



Meeting Minutes

Isanti County Government Center
Cambridge, MN

April 28, 2016

1. Call to Order and 2. Pledge of Alligiance: Co-Chair Turnquist called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and called for participation in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call/Establish Quorum

Members Present:	Terry Turnquist	Isanti County
	Dennis McNally	Kanabec County
	Tom Ryan	City of Blaine
	Howard Lewis	City of Cambridge
	Jack Davis	City of East Bethel
	Beth Thorp	City of Mora
	John Erlandson	Cambridge Township
	Ken Mattson	Knife Lake Township

Others Present:	Janna King	Isanti County EDA
	Brian Kary	MnDOT Metro District
	Jim McCarthy	Federal Highway Administration
	Will Stein	Federal Highway Administration
	Marcia Westover	City of Cambridge
	Carolyn Braun	Coalition Administrator

Co-Chair Turnquist declared a quorum to be present.

4. Approval of Minutes: Thorp made a motion approving the minutes of the March 24, 2016 Meeting. Davis seconded the motion. Motion carried.

5. Treasurer's Report: Thorpe gave a Treasurer's Report, indicating a bank balance of \$21,432.71. Carolyn Braun was paid recently for services in 2015 and the first half of 2016. Payment was also made for web page maintenance. Motion by McNally, seconded by Ryan to accept the report. Motion carried.

6. Presentation on Reduced Conflict Intersections: Will Stein with the Federal Highway Administration presented information on safety and roadway design, focusing on a reduced conflict intersection near Cologne, MN (US 212 and MN 284), which has reduced both the number and severity of crashes. The severity of crashes is reduced because they are less likely to be right angle (T-bone) crashes. The cost of a reduced conflict intersection averages \$8,000,000 compared with \$100,000,000 for a full interchange.

Ham Lake had a high concentration of right angle crashes. Since the reduced conflict intersection has been introduced, there are few crashes and they are less severe.

Braham has experienced a spike of right angle crashes including four fatal crashes; two occurred since the 2010 improvements to the intersection of TH 65 and TH 109. District 3 is in conversation with Braham officials re: reduced conflict intersection options. Several people commented that the change from two-lane to one of very few four-lane segments on TH 65 near Braham motivates drivers to pass near that intersection.

Jim McCarthy with the Federal Highway Administration focused on traffic operations and how the the conversion of principal arteries to super streets can improve capacity at relatively low cost compared to conversion to freeways. Freeway operations reduce the number of access points to the corridor and limit access to expensive interchanges. Superstreets do not require right of way acquisition; reduce the need for signalization; improve safety and provide significant capacity improvements.

There was discussion of how reduced conflict intersections function for pedestrians. One benefit cited is that vehicles adjacent to the pedestrian island are slower moving – typically 20-30 mph compared with traffic at 60-70 mph. McCarthy showed photos that provided insight into the pedestrian experience.

McCarthy noted that Federal Safety Funds have constructed most of the existing Reduced Conflict Intersections in Minnesota to date, often in conjunction with the MNDOT safety fund. Because the reduced conflict intersections are new and not familiar to citizens, there are challenges with public acceptance.

7. Programmed Projects: Brian Kary from the MNDOT metro district provided an update of construction projects affecting the TH 65 corridor in the metro district. No update was available for District 3.

8. 2016 Work Plan:

a. Isanti County EDA – Manufacturers Survey: Isanti County economic development consultant Janna King shared a five page draft summarizing the results of the survey of manufacturers in the corridor. She indicated that the next step will be to tabulate additional surveys from Athens Township, Ham Lake and reach out to contract carriers and delivery services identified by survey respondents.

b. Comments/ideas for web page.

9. Community Updates: Coalition members provided updates and discussed next steps for the coalition.

Co-Chair Turnquist inquired about topics for future agendas. King noted that the information on reduced conflict intersections provides important insight into how traffic flow can be improved in areas like Ham Lake, East Bethel and Braham. The congestion that has been identified as especially troublesome for manufacturers are intersections in Blaine. A presentation from Blaine will be sought for the next meeting. Another future agenda item could be a discussion of the role the TH 65 Corridor Coalition could play in increasing understanding and acceptance of reduced conflict intersections.

Co-Chair Terry Turnquist indicated that some conflicts had been identified for the proposed May meeting date and asked the group for their thoughts on the frequency of meetings. The group is concerned that too much momentum would be lost if meetings are held quarterly. **The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday June 23 at 7 pm at the Isanti County Government Center.**

10. Adjourn: No other business was identified for the coalition. Motion by Lewis, seconded by Thorp to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved and the meeting was adjourned.