



**City of Newport
City Council Minutes
September 5, 2013**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Geraghty called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL -

Council Present – Tim Geraghty; Tom Ingemann; Bill Sumner, Steven Gallagher

Council Absent – Tracy Rahm,

Staff Present – Deb Hill, City Administrator; Bruce Hanson, Supt. of Public Works; Curt Montgomery, Police Chief; Mark Mailand, Fire Chief; Renee Helm, Executive Analyst; Fritz Knaak, City Attorney; John Stewart, City Engineer; Sherri Buss, City Planner

Staff Absent –

4. ADOPT AGENDA

Motion by Gallagher, seconded by Ingemann, to adopt the Agenda as presented. With 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, the motion carried.

5. ADOPT CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Sumner, seconded by Ingemann, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented which includes the following items:

- A. Minutes of the August 15, 2013 Regular City Council Meeting
- B. Minutes of the August 15, 2013 City Council Workshop Meeting
- C. Minutes of the August 22, 2013 Special City Council Meeting
- D. List of Bills in the Amount of \$251,854.15
- E. Amendment to Executive Analyst's Job Description
- F. **Resolution No. 2013-40** – Establishing Salary Steps for Executive Analyst and Accountant

With 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, the motion carried.

6. VISITORS PRESENTATIONS/PETITIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

A. Presentation Regarding the Red Rock Corridor

Lyssa Leitner, Washington County, presented on this item as attached.

Councilman Sumner – So the Commuter Rail option looks very unlikely because of costs, low ridership, and lack of full day services.

Ms. Leitner – From the graph, that is correct.

Councilman Sumner – So how will that affect our Transit Center? It would remain a long-term bus center and potentially a rapid bus?

Ms. Leitner – That station is built to exist as is as a bus station but it could be modified for a commuter rail.

Councilman Sumner – At a recent meeting we were told by the County that they had to scale back the station plans.

Ms. Leitner – What was scaled back was the parking lot and square footage of the building. To be honest, the scaled back version is still much larger than any other station on light rail, bus rapid transit, commuter rail in the entire region.

Councilman Sumner – I would like to see provisions being made now for that future expansion.

7. MAYOR'S REPORT – Nothing to report.

8. COUNCIL REPORTS –

Councilman Ingemann – Nothing to report.

Councilman Sumner – I would just like to comment on a few things. The old A & W site has been demolished and it looks like they're landscaping it as well. Have you heard any more comments on the progress?

Admin. Hill – Mr. Murphy came in to talk to Bruce and I about the landscaping. He would like to do some winter seeding and Bruce said that as long as he follows the MN Dot standards it would be fine. Because that would be delayed, we would want to hold back some monies to make sure that is accomplished. He also asked if the garage could stay there. That will come back to you for consideration at a future meeting.

Councilman Sumner – Also, the old BP Station has a new paint job and they pulled the pumps and tanks. Finally, Central Bank did some remodeling. The town is looking much better.

Councilman Gallagher – I attended the Red Rock Commission meeting. I said that they shouldn't have flyovers. I also had a Met Council TAB meeting.

9. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT –

A. Resolution No. 2013-41 – Establishing a Proposed Preliminary Levy Certification for Levy Year 2013, Payable 2014

Admin. Hill presented on this item as outlined in the September 5, 2013 City Council packet. The total proposed preliminary levy certification for levy year 2013, payable 2014 is \$2,420,695, which is a \$69,695 increase from last year's preliminary levy.

Mayor Geraghty – So the General Fund Levy is 0%, the same as 2012?

Admin. Hill – Yes.

Councilman Gallagher – Is there a reason why the Dept of Revenue said we would have a 0% increase?

Admin. Hill – My gut feeling is that it's because they increased LGA.

Mayor Geraghty – We're 100% sure that that's accurate?

Admin. Hill – Yes, I received notice from the State.

Councilman Sumner – What do you know about that Mr. Attorney?

Attorney Knaak – She's correct.

Councilman Sumner – What is the LGA based on?

Admin. Hill – They have a formula.

Attorney Knaak – I know in one of my other cities, they did a comparison to a city of a similar size and budget. They were getting LGA of around \$600,000-\$700,000 and the other city was getting around \$10 to \$11 million. The formula is based on property valuations. When you have substantial commercial properties of sizable valuation you tend to get less LGA. The idea is that no municipal service shall ever be contingent upon the property values. It's related strictly to property values. The better your industrial base, the better your commercial values, the less LGA you'll receive.

Motion by Sumner, seconded by Ingemann, to approve Resolution No. 2013-41 as presented. With 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, the motion carried.

B. Employee Personnel Policy

Executive Analyst Helm presented on this item as outlined in the September 5, 2013 City Council packet.

Mayor Geraghty – Going back to the selection of part-time employees. I don't know if we've looked into the affordable care act but anyone working more than 30 hours per week or averages that we would need to pay the coverage or be penalized for not meeting the quotas.

Executive Analyst Helm – Our part-time employees work an average of 20 hours per week.

Superintendent Hanson – We did look into this for our seasonal employees, we'll watch it and are aware of it.

Mayor Geraghty – Well the CSO works different hours as well throughout the year.

Chief Montgomery – He averages 29 hours per week.

Mayor Geraghty – What do the Police have for severance pay?

Executive Analyst Helm – They have 60% after 10 years.

Mayor Geraghty – Why wouldn't we follow that?

Councilman Sumner – In regards to the vacation, it says that the current vacation accrual for years 0 to 4 is 500 hours.

Executive Analyst Helm – That's 500 hours over the five years, 100 hours each year. Under the proposed vacation accrual, Administration would get 600 hours over the five years. The current vacation for Public Works and Police Non-Union is 400 hours for years 0 to 4 and the proposed is 600 hours.

Mayor Geraghty – I'm trying to figure out what a long-term employee could carry over each year.

Executive Analyst Helm – They can carry over 80 hours of unused vacation with administrative approval and severance pay is 100% of vacation.

Councilman Gallagher – So a long-term employee could get up to 330 hours of vacation a year?

Executive Analyst Helm – Yes.

Mayor Geraghty – I think I need a little more time to study it. Were the Public Works and Police in sync at one time? How did they get away from that?

Councilman Sumner – We were trying to bring them together in as many areas as we could.

Mayor Geraghty – I would like to table this to review it and maybe sit down with Renee about it.

Councilman Gallagher – In regards to news releases, I've seen where the Chief sends out a news release or the County sends one out on the City's behalf. Could we add language allowing that because technically he's in violation of our own policy?

Executive Analyst Helm – Yes.

Motion by Sumner, seconded by Geraghty, to table the Employee Personnel Policy for 60 days. With 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, the motion carried.

C. Donations, Library and Community Center, and Volunteer Policies

Executive Analyst Helm presented on this item as outlined in the September 5, 2013 City Council packet. Staff is recommending that Resolution No. 2013-42 and the Donations Policy be amended to add the following list of donations that could be disposed of without City Council approval: Books, DVDs, VHSs, Craft Supplies for Programs at the Library and Community Center, and Donations for the Pioneer Day Raffle Drawing.

Councilman Sumner – So if a person wants to donate 100 books, we need to appraise them at less than \$50?

Executive Analyst Helm – In order for it not to come before the Council, that is correct?

Councilman Sumner – Who places a value on the items?

Executive Analyst Helm – The donor

Councilman Sumner – What if it's valued at more than \$50?

Executive Analyst Helm – Than it needs to come before the Council for approval. We can take the books and put them aside but we cannot accept them until it comes before the City Council. In general, the City Council should be approving donations as they come in and it has not been done in a number of years.

Councilman Sumner – Why is there a limit on that?

Attorney Knaak – The idea is that funds cannot be utilized until you officially accept them. For smaller ones, you can designate someone to accept those on behalf of the City so you do not always have to accept donations.

Mayor Geraghty – Is that per donation?

Attorney Knaak – Yes.

Councilman Gallagher – And it stops restricted donations.

Attorney Knaak – It does and it makes a record of you accepting those.

Executive Analyst Helm – The resolution only covers material donations, all monetary donations would come before the City Council for formal acceptance.

Councilman Sumner – Would this only apply to donations for the Library and Community Center?

Executive Analyst Helm – It covers all donations made to the City.

Motion by Sumner, seconded by Ingemann, to approve Resolution No. 2013-42 as amended. With 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, the motion carried.

Motion by Geraghty, seconded by Sumner to approve the Donations Policy as amended, the Library and Community Center Policy as presented, and the Volunteer Policy as presented. With 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, the motion carried.

Councilman Gallagher – Well done putting this together.

10. ATTORNEY’S REPORT –

Attorney Knaak – You have before you the prosecution report.

Councilman Gallagher – Any movement on the Hunter property? There’s a bunch of other stuff in the back now.

Attorney Knaak – That should have been removed and resolved, I’ll look into it. Thank you for bringing that to my attention.

11. POLICE CHIEF’S REPORT –

A. Joint Powers Agreement between Washington County and the City of Newport for the SWAT Team

Chief Montgomery presented on this item as outlined in the September 5, 2013 City Council packet.

Councilman Sumner – Because we are part of the SWAT Team, we don’t get billed additionally correct?

Chief Montgomery – That’s correct. The SWAT Team has been called out twice since 1995 that I am aware of.

Motion by Gallagher, seconded by Ingemann, to approve the Joint Powers Agreement between Washington County and the City of Newport for the SWAT Team. With 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, the motion carried.

B. July 2013 Activity Report

Councilman Sumner – Are some of these being done by out-of-towners?

Chief Montgomery – I would say the majority of them are.

12. FIRE CHIEF’S REPORT – Nothing to report.

13. ENGINEER’S REPORT –

A. Resolution No. 2013-43 – Approving an Extension of the Variance Granted to Newport-St. Paul Cold Storage

John Stewart, City Engineer, and Sherri Buss, City Planner, presented on this item as outlined in the September 5, 2013 City Council packet.

Mayor Geraghty – When would it have ended?

Ms. Buss – You approved it April 18, 2013 so it would expire April 18, 2014. The extension goes until April 18, 2015.

Mayor Geraghty – I would like to send this to our State Rep and Senator and the Governor’s Office. It’s a clear example of businesses holding off on expansions or dropping expansions. They will address it hopefully in January or February.

Councilman Ingemann – The property at the end of the exit ramp, I thought we had talked about putting something there commercial wise.

Engineer Stewart – Let’s go back and take a look at Cold Storage’s problems. First of all, they want to build a building between 12,000 and 20,000 square foot as an interim plan.

Councilman Ingemann – That would be ripping up the asphalt to put the building in?

Engineer Stewart – Yes. When they get to the point of 20,000 to 50,000 sq ft, they're severely restricted in regards to what land they have left on their property to accommodate their storm water holding detention treatment facility that's required. What we have is a benefit to us is that their total project is less than would be regulated by the Watershed District so we are the entity here that gets to approve or disapprove of what's happening. Our position here is that we'd like to see something happen but we'd also like to work through a process that would get a storm water treatment facility that's better than something that's buried in the ground six feet below the flood elevation. Why we are doing that is to take a look at what we could complete together in that property that we are getting back from MnDot. What we're getting back from MnDot is not property but an easement over the property. We have an easement for the right-of-way that the State will give us back. So we have the ability to say what Cold Storage can do on that property. We got the Legislature to agree to sell back the easement of that property by the end of August next year. When we have that easement we'll have the ability to agree with Cold Storage as to what might happen there. We'll also have the ability to work with the property owner on the other side of the plat line, Cudahey Packaging. Fritz is looking into how we can get that property as well as the easement. When we get the property from Cudahey, we can negotiate with Cold Storage to say we have an easement over your property, you have some property that we would like you to deal with us on so we can develop two lots along Maxwell Avenue. In conjunction with that we're trying to get Cold Storage to move their entrance to line up with the new street. What we would do then is if we could do this negotiation and end up with the ability to develop two lots, we could, along with Cold Storage, do a joint storm water pond. What we're trying to do is move along a line that would benefit both the City and Cold Storage but we can't do that within the time the variance gives us so we need an extension. They've proved that they can treat storm water with their interim plan so I feel very comfortable in saying that we can let them go ahead and if everything else falls apart they'll need to do what they designed with their interim plan but they need a viable plan before they expand 50,000 sq ft.

Councilman Sumner – Is there a legal issue that's tying up the Cudahey property that would go beyond the 24 months?

Attorney Knaak – No, I think it's very solvable but when you have a State taking an easement only and all they're giving back to you is the easement then the underlying property owner is still the property owner and if they took the easement a long time ago it takes some time to track down the property owner if you're lucky. If you're not lucky you have to bring a court action to get it transferred.

Mayor Geraghty – How soon will we know?

Attorney Knaak – I would say within the month.

Mayor Geraghty – How long would that take?

Attorney Knaak – I would think three or four months.

Mayor Geraghty – Do we have to do any published notices?

Attorney Knaak – There are several things you have to do. The actual out-of-pocket cost is \$1,000 to \$1,500.

Mayor Geraghty – What point do you start dealing with MnDot?

Attorney Knaak – That would come before that.

Mayor Geraghty – So we can get the easements transferred and then work on the title later?

Attorney Knaak – Right.

Councilman Sumner – None of this ties up the area where we considered putting up the billboard?

Engineer Stewart – We have the ability to locate that on property that we own so first we have to own the property.

Councilman Sumner – But we would continue to have that option? We would own the treatment pond or would Cold Storage own it?

Engineer Stewart – It would be treating water from both of our properties and there would be some type of segregation of maintenance.

Mayor Geraghty – Can we have an agreement for joint maintenance?

Engineer Stewart – Yes.

Motion by Geraghty, seconded by Sumner to approve Resolution No. 2013-43 approving the extension for Newport Cold Storage through April 18, 2015. With 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, the motion carried.

B. 2013 Street Improvement Projects

Engineer Stewart presented on this item as outlined in the September 5, 2013 City Council packet.

Councilman Sumner – So does this mean we are cutting back the scale to include the areas above 12 feet and we are reducing the total contract amount that we will pay to reflect it now only covering the areas in orange?

Engineer Stewart – Yes

Councilman Sumner – And they've agreed to that?

Engineer Stewart – Yes, that's what the change order is for.

Councilman Sumner – So we're not getting less at the same price, we're getting less at a reduced price?

Engineer Stewart – We're getting what we're getting at the price that we bid but we're getting less than we wanted.

Councilman Ingemann - In other words we're rewarding the subcontractor who didn't know how to bid a project. We're going to give him some money and then exclude him anytime thereafter because he doesn't know how to make a bid.

Mayor Geraghty – We're only giving him what was specified. We have a choice, we could cancel and pay \$125,000 for nothing, or we could amend it and enlarge the scope of the 2014 project.

Councilman Sumner – Why are getting a decrease in charge?

Mayor Geraghty – Because we're taking out work.

Engineer Stewart – We're telling him that he'll do what he bid and we're not even going to entertain a discussion for extra money.

Councilman Gallagher – We're just going to include it in next year's, which will be a bigger project so the price may be reduced overall anyways.

Engineer Stewart - And we have the ability to include certain things in the bidding process that will help us decide who to deal with.

Councilman Gallagher – The secondary question is, can the subcontractor come back and say that they won't do the work because the overall scope has changed?

Engineer Stewart – If the subcontractor walks, McNamara needs to find someone else to do the work.

Mayor Geraghty – And the contractor has signed this?

Engineer Stewart – Yes.

Motion by Geraghty, seconded by Gallagher to approve Change Order #1 for the 2013 Street Improvement Project decreasing the contract price by \$259,239.63. With 3 Ayes, Sumner voting Nay, 1 Absent, the motion carried.

Engineering Stewart – Following that action, we have a couple of things that are collateral damage. The first is in regards to the interest rate. The night of the hearing we talked to Ehlers about what the interest rate should be and they said it should 5.5% therefore you passed a resolution that said the interest rate would be 5.5%. Later we got into a discussion about what the bonds might sell for and told the citizens that the City has a policy where the interest rate goes about 1.5% over the bond rate. So now we have an expectation that the bonds may come in between 3% and 3.5%, which is much less than 5.55%. This means we should adjust the resolution regarding the assessment and interest rate. Secondly, we have an assessment roll that we've gone through the process on for about 100 properties and now we're going to delay some of the properties until 2014. We have the ability to charge these people and do the work later I think we're better off in postponing or delaying the payments for these properties until next year when the work is actually done. We've talked with the City Attorney and Bond Council. I believe there is a way that we can do this legally and come out with an outcome that we can live with.

Mayor Geraghty – Do we do a modified assessment roll or what?

Attorney Knaak – What you do is a supplemental assessment which allows for correction or amendment to the assessment roll. The bulk of this would not be necessary if it weren't for the subcontractor. What you can do is notify the individuals involved in writing and they would be entitled to another hearing. Under the law, you can defer the assessment.

Mayor Geraghty – When would we do that?

Attorney Knaak – I believe it would be the second meeting in October.

Admin. Hill – The Bond Call won't be until October 9 so it would be October 17.

Mayor Geraghty – On the official statement for the bond, were there assumptions in there on the assessments and what notifications do we need to send out to bond holders and potential investors?

Attorney Knaak – Deb did contact the Bond Council and they indicated that they were comfortable with what the City was planning on doing.

Admin. Hill – We still meet the 20% for this year.

Mayor Geraghty – I'm worried about the income stream, there were property assessments that were projected to come in a year earlier than what we're proposing.

Attorney Knaak – My understanding is that Bond Council has reviewed this and is alright with it.

Engineer Stewart – I think we've given them all the numbers that they need.

Councilman Gallagher – The assessments for the properties that won't be done this year, will be done in 2014 correct?

Engineer Stewart – For the assessments for this years' work, the first payment will be in May. For the parcels that we've delayed until 2014, the first payment will be due in May 2015.

Councilman Gallagher – When will the construction start for the properties that are delayed?

Engineer Stewart – We're going to bid in February for a start date in May 2014.

Councilman Gallagher – Is it typical to assess after the project has been completed?

Engineer Stewart – It goes about 50/50. We've had a process of assessing before since the 1990's.

Councilman Ingemann – The payback is ten years correct?

Engineer Stewart – Yes and we have a 15 year bond.

Councilman Sumner – What are the chances that the people who have already been assessed will see an increased assessment or interest rate next year?

Engineer Stewart – I believe we've locked the assessment rate in. The interest rate is a whole other deal; it depends on what the economy does.

Councilman Sumner – So we need to be clear that the rate they were quoted this year could be a different rate next year.

Engineer Stewart – Correct.

Councilman Sumner – Is there any way a person could get on board this year if the project didn't start yet.

Engineer Stewart - We have included the money for the delayed properties in this year's bond, so that interest rate is fixed for the delayed properties. The problem we get into is that when we go out for bonding next year, we might end up with a different interest rate for some of the properties in the 2014 project.

Councilman Ingemann – Those that are being delayed until 2014 can elect to get assessed because they know it's coming next year, they can get in at that lower interest rate.

Engineer Stewart – They're already there if that's your choice.

Mayor Geraghty – Is it all or none?

Attorney Knaak – I believe so, you can't cherry pick or allow the taxpayer to do so.

Councilman Ingemann – They would have a better deal this year.

Councilman Gallagher – You would think that the properties that we're bonding for this year, even if we're not going to do it this year, those properties would be locked in at this year's interest rate. Is that correct?

Attorney Knaak – Yes.

Councilman Gallagher – So they still get this year's interest rate?

Attorney Knaak – Yes.

Mayor Geraghty – I think we should adjust the interest rate because we told the public that it would be 1.5% above the bonds. Legally, we can keep them on the assessment roll but I'm leaning towards taking them off.

Engineer Stewart – I think we want to be clear that we're delaying them, not taking them off. If you think that's a good way to follow, I think it would be appropriate for you to direct staff to proceed with a date for the hearings.

Attorney Knaak – I think you have two issues. The first has to do with the reduction overall to the interest rate. You would be doing an amendment that would apply to all of the properties that would result in a reduction to the interest rate.

There would be a separate hearing to deal with those parcels that are being delayed until 2014. It'd be two items on the same agenda.

Engineer Stewart – For the second hearing where we're addressing the delaying of those assessments, do we advise all of the property owners?

Attorney Knaak – You're only obliged to notify those who are directly affected.

Mayor Geraghty – I think you should work on setting that up. For the ones we're delaying, how much are we not getting in cash coming in? It's more that we're going to have to pay out. Ehlers knows this?

Admin. Hill – Yes, Ehlers has all of the numbers.

Mayor Geraghty – Does your 2.9% include the additional money?

Admin. Hill – For the levy?

Councilman Gallagher – The money that we're not getting for the assessments, we'll have to pay for that upfront.

Engineer Stewart – The people that are left are still paying 20% or over for this year's project

Mayor Geraghty – But I'm talking the cash flow for that first payment.

Engineer Stewart - 60% of the cash flow will happen this year and the other 40% are delayed a year. I appreciate your patience on this. It's not a usual thing to do but I think it's for the best.

Councilman Gallagher – The issue is that all of this work is caused by the subcontractor. We'll change the way we do our bidding process next year?

Engineer Stewart – Yes. I anticipate that the contractor will begin in the early part of next week. We'll put together another newsletter to issue next week.

Councilman Gallagher – Can the Council get a copy of the newsletter?

Mayor Geraghty – I had a few comments from people that they didn't know to pay within 30 days to not have interest so I had asked Renee to send out a letter last week.

Councilman Sumner – Do we expect worksite conflicts between Xcel and our contractor?

Engineer Stewart – I sent out a letter last week to Xcel that they were doing things that we had not planned for in our contract and that they would need to refund us for the cost of repairing that.

Councilman Sumner – When will they be done?

Superintendent Hanson – One to two weeks.

Councilman Ingemann – When they moved the mailboxes, I'm assuming the Post Office was made aware of it because some people are saying they weren't aware.

Engineer Stewart – We had an agreement with the contractor not to move the mailboxes until next Monday but somehow they got moved.

14. SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT –

Superintendent Hanson – We started work on the Veterans’ Memorial in Pioneer Park. If you noticed, today is Mr. Neska’s 18th year with us. I thank him for all of his hard work and dedication.

15. NEW/OLD BUSINESS

16. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Gallagher, seconded by Ingemann, to adjourn the regular Council Meeting at 7:28 P.M. With 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, the motion carried.

Signed: _____
Tim Geraghty, Mayor

Respectfully Submitted,

Renee Helm
Executive Analyst



Red Rock Corridor Alternatives Analysis Update

September 5, 2013

Outline

- Where we are in the process
- What public input has indicated to date
- Review goals and objectives
- Review alternatives
- Review initial evaluation of alternatives
- Future steps and directions

Alternatives Analysis Process/Steps

1. Review Previous Studies	Complete	Feb-Apr
2. Initial Public Input	Complete	Feb-Apr
3. Goals & Objectives	Complete	Apr-May
4. Alternatives Development	Complete	May-Jun
5. Analysis of Alternatives	Complete	Jun-Aug
6. Additional Public Input	Upcoming	Sep-Oct
7. Recommend Alternative	Upcoming	Oct/Nov
8. Implementation Plan/Report	Upcoming	Nov/Dec

What Public Input has Indicated

Top Five Characteristics for Transit:

Meeting Results

1. Reliable Schedule
2. Availability Throughout the Day
3. Speed of Service
4. Frequency of Service
5. Vehicle Comfort and Amenities

On-Line Survey Results

1. Speed of Service
2. Availability Throughout the Day
3. Reliable Schedule
4. Frequency of Service
5. Automobile Parking at Stations



PROBLEM STATEMENT AND GOALS AND OBJECTIVES



Problem Statement

The 2007 Red Rock Alternatives Analysis focused heavily on issues related to peak hour mobility

Additional analysis is needed to better understand current and future transit markets in the corridor

Communities between St. Paul and Red Wing do not have all-day transit service

Reason for the AAU is to investigate the off-peak/all day transit service with more access to communities

Goals & Objectives

1. MOBILITY:

Provide Mode Choice and Service Plan that Meets the Demonstrated and Forecasted Needs of Corridor Communities

Objectives

- Time competitive with autos
- Reliable
- All day service
- Maximize ridership
- Connected regionally

Goals & Objectives

2. COST

Cost Effectively Address Transportation Problems in the Corridor

Objectives

- Comparable operating costs
- Comparable capital costs
- Coordinated with other transit projects, but not dependent on them

Goals & Objectives

3. DEVELOPMENT

Increase Opportunities for Community and Economic Development Throughout the Corridor

Objectives

- Support TOD
- Support businesses by increasing access
- Increase connectivity to employment centers

Goals & Objectives

4. ENVIRONMENT

Improve Quality of Natural and Built Environment

Objectives

- Limit adverse impacts
- Reduce emissions
- Equitably distribute impacts across population groups
- Address safety issues

ALTERNATIVES

The Alternatives

1. No Build (Current Conditions)
2. Express Bus – new route from Red Wing to Minneapolis
3. Bus Rapid Transit – Between Hastings and Union Depot
4. Commuter Rail – Red Wing to Minneapolis via Union Depot

1: No Build (Current Conditions)

- Service:
 - Continue #361, #364, and #365
 - Frequency increases due to increased demand
- Coverage:
 - Cottage Grove, Newport, Lower Afton Road, Union Depot, and Downtown Minneapolis
- New Infrastructure:
 - None



-  Bus Route 361
-  Bus Route 364
-  Bus Route 365

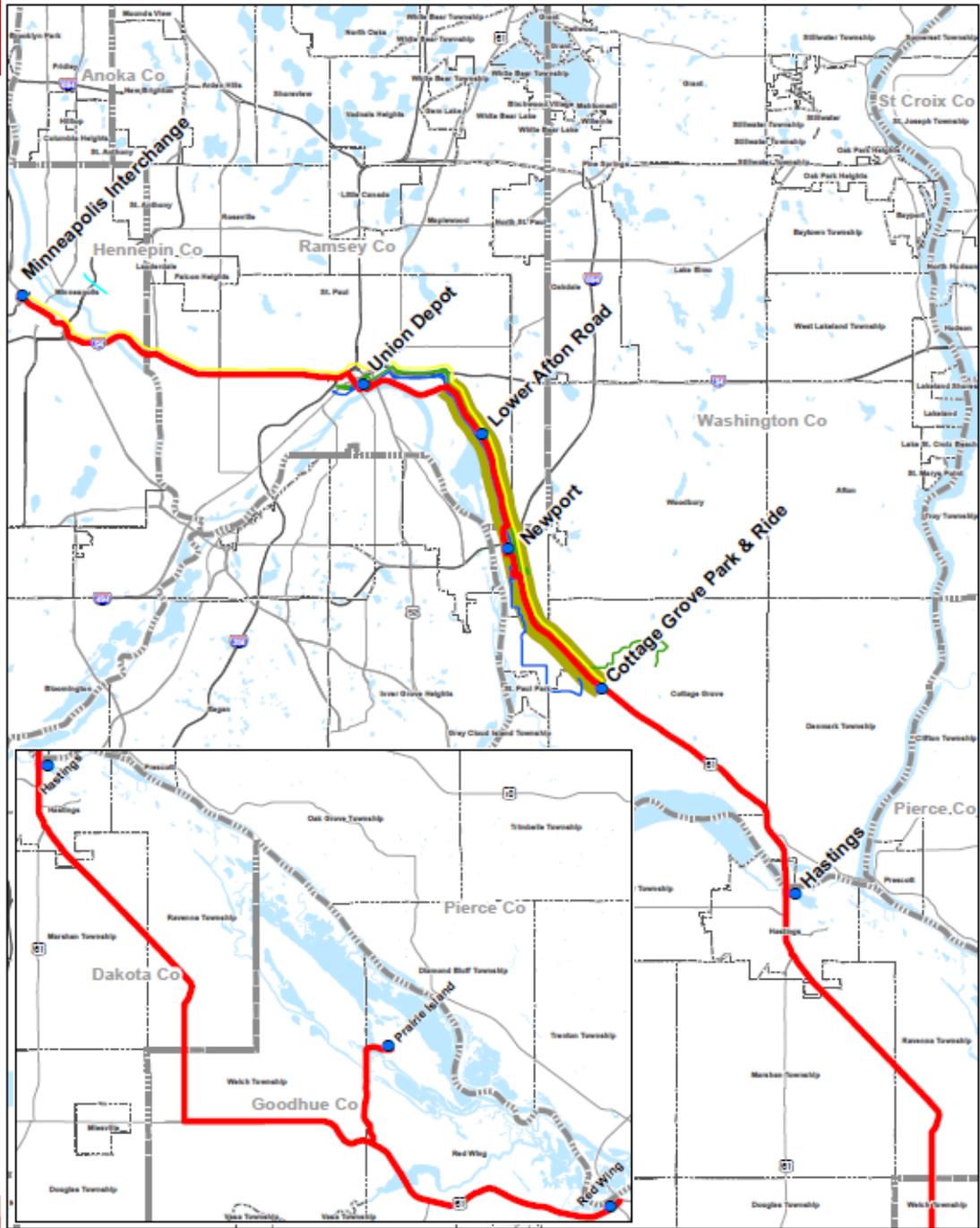
No Build Option

Red Rock Corridor



2: Express Bus

- Service:
 - Continue #361, #364, and #365
 - Add new express route in peak periods to provide service at stations in the Corridor that are not currently served
- Coverage:
 - New peak service stops at Red Wing, Prairie Island, Hastings, Newport, Union Depot, and Minneapolis
- New Infrastructure:
 - Coach buses
 - Bus-only shoulder lanes in congested areas



- Limited Stop Overlay (does not serve Cottage Grove and Lower Afton stations)
- Bus Route 361
- Bus Route 364
- Bus Route 365
- Bus-Only Shoulder Lanes

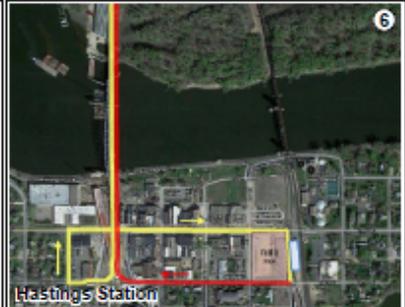
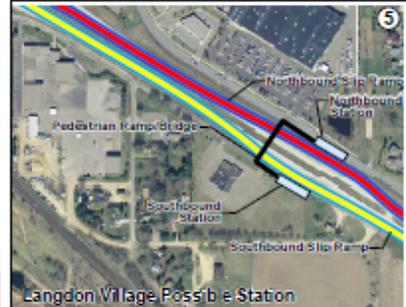
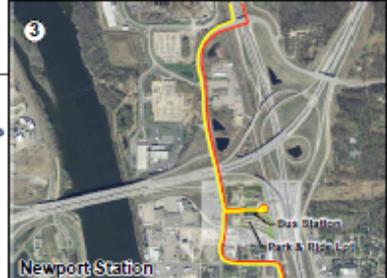
Express Bus Option

Red Rock Corridor



3: Bus Rapid Transit

- **Service:**
 - # 361, #364 and #365 remain in service
 - Service every 15 minutes
- **Coverage:**
 - Hastings, Cottage Grove, Newport, Lower Afton, Union Depot
- **New infrastructure:**
 - Infrastructure to provide direct access to stations in Cottage Grove and Lower Afton Road
 - BRT buses and stations
 - Bus-only shoulder lanes in congested areas



-  BRT Alignment
-  Bus Only Shoulder Lanes
-  Southbound BRT Alignment
-  Northbound BRT Alignment

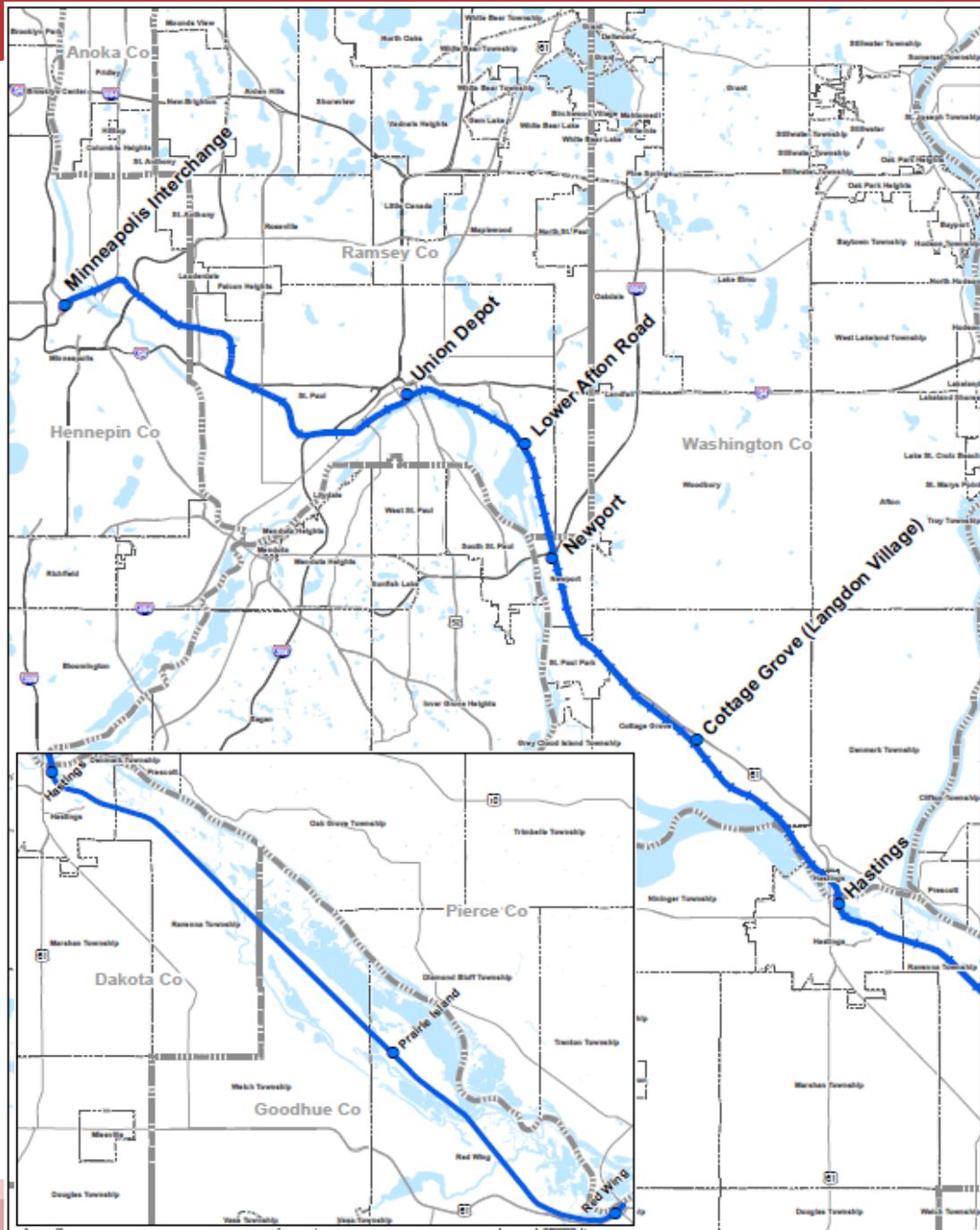
Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Options

Red Rock Corridor



4: Commuter Rail:

- Service
 - 10 trips per day in the peak periods every 30 minutes in peak direction
 - #361, #364 and #365 discontinued
- Coverage:
 - Red Wing, Prairie Island, Hastings, Cottage Grove, Newport, Lower Afton, Union Depot, Minneapolis
- New infrastructure:
 - Track improvements and new stations



Commuter Rail Option

Red Rock Corridor





EVALUATION MEASURES



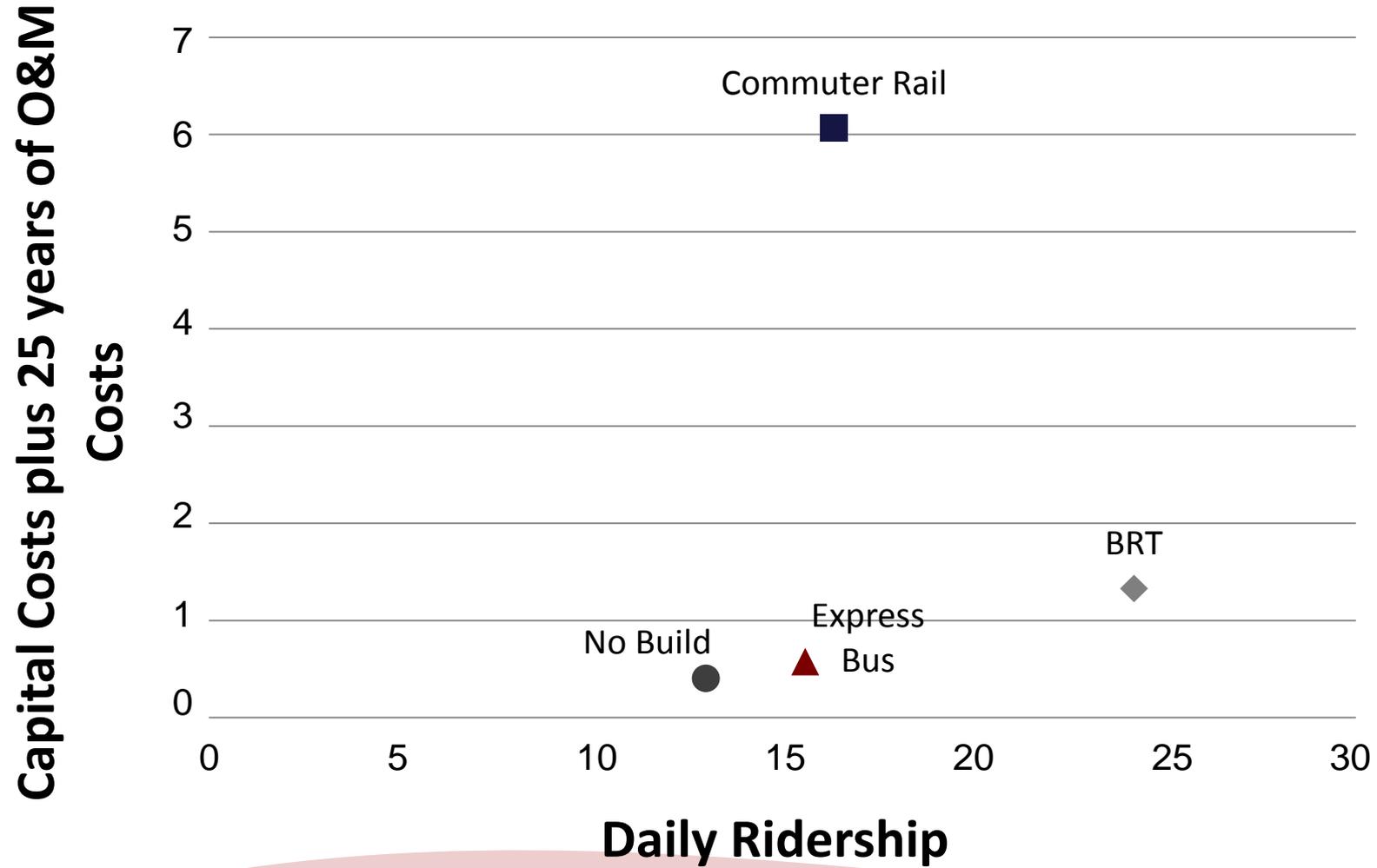
Evaluation Measures

Need to consider multiple factors

- Ridership comparison to costs over 25 years (both capital and operating costs)
- Funding potential
 - How the alternatives perform compared to other transit in the region that has been funded
 - Is there a local or federal funding potential
- Goals and objectives evaluation
 - Each goal separately
 - PMT recommendation: overall evaluation should be based on weighting to put more emphasis on mobility and cost



Cost vs. Ridership



Initial Evaluation

Express Bus

- Corridor will continue to have strong peak period ridership
- Ridership south of Hastings is not strong
- No existing funding model to increase service in corridor, especially south of Cottage Grove
- Increasing express bus service between Hastings and St. Paul/Minneapolis could continue to be a good first step



Initial Evaluation

Bus Rapid Transit

- BRT is emerging as a viable option based on the 2030 ridership numbers and established goals
- BRT could potentially be a Small Starts project – local funding share may need to be higher
- BRT has promising development potential because of the all-day service
- Newport Station and Cottage Grove are high ridership generators



Initial Evaluation

Commuter Rail

- 2030 ridership numbers would not be competitive in the federal New Starts process
- Based on East Metro Rail Capacity Study, it is now understood that commuter rail's operating characteristics necessitate significant rail improvements
- Ridership south of Hastings is not strong



Future Steps and Directions

- Additional Public Input
 - Citizen Advisory Committee (late Sept)
 - Park-n-Ride Engagement (late Sept/early Oct)
 - Present at Corridor Boards/Councils/Commissions (Sept/Oct)
- PMT will review all input and prepare a technical recommendation for the Commission's consideration (Oct/Nov)

Questions?

Lyssa Leitner

Planner, Public Works

651-430-4314

Lyssa.Leitner@co.washington.mn.us

