before the video development. Looking to target mid-February for final video to be delivered.

Todd: you did a great job of the portion in Blaine, showing the changes to 65/CR 14.

Brian: aren’t the stats of Highway 65 and I-35 similar? Shouldn’t that be shown/told on the video? Might be something that needs to be said. Photos wouldn’t be enough. Needs to be slapped in the face that we have the same traffic as a freeway.

Terry: that is a good point to work in. May be something they’re not aware of.

Steph: that is a great addition. We want to make it about safety in the first sentence, and the end. There are things that we can tighten up; the delay and stacking up at intersections will set it up for the 35W comparison. We haven’t named any communities in the video and doesn’t focus on any one part of the corridor, makes it “evergreen”, able to be shared with many people. I am hoping to send the script and schedule as soon as tomorrow. We will determine if anything needs to be tightened up as far as the schedule. I am open and happy for questions and emails. Please continue to send them.

7. Programmed Projects
 - a. MnDOT Metro District: Jennifer Wiltgen

Quick update on programmed projects coming up.
2023 – CSAH 10 Bridge Repair over 65 – will be a typical bridge repair, mill & overlay, surface joints, full season in 2023. There will be cross-over traffic on Highway 10 for approximately 1-2 months, then will switch sides. Traffic impacts. Exact timeframes and detours will be coming. Full potential closures for 65 for weekends and nights, for painting and potential for closings for the loops. More info as gets closer.

Robyn – why is that prioritized? When 65 is so bad?

Jennifer – this repair is maintenance and keep bridge in good repair, not full rehab.

Barbara – people in Spring Lake Park do not want a cloverleaf interchange.

Joe – we do not want to remove the cloverleaf either. This is simply maintenance work.



Jennifer – in 2024 – CSAH 10 (CR 10). Pavement now is to the point that we need to do a mill & overlay; was scheduled to be two projects, one that went as far as Coon Creek, and the other went to 217th Avenue in East Bethel, but have combined them into one project. Includes ADA upgrades, signal work related to the ADA updates, and ped signals.

Phase 2 of the PEL Study – 99th Avenue segment is within the limits of the pavement project. Will be mostly mill & overlay and culvert replacement over Coon Creek, and the overlay spans quite a distance.

b. MnDOT District 3 – Luke Wehseler

Looking at 2022 – Mora bridge over Snake River; letting the project in March to get contractor on board, so can be constructed in the summer. NO detours, staged construction, no traffic impacts, only switching from side to side.

Reclaim in Cambridge. Not in STIP, just in first staging of scoping, will enter into STIP next year when all elements are put together. If everything goes good, construction will be in 2026.

Braham – Demonstration project – walkability group put \$\$ towards ped crossings and walkability projects. If project is in STIP, people can test it.

Terry Turnquist –people gave feedback (about Braham project) and project was overwhelming opposed. He thought they could scale back, be not quite as narrow, not “compressed” as much. The roadway was open through summer, and was dangerous, if cars parked on the roadway, then couldn’t open door. Trucks and trailers couldn’t make corner without knocking out cones. Administration thought traffic was going too fast through town. Russell indicated that they would take all in consideration. Planning to do a full construct of 107 in 2027, with storm drains, etc.

c. Other - None

8. Community Updates

Blaine (Jon) - continuing through PEL study – 1st alternative and sub have been submitted for review. Hopefully get cost estimates within a couple weeks. Criteria towards selected alternative – January, Feb, March, doing outreach in March timeframe. Selected alternative from FHWA in April, May. All Highway 65 studies say that they must have frontage roads; we’re working towards grants, we have a grant for 99th and Baltimore, which doesn’t affect Hwy 65, so hopefully can start project in late 2022 or 2023. Successful with TED grant for the west frontage road. Once the alternate is selected, we can start actively pursuing that frontage road project. Our team is actively working through it and working with County with funding prioritization (strategy), and federal/state grants. A lot of good things happening with these projects.



Blaine (Ann) – on the political front, there is a massive surplus at State level. The team is working with four caucuses and the governor on the importance of Highway 65. Where funding for transportation will fall is unknown, it could be in a transportation supplemental budget, but nothing will happen till the end of May. Supplemental spending, budget and tax bills will happen, House holds the cards, only they can send tax or bonding bills to the Senate. I met with MnDOT to understand how federal money will flow through the state and how will transportation projects get funded.

Spring Lake Park (Barbara) – Suite Living Assisted Facility has foundation and several walls and roof up. Homes on Monroe (6 homes) are finished and are selling in the \$400K range; City has sold two lots of the City-owned land by Spring Lake; one house is up, and another is going up. Very proud of the City!

Anoka County (Julie) – Highway 65 is our County priority. For Phase 2 of PEL study, we are concentrating on 99th and 109th. We are waiting on design work, looking at January to February for Final Design. This is the #1 priority going to legislature, we are on a united front with City of Blaine. This corridor is long past due for upgrades. There is a lot of money out there and we are not sure how it is going to break down, but we think we have a good chance of getting a piece of that pie.

Anoka County (Robyn) – have an audience with Commissioner of Transportation in February and will make very strong appeals for funding.

Anoka County (Joe) – all construction has ended for 2021, except for one carryover project, the 2-year railroad grade separation project on Foley Blvd. I listened to the Trans Alliance Training on Infrastructure bill; there are still a lot of unknowns, but a lot of money is involved for the smaller communities. We need to make sure the legislators know that we want part of these funds.

Kanabec County (Dennis) – all representative Senators came by, and hammered Highway 65 and Highway 23. We had a tax-forfeiture land sale, and the burned gas station south of 70 was sold.

Athens Township (Todd) – still looking at Highway 65 rezoning for commercial through Athens Township.

East Bethel (Brian) – the new frontage road (Sand Hill Parkway) on east side of Highway 65 from 187th Avenue to Viking Boulevard is now open. It involved three years of work/planning, with the cooperation of city, county, and state, and opened 100+ acres for economic development. We held a ribbon-cutting for the road with business owners, County and MnDOT officials, and state legislators were in attendance. It was fun to attend and watch. While we have started talks on our next project, we haven't decided what it will be.



Isanti County (Terry) – Changes in our Highway Department will be happening, as our County Engineer, Richard Heilman, is retiring in February. We accepted his retirement papers yesterday. Our Assistant County Engineer, Tony Hennen, took the County Highway Engineer job in Little Falls. We will wait until February and replace Richard, and then Richard's replacement can help replace Tony.

9. Other Business

10. Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn: Brian Mundle

Second: Joe MacPherson

Motion Passed

Adjourned at 8:10 PM