



Meeting Minutes

September 30, 2021

Isanti County Government Center

7:00 PM

1. Call to Order 7:03 PM
2. Pledge of Allegiance
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 Vif1 Section 4: 40% of the membership constitutes a quorum (40% of 16 = 6.4)

Members Present
(in-person or via
WebEx):

Robyn West (Chair), Anoka County
Julie Braastad, Anoka County
Terry Turnquist, Isanti County
Gene Anderson, Kanabec County
Jess Robertson, City of Blaine
Robert Knowles, City of Braham
Marcia Westover, City of Cambridge
Jack Davis, City of East Bethel
Brian Mundle, City of East Bethel
Sheila Sellman, City of Isanti
Barbara Goodboe-Bisschoff, City of Spring Lake Park
Todd Christensen, Athens Township
Patty Kruse, Comfort Township
Ken Mattson, Knife Lake Township

Others Present:

Troy Olsen, North Metro Mayors Association (NMM)
Melissa Barnes, MnDOT
Ann Lenczewski, Lock Law
Joe MacPherson, Anoka County (Administrative Representative)
Jill Kent, Anoka County (Administrative Assistant)

4. Approval of Minutes from the May 27, 2021 Meeting
Correction – Troy Olsen name spelled wrong (has been corrected).
Correction – Referenced RAB should be noted on 187th Avenue (has been corrected).
Motion to approve: Jack Davis
Second: Brian Mundle
Motion Passed



5. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Approval of Treasurer's Report

Balance from last report on 04-30-2021 was \$32,141.41. Balance from this statement, dated 08-31-2021, is \$29,975.75.

There were two disbursements to HDR Engineering for the TH 65 video development project, and we had revenues from payment of dues.

Motion to approve: Julie Braastad
Second: Ken Mattson
Motion Passed
 - b. 2021 Membership Dues Status Report

All agencies have paid their dues and are in good standing.

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

Discussion: The group met again at the start of September to confirm video goals. HDR has worked with members to capture drone footage of the corridor. Jack also provided drone footage from EB TH 65 frontage road project. HDR will take it to the next level, come up with script, and bring it back to the group before shooting the video. The script should be ready for review in mid-October. We are on track to be ready for the 2022 legislative session.
 - b. Tour

Discussion:

Joe MacPherson: provided an update on TH 65 on behalf of Jon Haukaas who was unable to attend the meeting. City worked with Ann Lenczewski (lobbyist working on behalf of City of Blaine), who helped arrange the bonding tour. First visit on the bonding tour was the National Sports Center. Time was provided for the Cities of Blaine and Spring Lake Park, County Reps, public safety officers, and other members of the public to express concerns regarding the need for improvements along TH 65.

Ann Lenczewski: acknowledged Jess Robertson and the Blaine City Council; they have done a fabulous job with the tour. The AC Commissioners were there in full support. Thought it went well, there were a lot of questions from the attendees and the press. We are in a great position for next legislative session.

Jess Robertson: it is excellent to have the support of the AC Commissioners, Joe MacPherson, and other staff. Chief Podany gave a great presentation on safety challenges, and the media and TV coverage were great.

Robyn West: appreciated that the group drove through the community. Nolan West was on the bonding tour. There is such a contrast from Highway 65 to areas south of I-694.

Jess Robertson: there is a non-partisan collaborative on both sides of aisle. It is all about safety, and very rare that anyone asks questions. NSC had to kick them out because they kept asking questions. It is a great sign!!



Julie Braastad: indicated that it was a very good event. It is such a big corridor, the pain of it sells itself. Everyone has a real-life story related to traveling to a cabin, NSC, 3M open, work, etc. They know it is a problem and are willing to find a resolution.

c. Status of Blaine Project

Discussion: Quick update regarding funding and support. The City and AC currently have a design contract with TKDA and HDR. Currently evaluating alternatives developed during the TH 65 Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) study, City and County involved and taking data to next level. Currently focusing on Segment 2 (99th to 117th Cloud Drive). Currently in the Alternative Analysis stage, which is good timing. Once we pick a preferred alternative, we will be able to narrow in on estimated project costs.

7. Programmed Projects

a. MnDOT Metro District: Jennifer Wiltgen

i. Highway 65/Klondike Drive

Discussion:

Melissa Barnes: (Jennifer out of town) TH 65/Klondike RCI– construction of the RCI is nearing completion and is operational

TH 65 and Viking – since construction: 36 crashes, 2 fatal, 3 “B” injury, 6 “C” injury, 25 property damage only

August 4, 2020 - No Turn on Red installed

Showed analysis of pre and post RCI construction

Sample of short-term intersection improvements per the consultant study: NB and SB left turn signal heads modified, turn signal heads so they are centered over lane of approach, removing signs that were not required, removal of redundant one-way signs

ii. 65 PEL Study

Discussion:

Melissa Barnes: Exciting news is that the study is complete. The study is signed and approved. Huge thanks to Jennifer, Anoka County, and the City of Blaine. It was the first PEL in MN. It was a long journey, but a great result.

Robyn West: would like to commend MnDOT for their work on this effort.

Jess Robertson: the PEL study is an innovative way to look at infrastructure improvements. First one in state, only a handful in nation. Appreciate working with MnDOT

b. MnDOT District 3: Luke Wehseler

NA

c. Other

NA



8. Community Updates
Discussion:

Isanti County (Terry): nothing to share

Kanabec County (Gene): Waiting for bridge project next summer. Thanked City of Blaine for their efforts on the bonding tour. Better traffic flow in Blaine means better traffic flow for Kanabec County.

Blaine (Jess): City is currently working on commercial development initiatives. The City is very grateful for all the partnerships with this group.

Braham (Robert): elected officials are coming through next Tuesday for a tour of the city. Reviewing options for relining sewer pipes that were installed in the 1920's and 1930's. Survey online to express opinions regarding TH 107 street section narrowing proposal. The proposal narrows street to provide more room for sidewalks. Traffic lanes feel very narrow and unsafe.

Cambridge (Marcia): we are seeking funding to move rail switch to relieve congestion. Waiting for Highway TH 95 project to happen to improve traffic movement through town. Good job, Blaine!

East Bethel (Brian): frontage road on east side of TH 65 from 187th Avenue to Viking Boulevard should be wrapping up in October. Will be exciting addition and open development opportunities along the corridor. KwikTrip is planning to build along new frontage road in 2023. Working on City internet/broadband plan. City and EDA started talking about it 6-8 months ago. Released RFP and interviewed three companies. We are negotiating contract with the preferred company to move forward. They will do a review of existing internet capabilities, areas to be served in the future, and technology needs. Should have plan completed by early 2022.

East Bethel (Jack): EB is working on expanding their internet/broadband services and appreciates the good relationships with neighboring communities. The City appreciates all the support Isanti County provided during the broadband RFP development and interview process.

City of Isanti (Sheila): City continues to grow; population is now 6,804. Big jump for us. New development continues to move forward on east side of TH 65. Approximately 212 homes going in and commercial development is picking up.

SLP (Barbara): Two active developments in SLP. A five-lot single family development is underway along Monroe and a 32-bed hospice just broke ground at 525 Osborne Rd across from Unity Hospital campus.

Athens (Todd): working on Comp Plan and rezoning along TH 65.



Comfort (Patty): nothing to report

Knife Lake (Ken): nothing to Report

North Metro Mayors (Troy): NMM are supportive of this group. Excited with direction this is going. NMM support the Cities of Ramsey, Andover, Anoka, Coon Rapids, Maple Grove, Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, New Hope, Fridley, Spring Lake Park, Mounds View & New Brighton.

9. Other Business - None

10. Adjournment
Motion to Adjourn: Ken Mattson
Second: Brian Mundle
Adjourned at 8:00 PM