



**Public Works Department**

Wayne Sandberg, P.E.  
Public Works Director, County Engineer

Frank Ticknor, P.E.  
Deputy Director

**GOLD LINE JOINT POWERS BOARD  
MINUTES  
March 22, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chair, Acting Chair Commissioner Ortega called to order the Gold Line Joint Powers Board (JPB) meeting at 11:02 a.m. The meeting was held in a Conference Room at the Gold Line Project Office, located at 121 7<sup>th</sup> PI E #102, St. Paul, MN 55101.

**ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Vice Chair (pre-election) - Rafael Ortega, Ramsey County Commissioner  
Stan Karwoski, Washington County Commissioner  
Michelle Clasen, Washington County Commissioner

Members Absent: Victoria Reinhardt, Ramsey County Commissioner

Staff Present: Jamie Petersen, Kris Longhenry, Lyssa Leitner, Mike Rogers, Morgan Abbott,  
Sara Favreau, John Ristad, Amy Schmidt

Others Present: Alicia Vap, Brian McClung, Steve Barrett, Elizabeth Jones

**Announcements**

Lyssa Leitner, Washington County Planning Director provided the news that the Full Fund Grant Agreement (FFGA) is very close to being approved.

**ACTION ITEMS FOR APPROVAL**

**Election of Officers**

Acting Chair Ortega opened the floor for nominations of the Gold Line Joint Powers Board Chair for 2023.

*Motion by Commissioner Stan Karwoski, seconded by Commissioner Michelle Clasen, to nominate Commissioner Rafael Ortega as 2023 Gold Line Joint Powers Board (JPB) Chair.*

*Motion by Commissioner Karwoski, seconded by Commissioner Clasen, to close and elect Commissioner Ortega as 2023 Chair of the JPB. Voice vote; all in favor. Motion carried.*

Chair Ortega opened the floor for nominations of the Gold Line Joint Powers Board Vice-Chair for 2023.

*Motion by Commissioner Ortega, to nominate Commissioner Karwoski as 2023 Gold Line Joint Powers Board Vice-Chair.*

*Motion by Commissioner Ortega, seconded by Commissioner Clasen, to close and elect Commissioner Karwoski as 2023 Vice-Chair of the JPB. Voice vote; all in favor. Motion carried.*

### **Approval of Agenda**

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

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

*A motion to approve the minutes from the December 7, 2022, Meeting was moved by Commissioner Ortega, seconded by Commissioner Karwoski. All in favor. Motion carried.*

### **Approval of the 2023 Meeting Schedule and Locations**

*Motion by Commissioner Karwoski, seconded by Commissioner Clasen, to approve the 2023 meeting schedule. Roll call vote; all in favor. Motion carried.*

### **Resolution GLJPB #2023-01 Approving the Use of Grant Funds for Expenditures Pursuant to a Letter of No Prejudice #2 for Civil Construction of the Gold Line with the Metropolitan Council.**

*Motion by Commissioner Karwoski, seconded by Commissioner Clasen, to approve Resolution GLJPB #2023-01. Voice vote; all in favor. Motion carried.*

### **Approval of Amendment #4 to the Gold Line Joint Powers Board Capital Grant Agreement for Engineering and Construction of the METRO Gold Line with the Metropolitan Council.**

John Ristad, JPB Legal Counsel explained this Amendment would continue cash flow funding for the project allowing 13 million dollars in carry-over money and an additional \$900,000 funding.

*Motion by Commissioner Clasen, seconded by Commissioner Karwoski, to approve Amendment #4 to the Gold Line Joint Powers Board Capital Grant Agreement for Engineering and Construction of the Metro Gold Line with the Metropolitan Council. Voice vote; all in favor. Motion carried.*

## **INFORMATION/UPDATES**

Alicia Vap, Metro Transit project Director, gave a METRO Gold Line presentation highlighting on a map showing ten miles with 16 stations. She said the budget is still at \$505.3 million and they are purchasing 12 diesel buses and 5 electric buses for the project.

Elizabeth Jones, Metro Transit, Gold Line Project Office, explained the public outreach, including mailings, emails, and open houses. Residents can attend and ask staff questions related to the project. Ms. Jones shared graphs that represent the areas with phases of work scheduled. Neighborhood meetings will be scheduled throughout the year to continue the outreach. She also highlighted the interactive maps online with sign-ups for updates.

Commissioner Ortega asked how construction updates are provided to businesses and schools who may experience road closures.

Ms. Jones explained that the communication is done on a regular basis and signage is posted at Gold Line construction sites including the hotline answered by staff. Updates are provided to businesses, schools and churches that may have impact for road closures especially for bus routes.

Commissioner Karwoski commented that he attended a public meeting at Grace of God Church, and he felt it had a good turnout and felt it was a positive atmosphere. He also asked for outreach in Woodbury. Ms. Jones explained that plans for engagement were in the works.

Commissioner Clasen asked that further outreach include one on one contact with the City Chambers. She also mentioned the fact we are maintaining the clean air bill with the purchase of 5 electric buses is a positive and to remain mindful and counteractive with public safety.

Steve Barrett, Construction Manager, Gold line Project Office, gave a construction update sharing that work continues on the abutments and private utilities and construction progress has had some weather-related delays but remain on schedule.

### **Amendment of Joint Powers Board Bylaws**

John Ristad, Gold Line Legal Counsel, explained the changes to the bylaws requires it be provided in writing. One of the amendments is to generalize the language regarding the first meeting of the year rather than it being the January meeting. The second amendment would be removing the very specific schedule for chair and vice chair.

**Joint Powers Board Roles and Responsibilities Overview** This presentation was moved to the next Gold Line Joint Powers Board (GLJPB) meeting.

### **Gold Line Joint Powers Board Financial Update**

Jaimie Petersen, Washington County Finance staff, provided a update on both the Administrative Budget and the Capital Grant Agreement Budget (CGA). The expenses for 2022 will be finalized on March 24, 2023. As of March 13, 2023, the 2022 GLJPB Administrative Budget was 72.5% spent or \$200,737.75 of the 277,000 budgeted amount. The remaining \$76,200 will stay within the Joint Powers Board Fund and be allocated to the 2024 budget that will be proposed in July 2023. The majority of the \$76,200 budget savings is in travel, consultant expenses, and contingency with zero of the \$5,000 in contingency being spent.

The 2022 GLJPB Capital Grant Agreement (CGA) is also under budget. On July 11, 2022, the CGA amended budget was approved at \$93,844,800. As of March 13, 49% or \$45.8 million of the \$93.8 million budgeted amount has been spent. The \$48.1 million of unspent budget was mostly due to delays in construction caused by snow. Upon the weather improving construction can resume and the plan is to spend the money in a future month.

### **Gold Line Joint Powers Board Communications and Government Relations Update**

Brian McClung, Park Street Public, provided a legislative update. A specific item related directly to Gold Line was a bill in the Senate from Senator Julia Coleman regarding guideways, and the Gold Line is exempted as it is a project already in progress.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

**Next Meeting** – April 26, 2023, 11:00 am at the Gold Line Project Office, 121 7<sup>th</sup> PI E #102, St. Paul, MN 55101.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Meeting adjourned at 12:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Favreau, Clerk