



**HIGHWAY 55 CORRIDOR COALITION
Full Membership Meeting Summary**

April 10, 2026 - 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
City of Independence Community Room
In-person and Virtual Meeting
Meeting minutes: Dan McNiel, SRF Consulting

AGENDA

1. **Call the meeting to order** – Chair Kent Koch called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.
2. **Introduction** -- Chair Kent Koch provided a brief welcome to in-person and virtual meeting attendees. Those in attendance included:
 - Kent Koch, City of Loretto
 - Chad Hausmann, Wright County
 - Chad Ellos, Hennepin County
 - Marvin Johnson, Highway 55 Coalition Officer Emeritus
 - Kelly Grissman, Three Rivers Park District
 - Marge Beard, Three Rivers Park District
 - Christina Perfetti, MnDOT Metro District
 - Rob Wald, City of Greenfield
 - Dan McNiel, SRF Consulting
 - Aaron Vacek, SRF Consulting
 - *Nadine Schoen, Wright County Commissioner
 - *Kevin Anderson, Hennepin County Commissioner
 - *Tina Diedrick, Wright County Commissioner
 - *Michelle Manivel, Representative Kelly Morrison’s Office
 - *Sen. Eric Lucero, SD-30
 - *Darren Nelson, MnDOT District 3
 - *Todd Albers, City of Medina
 - *Ben Vandeputte, City of Greenfield
 - *Troy Biese, Rockford Township
 - *Trooper Andrew Thelen, MN State Patrol
 - *Dusty Finke, City of Medina
 - *Chris McKenzie, City of Plymouth
 - *Michael Thompson, City of Plymouth
 - *Erin Barnhart, City of Medina
3. **Approve draft Meeting Minutes of December 12, 2025** - Motion by Marvin Johnson, second by Chad Ellos to approve the December 12, 2025, meeting minutes. Roll call of Coalition members in attendance. Motion approved.

*Denotes virtual attendance via Zoom



4. **Hwy 55 Medina to Corcoran Study update** – Presented by Aaron Vacek, SRF Consulting Group

- The project includes an evaluation of the Hwy 55 corridor, environmental review, and preliminary design for approximately a 4-mile project area from Medina to Corcoran.
 - Phase 1 (Winter - Summer 2026) – Corridor Evaluation and Recommended Alternatives
 - Phase 2 (Summer 2026 – Spring 2027) – State and Federal Environmental Review
 - Phase 3 (Fall 2026 – Summer 2027) – Preliminary Design of a Preferred Alternative
- Prior Studies, Plans, Documents and Guidance have been gathered and reviewed.
- Demographic and Land Use data has been reviewed and is being used to build the existing and proposed traffic models.
- Environmental Scan and Livability Analysis is being completed and will be submitted in April for MnDOT’s review.
- Three Rivers Park District followed up after the meeting to provide trail count and projection data, as well as Hwy 55 trail crossing concept plans that provide an approximate cost estimate for a grade-separated trail crossing.
- Question if the study understands potential right-of-way impacts on Hwy 55?
 - Aaron noted, not at this point in the process, but we’ll likely understand this in more detail during Phase 2 (late 2026 or early 2027).
- Question regarding the typical roadway width on Hwy 55.
 - Aaron noted roadway width varies throughout the corridor, after the meeting Aaron reviewed the right of way mapping, and it typically ranges from 150 to 200 feet.
- Dan McNiel provided an update on Community Engagement opportunities, noting the study will be engaging residents this summer via a public open house, pop-ups at local community events as well as promoting a study website and online comment map. Coalition members are encouraged to help spread the word and reach out with potential pop-up engagement opportunities.
 - Three Rivers Park District followed up after the meeting to provide a point of contact for planning a trailside pop-up event and suggestions for other engagement opportunities.

5. **Legislative Updates**

- Representative Kelly Morrison’s Office – Michelle Manivel thanked the Coalition for its advocacy and noted Rep. Morrison’s willingness to support the Coalition.
- Senator Eric Lucero – Shared greetings and noted he had no significant updates to share with the Coalition. The Minnesota Legislature is wrapping up committee work the week of April 13 and the rest of the session will transition to floor action.



- Sen. Lucero was asked about the status of Corridors of Commerce funding, noting he doesn't have all the details but he's hopeful this effort will receive bi-partisan support and pass with final approvals.

6. Agency Updates

- MnDOT Metro – Christina Perfetti - 2031 Pavement improvement project from I-494 and Fernbrook Lane to the Wright/Hennepin County line. The project scope includes a mill and overlay for the Crow River Bridge in Rockford and will also incorporate other enhancements beyond the pavement work.
- Reconnecting Neighborhoods and Communities Grant study on Highway 55 has extended project limits from Theo Wirth Parkway to Arrowhead Drive. The study limits previously extended west to Brockton Lane. MnDOT anticipates an RFP release this Spring with a tentative project kick-off in early Fall 2026.
- MnDOT District 3 – Darren Nelson - noted nothing significant planned for the Highway 55 corridor. There will be upcoming work on Trunk Highway 25 north of Hwy 55, including a full depth reclamation from Buffalo to Monticello (TH 25) in 2026. MnDOT will be adding a couple of roundabouts as part of this project.
- Hennepin County – Chad Ellos – Noted Hennepin County road and bridge rehab work includes County Road 123 from County Road 10 to County Road 19 in 2026. In 2027, pavement rehab project is planned for Pioneer Trail (County Road 123) from Woodland Trail (County Road 10) to 109th Avenue (County Road 19). Future roadway work is planned on CR 50 from CR 19 to Hwy 55 in 2028.
- Wright County – Chad Haussman - Noted the county is pursuing funding for safety improvements at Hwy 55 and CR 14 just east of Buffalo, seeking to improve vehicle turning movements near a rail crossing.
- Three Rivers Park District – Kelly Grissman noted concept plans have been developed for a grade-separated trail crossing between Tamarack Drive and Arrowhead Drive. These improvements are not scheduled for implementation. The Park District has also been working on Lake Rebecca trail upgrades, with plans for a trail crossing of the Crow River at Bridge Street.
- City of Plymouth - Chris McKenzie - Noted the city has been working on a small areal plan near the SE corner of I-494 and Hwy 55. The Station 73 TRIP (Transit and Regional Improvement Program) work is largely complete, including realigning some local connections in this area. The City of Plymouth has been coordinating with MnDOT regarding scoping for the Reconnecting Neighborhoods and Communities study.
- City of Medina – Dusty Finke – Noted the Wayzata School District referendum on April 14 has the potential to approve construction of an elementary school and middle school at a location adjacent to Hwy 55 and Tamarack Drive. A 757 (bus) route has begun convening TAC meetings for a pilot route through Golden Valley and Plymouth, expected to be an active route in 2027.



HIGHWAY 55

CORRIDOR COALITION

www.highway55.org

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

7. **Financial Report** - Chad Hausmann noted that 2026 Coalition membership dues were mailed to members in mid-March. Please reach out if there are any questions regarding membership dues.
 - The Coalition has seen good retention after adjusting dues amount for the first time in 2025. In addition to supporting ongoing Coalition activities, the funds will help the Coalition pursue grant opportunities.
8. **2026 meeting schedule***
 - Friday, December 11, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.
 - *Note, other meetings may be scheduled as needed in conjunction with the Hwy 55 Medina to Corcoran Study
9. **Adjourn** - Motion to adjourn meeting by Marvin Johnson, second by Chad Ellos. Roll call of Coalition members in attendance. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.