

Roseville Public Works, Environment and Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 23, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers, 2660 Civic Center Drive
Roseville, Minnesota 55113

1. Introduction / Roll Call

Chair Ficek called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. and at his request, Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer called the roll.

Present: Chair Bryant Ficek; Vice Chair Edwin Hodder; Members Jarrod Cicha, Daniel Fergus, Allison Luongo, Des Mueller and Sarah Rudolf; and Youth Commissioners Carson Bauer and Alexi Jendro

Absent: None

Staff Present: Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer; and Environmental Manager Ryan Johnson

2. Swearing in of New Commissioners

Chair Ficek performed the Oath of Office on Youth Commissioners Bauer and Jendro.

3. Public Comments

None.

4. Approval of March 26, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Comments and corrections to draft minutes had been submitted by PWETC commissioners prior to tonight's meeting and those revisions incorporated into the draft presented in meeting materials.

Motion

Member Hodder moved, Member Cicha seconded, approval of the March 26, 2024 meeting minutes as presented.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

5. Communication Items

Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer provided a brief review and update on projects and maintenance activities listed in the staff report dated April 23, 2024.

6. 2024 Eureka Recycling Update

Environmental Manager Johnson introduced Ms. Joanna Stone from Eureka Recycling who gave the Planning Commission an update on the 2024 recycling plan.

Member Rudolph indicated she was glad to hear that dirty things, such as greasy pizza boxes, are okay to recycle, but she was also wondering how clean the recycling here in Roseville is.

Ms. Stone explained having each individual thing clean is nice but not as critical for the system itself and for the recycling. She noted a little bit of food and grease is okay, but do not leave large amounts in the containers, those items need to go in the trash and not the recycle bin. She explained grease and small amounts of food will get burned off in the next step of the recycling process. She noted Eureka is more concerned about contamination, which is plastic bags, batteries and scrap metal than food.

Member Fergus thought participation rate seemed great, but he wondered about the balance between participation and what is put in the recycling.

Ms. Stone explained Eureka relies on the educational aspect of recycling rather than inspection at every home.

Member Fergus asked Ms. Stone if she had a sense that people are doing quite well with the recycling process.

Ms. Stone indicated she did think people are recycling their items properly.

Member Mueller indicated Ms. Stone touched on the pouches and manufacturers switching things up and she has been noticing with different products that are smaller and can only be used once so she wondered from Eureka's perspective what are the thoughts on this.

Ms. Stone explained the different packaging is making things confusing for everyone. It would be easier to have uniform products, so everyone knew what was recyclable and what is not.

Chair Ficek indicated he was curious with the participation numbers if the numbers would increase if the recycling pick up changed to weekly. He was curious about Ms. Stone's view on weekly versus bi-weekly.

Ms. Stone thought the question was if there would be resident convenience because people do call Eureka Recycling asking when their pickup week is. She thought there could be a little bit of increase regarding participation but not a drastic change and it would increase the cost of the service to the residents.

Chair Ficek thanked Ms. Stone for the presentation.

7. Ramsey County Ditch 4 Construction Soils Study Award

Environmental Manager Johnson reviewed the Ramsey County Ditch 4 Construction Soils Study award the City received.

Member Rudolph wondered if this process will be used elsewhere in the city now that staff knows it works.

Mr. Johnson explained the City does a lot to compost in their projects anyway. This one was just special, and the timing just worked out in order to make all of this work. Staff usually adds a different type of topsoil mix that is already modified with compost. He indicated other cities have commented and asked questions on this type of project because it can stay on a slope.

Member Rudolph indicated she liked the volunteer aspect of this project.

Member Mueller asked with the ground being so impacted was anything needed to correct that before starting the project.

Mr. Johnson explained the compost was placed directly on top of the ground without anything being done beforehand. He reviewed other places that this application could be used within the city for minimal maintenance.

Chair Ficek thanked Mr. Johnson for the update.

8. Bike Plan Update

Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer gave an update on the City's bike plan.

Mr. Freihammer asked the Commission if there were any questions or comments on the goals or additional goals or should the goals be changed.

Chair Ficek explained being a part of the initial meeting he answered some of these, so he was really looking for other people to comment. He noted the link has a survey and interactive map where there is a sign up for updates.

Member Fergus thought educating both bikers and car drivers and walkers was important because he gets confused when biking on the trail. He thought it would help if there was an effort to educate people.

Member Rudolph believed it was last month where the Commission talked about the Roseville Strategic Plan and she wondered about and thought it might be nice to call out, because she thought the reason to have the bike plan is to achieve a greater quality of life for residents and guests and seems to be or should be a part of the strategic plan.

Mr. Freihammer explained on Monday night Council approved an RFP for a consultant to help with the strategic planning process and also adopted the Envision Roseville Aspirations discussed. The process is starting but he had a feeling staff will be done with the bike plan before that process wraps up but that is certainly something that is a good talking point when staff does the strategic planning.

Chair Ficek noted Envision Roseville was a part of the background documents on this.

Mr. Freihammer continued with question two of the bike plan, “Are there specific measures of success for the development and/or implementation of the Bike Plan we should consider?”

Member Luongo wondered if there was any value in counting bike trips.

Mr. Freihammer explained he was not aware of the City having any bike counts and he knew there is not any money in the budget to implement that, but could be a long-term thing to try to get some data.

Mr. Freihammer indicated staff is working with Roseville Communication to identify individuals, groups, and events where the City can connect with the public regarding the bike plan, and he asked the Commission for suggestions.

Chair Ficek asked the Youth Commissioners if it would be beneficial for the City to talk to the schools about the bike plan to try to get the word out.

Member Jendro thought it might be beneficial because some students live by the school and bike to school. She thought it might be a good idea.

Member Bauer agreed and thought it might be beneficial to talk about the bike plan at an assembly at school which might sway people to bike more.

Member Rudolph thought there could be laminated QR codes on bike racks at parks and other areas around the city to inform people about the bike plan.

Member Fergus wondered if the Commission could get a sense of the number of students from the high school and middle school that bike to/from school now and in a couple years.

Mr. Freihammer indicated some of the schools do track that information, he just was not sure if it is just for bikers or for walkers as well. Staff could tap into that for information.

Member Luongo noted there is an association called BikeMN and she thought that staff could reach out to that organization to see if anyone in Roseville participates in that.

Mr. Freihammer concluded the bike plan presentation.

9. County Road C 4:3 Conversion Project Presentation

Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer reviewed the County Road C 4:3 conversion project with the Commission.

Chair Ficek indicated the speed limit is 40 MPH and he wondered if this will be looked at.

Mr. Freihammer anticipated that will be look at and have done others recently. If bike lanes are put in place that will be an automatic thing to look at. This was not commented on at the meeting.

Chair Ficek asked regarding the intersections if these will remain all-way stops at the key locations.

Mr. Freihammer indicated at the Victoria intersection a roundabout is very much an option in the future, but for the current project these will still be signed as all-way stops. The County is looking long term to either put a signal at the intersection or a roundabout. The railroad is a little bit of a caveat with these intersections. He personally thought a roundabout would work well at that intersection and will be done at their evaluation portion of the project.

Member Fergus indicated other than consideration of the speed limit and it may have to change, are there any negatives to making the shoulder a bike lane.

Mr. Freihammer explained offhand there is not, it is just a signing and striping thing, but the County typically leaves it open as a blank slate and can be easily added or removed.

Chair Ficek thanked Mr. Freihammer for the update.

10. Future Agenda Items

Discussion ensued regarding future agenda items:

- MS 4 Annual meeting in May
- Trout Brook Interceptor Flood Analysis in May
- Civic Campus Master Plan Update in May
- Prep for the Joint Council meeting in June

- Public Safety Update in June
- Pavement Management Funding – Asset Management in June
- Joint Council meeting follow-up/update Work Plan in July
- Transit/Micro Transit update at a future meeting
- Tour the SPRWS Water Plant at a future meeting

Chair Ficek liked the idea of the tour of the water plant and a topic that could be brought up is PFAS, which should not affect them.

Mr. Freihammer explained this has been in the news and the City has received many calls about it. The City has to do an annual water report, and, in the report, there will be some information about PFAS.

Member Luongo asked if the Commission could tour the Rosedale Transit Center.

Chair Ficek thought that was a good idea.

11. Adjourn

Motion

Member Rudolph moved, Member Fergus seconded, adjournment of the meeting at approximately 8:17 p.m.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion carried.