

**GOLD LINE JOINT POWERS BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, January 27, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Karwoski called to order the Gold Line Joint Powers Board (JPB) meeting at 10:30 a.m. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, board members and staff conducted the meeting virtually via WebEx. Members of the public were given the opportunity to attend in-person at the Public Works North Shop in Conference Room 1201, or by sharing their comments or concerns prior to the meeting by calling (651) 430-4300 or sending an email to [PublicWorks@co.washington.mn.us](mailto:PublicWorks@co.washington.mn.us).

**ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Chair (pre-election) – Stan Karwoski, Washington County Commissioner  
Vice-Chair (pre-election) – Jim McDonough, Ramsey County Commissioner  
Lisa Weik, Washington County Commissioner  
Rafael Ortega, Ramsey County Commissioner

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Brian Isaacson, Carl Jacobson, Don Theisen, Erica Ellefson, Jennifer Oehler,  
Jennifer Wagenius, Kevin Magnuson, Kris Longhenry, Mike Rogers, Sara Allen

Others Present: Brian McClung, Charles Carlson, Christine Beckwith, Christina Palladino,  
Edward Sanderson, Elizabeth Jones, Janelle Schmitz, Josh Haider, Mary  
Richardson, Shannan Watson

**ACTION ITEMS FOR APPROVAL**

**Election of Officers**

Chair Karwoski opened the floor for nominations of the Gold Line Joint Powers Board Chair for 2021.

*Motion by Rafael Ortega, seconded by Lisa Weik, to nominate Jim McDonough as 2021 Gold Line Joint Powers Board Chair.*

*Motion by Rafael Ortega, seconded by Lisa Weik, to close and elect Jim McDonough. Voice vote; all in favor. Motion carried.*

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Chair McDonough thanked Commissioner Karwoski for his leadership as Chair over the past year and continued partnership on the board.

Newly elected Chair McDonough opened the floor for nominations of the Gold Line Joint Powers Board Vice-Chair for 2021.

*Motion by Stan Karwoski, seconded by Rafael Ortega, to nominate Lisa Weik as 2021 Gold Line Joint Powers Board Vice-Chair.*

*Motion by Stan Karwoski, seconded by Rafael Ortega, to close and elect Lisa Weik. Voice vote; all in favor. Motion carried.*

#### **Approval of Agenda**

*Motion by Lisa Weik, seconded by Stan Karwoski, to approve the agenda. Roll call vote; all in favor. Motion carried.*

#### **Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting**

*Motion by Rafael Ortega, seconded by Lisa Weik, to approve the minutes from the December 21, 2020 meeting. Roll call vote; all in favor. Motion carried.*

#### **Approval of 2021 Meeting Schedule and Locations**

Commissioner Weik made a mention that the Mosquito Control Facility could potentially be a meeting location when the JPB returns to in-person meetings. Commissioner Karwoski and Chair McDonough agreed this would be a convenient location given the proposed schedule.

*A motion by Stan Karwoski, seconded by Lisa Weik, to approve the 2021 Meeting Schedule and Locations. Roll call vote; all in favor. Motion carried.*

#### **Approval of Joint Powers Board Audit Service Contract**

Carl Jacobson, Principal Accountant with Washington County Accounting & Finance Department, presented the JPB Audit Service Contract #13894 with CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP (CLA) and the JPB, in an amount not to exceed \$11,900 for the term of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021. Mr. Jacobson stated that this will cover the 2020 Audit and that he does not anticipate the amount to exceed \$8,400. Staff from both Washington and Ramsey County received, reviewed and discussed proposals from four different companies across the metro. CLA has history with the Gold Line Partners, as well as Washington and Ramsey County, and it is believed they will be beneficial to the JPB.

*Motion by Rafael Ortega, seconded by Lisa Weik, to approve the Gold Line Joint Powers Board Audit Service Contract with CliftonLarsonAllen LLP. Roll call vote; all in favor. Motion carried.*

### **Approval of Resolution 2021-01 Approving the Use of Grant Funds for Pre-Award Authority Expenditures for Right-of-Way Acquisition and Relocation**

This resolution was originally presented at the December 2020 JPB meeting. Sara Allen stated that included in the packet is a written request that details out the acquisitions and relocation cost that the project office requests. She also wanted to note that there is not joint development related acquisition included in this proposal, one of the parcels proposed is the northern part of a parcel for the park-and-ride in Woodbury, and acquisition on these parcels is contingent on receiving entry into Engineering.

*Motion by Stan Karwoski, seconded by Rafael Ortega, to approve Resolution 2021-01 approving the Use of Grant Funds for Pre-Award Authority Expenditures for Right-of-Way Acquisition and Relocation. Roll call vote; all in favor. Motion carried.*

### **INFORMATION/UPDATES**

#### **METRO Gold Line Update**

Christine Beckwith gave an update from the Gold Line Project Office. Ms. Beckwith said they are still waiting for an update on entry into Engineering. She wanted to thank county staff for answering questions that they've been receiving in the process, and hoping for an answer within the next several days. There has been no indication that we should pause or slow down with the new administration.

Chair McDonough thanked Ms. Beckwith, and Washington and Ramsey staff, for work on the project.

#### **Pre-Award Authority Request for Utility Relocation Contract**

Ed Sanderson, Design Engineer with the Gold Line Project Office, gave a brief mention on the utility work along the corridor, looking at minimizing conflict points, and will have a presentation for the meeting next month and the details and cost of that plan.

Commissioner Karwoski asked about development along the corridor, if this was being coordinated with current landowners or developers. Mr. Sanderson clarified that they are remaining in Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) Right-of-Way, so it would not affect landowners or developers.

#### **Communication and Legislative Update**

Christina Palladino, with Park Street Public, gave an update on communications. There has been a renewed media outreach now that we're in a new year and a new administration. They've also done some new video shoots to be used on social media platforms in the coming months. Sara Allen will provide a link for commissioners and staff to view the videos after the meeting, and request that any comments or feedback be sent to Sara Allen.

Chair McDonough and Commissioners requested, if there would be opportunity, to include coverage of how the Gold Line differs from the other lines in the metro, and clarification on Bus Rapid Transit (BRT).

Brian McClung, with Park Street Public, stated that there is not a lot of update on the legislative side, as things are just getting moving with the new administration. The Governor rolled out his budget recommendations yesterday, so there will be hearings doing a deeper dive into those, with a forecast expected by the end of February or beginning of March. They are also waiting to find if the Biden Administration is able to navigate the Senate to get a COVID relief package, including funding for states. They are also regularly talking to their business partners, and once we are locked into Engineering, they will provide that information for the next stage.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Next Meeting – February 24, 2021**

Virtual – WebEx, anticipating the Executive Change Control Board (E.C.C.B.) will begin at 10:30 a.m., followed by the JPB at 11:00 a.m. – members of the public may attend in-person at the Washington County Public Works North Shop.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

*Chair McDonough adjourned the meeting at 11:07 a.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Oehler, Board Clerk