



Meeting Minutes

DATE: Monday, May 17th 2021

TIME: 4:00 – 6:00 PM

LOCATION: Microsoft Teams conference call meeting

Committee Members:

- ✓ Tammy McLemore, Dist. 1
- ✓ Kristel Porter, Dist. 2
- ✓ Dave Carlson, Dist. 3
- ✓ Jay Eidsness, Dist. 4
- ✓ Judy Jones, Dist. 5
- ✓ Bob Byers, Dist. 6
- ✓ Greg Anderson, Dist. 7

Alternates:

- ✓ Gilbert Odonkor, Dist. 1
- Billy Binder, Dist. 2
- ✓ Sara Maaske, Dist. 3
- ✓ Hokan, Dist. 4
- ✓ Lou Dzierzak, Dist. 5
- ✓ Lou Miranda, Dist. 6
- ✓ Lee Newman, Dist. 7

Ex-Officio Members:

- ✓ Jordan Kocak, HC Public Works
- ✓ Ashley Morello, HC Public Works
- ✓ Arman Rajaeian, Metro Transit
- ✓ Eric Bauer, U of M
- ✓ Danny McCullough, Three Rivers Park District

Guests:

- ✓ Kelly Agosto, HC Public Works
- ✓ Josh Potter, HC Public Works
- ✓ Jason Staebell, HC Public Works
- ✓ Olagoke Afolabi, HC
- ✓ April Crockett, MnDOT
- ✓ Christian Hoberg, MnDOT
- ✓ Mackenzie Turner Bargaen, MnDOT
- ✓ Steve Weser, Alliant Engineering

- **Approval of the April 2021 minutes**

4:00 – 4:05

Lee Newman made a motion to approve the minutes; Sara seconded the motion. The April 2021 minutes were unanimously approved.

- **Highway 252/ I-94 corridor study**

4:05 – 4:40

- Jason Staebell introduced Hwy 252/I-94 corridor study. The study was initially led by Hennepin County and is now to be led by MnDOT. Christian Hoberg of MnDOT provided an update of the project.
- The project was initially slated as an Environmental Assessment (EA), now the project is an Environmental Impact Statement, (EIS). This is a multi-year project where the Purpose and Need has been drafted and is currently available for comments. The project Scoping Decision Document is currently being drafted
 - Purpose “...to improve the safe and reliable movement of people and goods across multiple modes on and across Highway 252 and I-94...”
- Hwy 252 multimodal related improvements include local street crossings with 10 ft minimum shared use path on both sides as well as ped & bike bridges on intersection on Hwy 252 that do not have a grade separated crossing.





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- In addition, there is an identified need to fill the West Mississippi River Regional Trail bike gap along Willow St between Hwy 694 to 66th Ave
 - I-94 multimodal related improvements include new ped & bike bridge at 34th Ave (14th ft) and to improve pedestrian walkways and separated bikeways at Dowling Ave.
 - Bob discussed that local partnership buy-in is critical to the success of these larger projects
 - Dave mentioned to continuing the Mississippi River trail is important, good crossing connections are key. In addition, paved shoulders/narrow bikeway on the roadway could be considered in addition to accommodate people who feel comfortable biking in the roadway
 - Danny mentioned that Three Rivers Park District is participating in this process and has identified the Willow St gap within the Mississippi River Regional Trail previously. Three Rivers is a partner in this process and will work with MnDOT to fill the gap within this project.
 - Lee Newman asked for clarification if the project will include a bikeway, Christian clarified that at point these are recommendations from the Purpose and Need.
 - Gilbert inquired about the EIS, specifically what sort of community engagement will occur. Christian explained that to date, public engagement has been virtual. The project team has started the engagement process, including faith-based entities. Jason encouraged Gilbert to follow up with him or Chris with specific agencies for engagement
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- **University and Fourth roadway improvements project** **4:40 – 5:20**
 - Kelly introduced the project with Steve, and walked through the details of the project, including design decisions and bikeway concepts. The Project focusing on a partial reconstruction of University and 4th between 35-W and Oak St. Currently the project team is reviewing alternatives for a two-way bike option on University, one-way bike option on both University and 4th, as well as considering lane-reduction on parts of the corridor. To date, there are two alternatives to consider that will ultimately go to greater public engagement
 - Layout A would include a 2-way separated bikeway on University between 10th Ave to Oak Street. There would be a one-way buffered bike lane on 4th St. Proposed conditions include a raised curb on University in between bikeway and roadway, 4th St would utilize delineators. Project includes bike signal phasing, similar to Jackson St in Saint Paul, including no right turns on red lights and 4-second LPI, FYA following for left turning movements.
 - Layout B would include one-way bike facilities on both University and 4th St. The one-way, buffered bikeway with raised curb with partial construction focusing on one side of both roadways.
 - There was some discussion that raised curb would limit passing movements and that the project may include protected intersections, not available at all intersections
 - Next steps for the project will include presenting the two layouts at a virtual open house in June and additional stakeholder outreach to select preferred layout before August 2021
 - There was some discussion regarding the two alternatives. The following represents feedback:
 - Judy was opposed to the two-way alternative; it can be confusing for cyclists. Also mentioned that cyclists in the area use sidewalk as well, has there been any review of this in the area? Steve mentioned that enhanced bikeways may allow cyclists to feel safer and shift away from sidewalk riders





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- Lee agreed that two-way bikeway on one-way bikeway is not user friendly. Inquired about planned 10' bikeway and if there has been any stakeholder input from other universities around the country
 - Jay agreed about two-way bikeway on one-way bikeway is not user friendly, use at intersections is particularly confusing
 - Sara asked if in-person engagement (outdoor, along the corridor) would occur soon and encouraged to explore it safely
 - Kristel supported accommodating and preserving tree blvds and greenspace along the corridor
 - Bob is supportive of looking at national examples of two-way bikeways on one-way roadways. Discussed how the University is different than most corridors in the Twin Cities, and likely has the highest bike volumes in the metro. Bob said there could be benefits/feasibility to a 2-way bikeway on a one-way roadway
 - Dave also stated that a 2-way may be confusing on 1-way
 - Lou M discussed that bicyclists do not ride like vehicles, they're more likely pedestrians. And is therefore more supportive of 2-way on University.
 - Lou further inquired where there are VMT reduction efforts, Kelly said that would be included with modelling efforts
 - There was some discussion regarding why there was variation in the roadway lanes. Steve explained that variation is due to the need for reaction width to curb for left lane and transit accommodations for the right lane
 - The group determined that the BAC should form a consensus on layout. Kelly requested that the BAC provide feedback by mid-June. There was an informal, split vote among the group. Jordan recommended the BAC reaching out to District 4 commissioners to get additional feedback before the next BAC meeting. Jordan will include this on the agenda to finalize the choice at the next meeting
 - Sara requested a walk-through of the project area. Jordan will work on scheduling a field visit to the University and 4th corridor.
- **I-494: Airport to Highway 169 project** **5:20 – 5:55**
 - Josh Potter provided an overview of the project. Josh explained that the project will include adding MnPass lanes, improvements between Hwy 100 and 12th Ave (2023-2025). Josh described the multimodal impacts to I-494 and county and local road interchanges, including France Ave, Penn Ave, Lyndale Ave, Nicollet, Portland Ave, Chicago Ave and 12th Ave
 - Bob inquired whether local cities of Bloomington and Richfield are able to also participate to complete the bikeway network. Bob asked whether the county has any availability in providing funds to cities for non-county roadways to complete the bikeway network. Jordan explained that the county is currently moving away from providing these types of funds
 - Dave proposed wider frontage roads throughout, advised at least 10' trail on south side
 - Danny inquired about the separated trail on 12th Ave. Josh explained that a barrier has been proposed in between the trail and bike lane. Judy asked whether the trail would be moved to the west. To date, there has been no discussion of this, however, there has been discussion of adding bike lanes to both sides of the roadway
- **Member Announcements** **5:55 – 6:00**





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- Jordan will be looking into sharing future communications on a website instead of via email in the future.
 - Dave asked whether a Met Council staffer could attend a BAC meeting to discuss the SWLRT trail. Jordan has staff tentatively scheduled to attend the June meeting
 - Dave further requested that Jordan resend the meeting materials the day of the meeting to make it easier to join the call the day of the meeting
- Lee Newman made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Tammy.

Next meeting:

Monday, June 21st 2021

4 – 6pm,

Microsoft Teams Meeting

