

Roseville Public Works, Environment and Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 22, 2025, 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. At his request, Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer called the roll.

Present: Chair Bryant Ficek; Vice Chair Edwin Hodder; Members Jarrod Cicha, Allison Luongo, Des Mueller; and Youth Commissioner Carson Bauer

Absent: Members Daniel Fergus, Sarah Rudolf; and Youth Commissioner Alexi Jendro (Excused)

Staff Present: Assistant Public Works Director/City Engineer Jennifer Lowry, and Sustainability Specialist Noelle Bakken

2. Public Comments

3. Approval of March 18, 2025, 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

Vice Chair Hodder moved, Member Ficek seconded, approval of the March 18, 2025, meeting minutes as presented.

Ayes: 3

Nays: 0

Abstain: Luongo, Mueller

Motion carried.

4. Communication Items

Assistant Public Works Director/City Engineer Jennifer Lowry provided a brief review and update on projects and maintenance activities listed in the staff report dated April 17, 2025.

Ms. Lowry updated the Commission on the maintenance operation center and several projects out to bid. She indicated the bike plan demo project was scheduled for May 12-19, and the multimodal study for TH 36 was pending. She mentioned applications for the Met Council Equity Focus Water Efficiency Grant programs and the encumbrance of \$53,000 for the private sewer I&I grant.

Sustainability Specialist Bakken discussed climate action planning, Green To Go Ordinance implementation, and a native plant sale. She highlighted her upcoming presentation on climate action planning at the early May council meeting. The Green To Go Ordinance implementation would involve weekly meetings with restaurants and quarterly meetings with other metro cities. She noted the native plant sale will be open through May 15, with pickups on May 31 at the maintenance garage. She indicated she would be at the Ramsey County Environmental Center open house, promoting recycling and reuse at the Anpétu Téča sustainability event.

Ms. Lowry provided maintenance updates, including lifting road restrictions and opening the leaf site. She indicated that 80 employees from Hawkins Chemical Company participated in a volunteer event that collected over 2,500 pounds of trash along Rosegate. She mentioned the planned council actions, including a public hearing for another wave of vacations.

Vice Chair Hodder commented on the fiber optic installations on his street.

Ms. Lowry discussed the ramping up of fiber optic projects in the western suburbs.

5. Dark Skies – U of M Sustainability Class

Sustainability Specialist Noelle Bakken introduced University of Minnesota Dark Skies group members.

Krystal Jankowski, Ainsley Kennedy, Emerson Lindley from the University of Minnesota presented on reducing light pollution in Roseville.

The presentation covered the definition of dark sky communities, the benefits of becoming one, and the current state of Roseville's lighting ordinances. The students provided examples of other dark sky communities and discussed the challenges and potential solutions for Roseville.

Commission members discussed the impact of light pollution on community health and wildlife and the potential for implementing dark sky standards in Roseville.

Chair Ficek and the Commission thanked the students for the presentation.

6. Deferred Assessment Policy Update

Assistant Public Works Director/City Engineer Jennifer Lowry updated the Commission on the Deferred Assessment policy.

Ms. Lowry discussed the need to update the deferred assessment policy to include military service as a reason for deferral. She noted that the current 1981 resolution did not include military service and that updates are needed to align with state statutes. She presented examples of other cities' deferral policies and discussed the administrative process for evaluating deferral requests.

The Commission discussed the criteria for financial hardship and the potential need to update the resolution to include more inclusive language.

7. Hamline Pathway Update

Assistant Public Works Director/City Engineer Jennifer Lowry updated the Commission on the Hamline Pathway project, including the split cost with Ramsey County and the planned neighborhood meeting. She indicated the project involved storm sewer work, water main improvements, and pavement preservation, with construction scheduled for the fall. She outlined the proposed trail locations and the need for community input on concerns and potential impacts.

Commission members discussed the importance of clear communication and the potential need for additional signage and safety measures along the pathway.

Chair Ficek explained that any intersection was a legal crossing, leading to a debate on safety.

Member Mueller mentioned a crossing on Hamline Avenue.

Ms. Lowry clarified that the pathway was not just for legal crossings but also for safety.

Chair Ficek discussed the challenges of making high-speed intersections safe while maintaining legality.

Vice Chair Hodder and Member Mueller supported the idea of putting a pathway in Roseville.

Ms. Lowry explained the standard width of paths and the need for a boulevard for signs and snow storage.

Ms. Lowry discussed coordinating with the County's pavement preservation for minimal impact.

Chair Ficek agreed.

Ms. Lowry mentioned the need to address parking concerns and the potential impact on residents.

Member Mueller inquired about the cross-section and curb and gutter design.

Ms. Lowry explained the challenges of maintaining drainage and the need for grass boulevards.

Chair Ficek asked about the switch from the pathway's west side to the east side.

Ms. Lowry discussed the trade-offs of placing the pathway on the east side and the potential impact on commercial and park properties.

Chair Ficek suggested widening a sidewalk from County Road B2 to County Road C to fill a gap in the trail system.

Ms. Lowry explained the lack of funding for the project next year but acknowledged its importance.

Chair Ficek emphasized the need for a continuous trail connecting various city points.

Ms. Lowry noted the potential for future funding and the importance of addressing retail and school needs.

8. Future Agenda Items

Assistant Public Works Director/City Engineer Lowry outlined the agenda for May, including a recycling update and stormwater annual meeting. She mentioned the possibility of a Campus Master Plan update and a municipal safety plan pilot project with MnDOT.

May 2025

- Eureka Recycling Update
- Recycling Cart Update
- Stormwater Annual Meeting
- RCD 4 Soils Update
- Civic Campus Master Plan Update

June 2025

- Municipal Safety Plan
- Prep for Joint Council meeting

Future Topics

- Pavement Asset Management

Chair Ficek suggested planning tours and attending a joint city council meeting.

Member Luongo expressed interest in a tour of the Rosedale Transit Center.

Ms. Lowry discussed the multi-modal study for Hwy 36 and the potential changes to the transit center.

Chair Ficek suggested planning for the joint city council meeting and encouraged members to share their ideas and thoughts.

9. Adjourn

Motion

Vice Chair Hodder moved, Member Mueller seconded, and adjournment of the meeting at approximately 8:18 p.m.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion carried.