



**Public Works Department**

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**GOLD LINE JOINT POWERS BOARD  
DRAFT MINUTES  
June 28, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Commissioner Ortega called to order the Gold Line Joint Powers Board (JPB) meeting at 11:01 a.m. The meeting was held in a Conference Room at the Gold Line Project Office, located at 121 7<sup>th</sup> Pl E #102, St. Paul, MN 55101.

**ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Chair Rafael Ortega, Ramsey County Commissioner  
Victoria Reinhardt, Ramsey County Commissioner  
Stan Karwoski, Washington County Commissioner  
Michelle Clasen, Washington County Commissioner

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Lyssa Leitner, Sara Allen, Mike Rogers, Morgan Abbott, John Ristad

Others Present: Alicia Vap, Brian McClung, Mary Richardson, Jordan Preuss

**Announcements**

None.

**ACTION ITEMS FOR APPROVAL**

**Action Items**

**Approval of Agenda**

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

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

*A motion to approve the minutes from the May 15, 2023, Meeting was moved by Commissioner Reinhardt, seconded by Commissioner Karwoski. All in favor. Motion carried.*

## **Resolution GLJPB #2023-02 - Approval of an Increase in Contingency Authority**

*A motion to approve the Resolution GLJPB #2023-02 was moved by Commissioner Karwoski, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. All in favor. Motion carried.*

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

Lyssa Leitner presenting in place of Jamie Peterson, provided an overview of the JPB Capital Budget, explaining the pause in JPB contribution until the Full funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) federal share proportionally meets what the counties previously contributed through the JPB. The 2023 JPB contribution is \$3.4M, less than the original projected \$93.8 million.

The anticipated 2024 Capital budget is \$95.7 million. Bus procurement costs were moved into 2024, and the incorporates the contractor schedule.

The 2024 Operational (administrative) budget is the same as 2023.

Commissioner Reinhardt asked how legislative funding plays out for county contributions. Lyssa Leitner explained the next steps are operations and maintenance agreements. An example is a plowing contract, involving county and council discussion. There are layers of agreements for maintenance, and the JPB is a place for both counties to discuss together, but Metro Transit is still working out what impacts of new funding looks like.

Commissioner Karwoski noted transit safety measures passed at legislature and would like to know the level of expected service with those services.

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

Brian McClung from Park Street Public provided a legislative update giving an overview of conversation at Capitol last session about safety on transit, new taxes, sales tax summary. Guideway bill language in the session exempted Gold Line.

Commissioner Karwoski stated interest in inclusion of Partners and community leaders on tours of route construction. He also expressed a desire for updated post-pandemic ridership numbers, interested in seeing projections by 2024 to set expectation of what ridership would realistically look like post-pandemic.

Ms. Leitner explained that ridership projection is a difficult science. Onboard survey was conducted in 2022, so the results of that survey will be released in 2023. Ridership has continued to go up since the survey was taken. The Gold Line team will continue to help provide information to help elected officials discuss ridership questions with public, but appropriately set expectation and promote benefits of project.

Alicia Vap, shared that Metro Transit has had good performance on all day frequent bus service coming out of the pandemic.

Commissioner Ortega agrees with the need for messages to return to constituents. He has seen large return of congestion in the metro. Need to provide some information to address questions.

Ms. Leitner explained the project is not originally scoped to do additional ridership modeling.

Commissioner Reinhardt understands that Metro Transit needs to track how ridership is doing to report to Federal government. Ultimately, the JPB needs to use the best information we have available to make decisions.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

**Next Meeting – July 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 Clasen to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion Carried.*

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Favreau, Clerk

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