

**GOLD LINE JOINT POWERS BOARD
MINUTES
April 22, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Karwoski called to order the Gold Line Joint Powers Board (GL JPB) meeting at 10:43 a.m. Due to the COVID 19 Pandemic, board members and staff conducted the meeting via WebEx. Members of the public were given the opportunity to share their comments or concerns by sending an email to PublicWorks@co.washington.mn.us or calling (651) 430-4300.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Chair – Stan Karwoski, Washington County Commissioner
Vice Chair – Jim McDonough, Ramsey County Commissioner
Lisa Weik, Washington County Commissioner
Rafael Ortega, Ramsey County Commissioner

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Andy Gitzlaff, Brian Isaacson, Don Theisen, Erica Ellefson, Erik Jalowitz, Greg Wood, Jennifer Oehler, Jennifer Wagenius, Kevin Magnuson, Kris Longhenry, Lyssa Leitner, Mike Rogers, Sara Allen, Stephanie Tiemann, Tabatha Hansen

Others Present: Brian McClung, Charles Carlton, Chris Beckwith, Janelle Schmitz, Judy Cook, Mike Erlandson, Shannan Watson, Tom Downs
(1 Unknown Phone User)

ACTION ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

Approval of Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was moved by Commissioner McDonough, seconded by Commissioner Ortega. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

A motion to approve the minutes from the January 22, 2020 meeting was moved by Commissioner Weik, seconded by Commissioner Ortega. All in favor. Motion carried.

Resolution #2020-02 Legal Counsel Joint Representation Conflict of Interest Acknowledgment and Agreement

Presentation by Attorney Kevin Magnuson – Resolution #2020-02 would set forth a procedure to resolve potential conflicts that could arise for Kevin Magnuson, as attorney, representing both Washington County and the Gold Line JBP. Should there be a divergence or conflict of interest between Washington County and the Gold Line JPB, that issue would be required to be brought to this board. At stake are confidential information and legal services and representation. If there were to be conflict, the board could take appropriate action; wall off certain information, limited council, or retain separate council for some or all of the issues. Having a procedure set forward complies with the rules of professional responsibility.

A motion to approve Resolution #2020-02 was moved by Commissioner McDonough, seconded by Commissioner Ortega. All in favor. Motion carried.

INFORMATION/UPDATES

METRO Gold Line Project Update

Presentation by Chris Beckwith – an update from the Gold Line Project Office. The project is currently in a six month phase, between project development and engineering, where the FTA has granted an extension. They are about halfway through that period, and have not requested an extension to that six months. In regards to the project rating, since February they have been working with funding partners, policy makers, and local partners to boost scope in order to increase the rating from med-low. After adding 350 park & ride stalls, rerunning the model brings the rating back up to an anticipated med-high rating. They are working through the joint development items in order to resubmit a request for the med-high rating, which is needed to move into the engineering phase. Due to COVID-19, several things are on delay, and they don't fully know the impacts at this time. This could take several weeks, anticipating an answer in June. They are expecting to request another extension, and optimistic that it will be granted. More information will be known hopefully in the next several weeks. As of right now, there is no impact on the opening day, however that could change depending on the continued situation of COVID-19. The Gold Line JPB does not need to act on the cost estimate at this time. The Corridor Management Committee is meeting on May 7; a review will be provided in the future before action is required.

Chair Karwoski would like to thank Ramsey County for their support with the extra parking stalls as well as the joint development.

Executive Change Control Board (ECCB) Operating Procedures

Presentation by Kevin Magnuson – The Executive Change Control Board (ECCB) is an oversight mechanism that is mandated in the Joint Powers Agreement as well as in the Funding Commitment Resolutions with both Washington and Ramsey County. Its purpose is to provide oversight for significant changes in funding, the use of contingency funds that the project may encounter, to provide review for changes over \$250,000, and a steady flow of information coming to the board. The plan is to have a system to allow for real financial oversight for expenditures and changes, without burdening the project office. This is a delegation of responsibility and authority to the ECCB. It would be comprised of two commission members, one from each county, as well as two members from the Met Council, as opposed to staff, holding regular meetings as the ECCB. This document is an information item today, with intent to provide resolution and full procedure for review at the next Gold Line JPB meeting.

2020 METRO Gold Line Regional Solicitation Applications

Presentation by Sara Allen – The Regional Solicitation process, which meets every two years, is where the council distributes federal funds to local initiated projects to meet regional transportation needs. Sara wanted to report that there are two projects that Washington County is working on, as well as projects that Ramsey County and their partnering cities are working on. More information will be provided at the next Gold Line JPB meeting.

Communication and Legislative Update

Presentation by Tom Downs, Downs Government Affairs – Mr. Downs is a lobbyist and attorney based in Washington DC, speaking today on the Federal COVID-19 Legislative response. The Cares Act set aside 25 billion dollars for transit funding, waiving the requirement for cost-sharing, allowing federal funds to cover 100% of the costs. Minneapolis-St. Paul is one of the largest transit regions. While it may not apply funds toward the Gold Line project, being it is in an in-progress stage, it is beneficial in defraying the costs of responding to COVID-19 for transportation purposes such as costs for sanitizing facilities and purchasing software services for taking business online. They are hopeful that future stimulus packages would include more for transit related infrastructure.

Presentation by Judy Cook, Cook/Girard – Ms. Cook spoke about how the legislature is in their final three weeks, meeting remotely with a robust schedule right now. The focus toward the end of session is on bonding, which should result in a bonding bill, with hopes of a billion or larger. There is nothing required from them at this time, but would be available if need be. With the Gold Line not operational at this time, it may not have an impact, but will affect future transportation.

Presentation by Brian McClung, MZA+CO – Mr. McClung wanted to share their ongoing outreach programs that are important to start thinking about now. They are continuing to work with and stay in touch with local partners. There has been a lot going on both locally and on the state level. On the communications and messaging side, in respect to social distancing and transit, questions are raised on how transit will look and transform for the better. Factors such as touch-free surfaces and screens for drivers and riders, are all being taken into consideration allowing riders to get to their destinations. Moving forward, they've been looking at work done locally and nationally with best practices to ensure safer ridership. Mr. McClung wanted the board to know they are working hard on getting the message out that public transportation is important and could be more essential going forward.

OTHER BUSINESS

Next Meeting – May 27, 2020

TBD – Sunray Library or Virtual – WebEx, 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Weik, seconded by Commissioner Ortega, to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer Oehler, Board Clerk