



**HIGHWAY 55 CORRIDOR COALITION
Full Membership Meeting**

Friday, April 14th, 2023 - 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

City of Independence Community Room

1920 County Rd 90, Independence, MN 55359

Hybrid Meeting - In-person and Virtual Meeting Options

AGENDA

1. **Call the meeting to order** – Chair Kent Koch called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

2. **Introduction** - Chair Kent Koch provided a brief welcome to in-person and virtual meeting attendees and noted that the Coalition has a few new officers as a result of the December Coalition meeting elections. Those in attendance included:
 - Marvin Johnson, Mayor of Independence
 - Kent Koch, Mayor of Loretto
 - Nadine Schoen, Wright County Commissioner
 - Linda Betts, City of Independence
 - Chad Hausmann, Wright County
 - Dan McNiel, SRF Consulting
 - Andy Mielke, SRF Consulting
 - Chad Ellos, Hennepin County
 - Dennis Beise, Rockford Township
 - Tom McKee, City of Corcoran
 - Kelly Grissman, Three Rivers Park District
 - Brad Johnson, City of Greenfield
 - Bill Emory, Commissioner Fernando’s Office
 - Adam Harrington, Met Council
 - Kevin Brisk, MN State Patrol
 - *Emma Youngquist, Rep. Dean Phillips’ Office
 - *Bradley Bobbit, Met Council
 - *Scott Johnson, City of Medina
 - *Chris McKenzie, City of Plymouth
 - *Tony Fischer, Met Council
 - *Judy Johnson, Met Council
 - *Darren Nelson, MnDOT District 3
 - *Lynn Kissock, City of Maple Lake
 - *Renee Eckerly, City of Maple Lake
 - *Kevin Anderson, Hennepin Co. Commissioner
 - *Renee Hafften, Mayor of Rockford

3. **Approve draft Meeting Minutes from December 9, 2022** - Motion by Mayor Marvin Johnson, second by Commissioner Kevin Anderson to approve the December 9, 2022, meeting minutes. Roll call of Coalition members in attendance. Motion approved.

4. **Financial Report** – Chad Hausmann provided an overview of the April 14, 2023, Financial Report. The Coalition has a current balance of approximately \$29,300.
 - Motion to accept Financial Report by Mayor Marvin Johnson, second by Chad Ellos. Roll call of Coalition members in attendance. Motion approved.

*Denotes virtual attendance via Zoom

5. Coalition Activities

- Chair Kent Koch shared an update regarding Coalition's Corridors of Commerce application and provided a brief presentation regarding the Coalition's priority project to reconstruct Hwy 55 from CR 118 to CR 19, with two-lane to four-lane expansion.
 - The Coalition is pursuing funding for this project through the Corridors of Commerce grant process as well as legislative funding. Chair Kent Koch plans to provide testimony to the Senate Transportation Committee on Monday, April 17.
 - The Highway 55 Corridor Coalition, in partnership with coalition membership, is requesting funding for reconstruction of Highway 55 from a two-lane undivided to a four-lane divided roadway in Hennepin County from Arrowhead Drive in the City of Medina to County Road (CR) 19 north of Loretto.
 - The Project is greatly supported by Coalition membership and communities along the corridor as it provides safe and efficient movement of goods, services, and people to support local and regional commerce.
 - The Coalition's funding request is for construction, right-of-way, and engineering, with expansion to a divided four-lane roadway with a center median.
 - The requested funds will accelerate the growth of the local and regional economy by improving the movement of freight and reducing barriers to commerce, reducing vehicle travel time and congestion, and improving vehicle safety.
 - The project would be designed to accommodate future plans to provide Bus Rapid Transit on Hwy 55.
 - The project would also include an improved pedestrian trail crossing near CR 19 along the Lake Independence Trail managed by Three Rivers Park District.

6. Legislative Updates Regarding Hwy 55 Corridor

- Federal
 - Emma Youngquist, from Representative Dean Phillips' office, provided a brief introduction to the Coalition as District Director for Rep. Phillip's office. Andy Mielke offered to schedule a brief introductory meeting with Chair Kent Koch and Emma Youngquist to share more information about the Hwy 55 Corridor Coalition, membership, and priority projects.
- State
 - State elected officials were unable to attend the Coalition membership meeting during the ongoing legislative session. The Coalition is pursuing funding for its priority project through the Corridors of Commerce grant process as well as through potential legislative funding. Chair Kent Koch noted he plans to provide testimony to the Senate Transportation Committee on Monday, April 17.

7. MnDOT / County / Community Updates Regarding Hwy 55 Corridor

- MnDOT
 - Darren Nelson (MnDOT District 3) noted District 3 covers Highway 55 west of Rockville. There are plans to complete the remaining portions of Highway 55 work in Annandale, with a full reconstruction project planned for 2025. This work will occur on the 55 corridor all throughout Annadale and includes the addition of a center left turn lane and closure at a few access points on the east side of town.
 - There are also plans for a future bridge replacement on Highway 55 on the northwest side of Paynesville.
- Met Council
 - Tony Fischer noted the Met Council is currently working on a Transportation Policy Plan which is expected to be completed in November of 2023. The Met Council plans to provide Regional Solicitation funding with applications due sometime before the end of the year. The Regional Solicitation funds include 80% federal money with a \$10 million dollar cap on projects.

- Judy Johnson noted that east of the Highway 55 corridor a \$15 million dollar RAISE grant was awarded to the City of Plymouth for CR 73/Hwy 55 safety improvements, including an underpass under Hwy 55.
 - County
 - Chad Ellos (Hennepin County) noted Hennepin County plans CR 19 pavement preservation work (chipseal) north of Hwy 55 in 2023. The County will also work to replace culverts on CR 19 south of Hwy 55 in 2023 with a deeper pavement fix south of TH 55 planned for 2024.
 - Commissioner Kevin Anderson (Hennepin County) noted that Hennepin County is involved in Hwy 55 Bus Rapid Transit improvements and has been raising awareness with state elected officials regarding Hwy 55 improvements in future funding bills.
 - Chad Hausmann (Wright County) noted Wright County has long-term plans to eliminate the skew at the intersection of CSAH 32 and TH 55.
 - Local Government
 - Chris McKenzie, City of Plymouth, noted plans to resurface Highway 55 in 2024 through Plymouth to Old Rockford Road. The project will include access issues, drainage/culverts, traffic impacts. Chris also noted the \$15 million dollar RAISE grant was awarded to the City of Plymouth for CR 73/Hwy 55 safety improvements (Station 73).
 - Mayor Lynn Kissock, City of Maple Lake, noted the city plans to study pedestrian safety improvements, including Highway 55 crossings and pathways along Highway 55. The City of Maple Lake will look to coordinate further with the Coalition as this study gets underway.
 - Scott Johnson, City of Medina, noted ongoing plans for business developments for Adam's Pest Control corporate campus on the north side of Highway 55, west of Willow Drive. The City of Medina provided a letter of support for the upcoming legislative testimony.
8. **Establish the next full membership meeting date and time and tentative 2023 meeting schedule.**
- Chair Kent Koch, noted that dates listed on the meeting agenda were incorrectly noted, correct dates for upcoming meetings are listed below.
 - Friday, August 11, 2023, at 9:30 am (tentative)
 - Friday, December 8, 2023, at 9:30 am
9. **Adjourn** – Motion to adjourn meeting by Mayor Kent Koch, second by Mayor Marvin Johnson. Meeting adjourned at 10:18 a.m.



HIGHWAY 55

CORRIDOR COALITION

www.highway55.org

Preserving the 55 Corridor from I-494 to Annandale, Minnesota

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