

Roseville Public Works, Environment and Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 24, 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. and at his request, Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer called the roll.

Present: Chair Bryant Ficek; Vice Chair Edwin Hodder; Members Daniel Fergus, Allison Luongo; and Youth Commissioner Carsten Bauer.

Absent: Members Jarrod Cicha and Des Mueller; Youth Commissioner Alexis Jendro (Excused)

Staff Present: Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer; Sustainability Intern Ness Carda; and Environmental Manager Ryan Johnson

2. Public Comments

None.

3. Approval of May 27, 2025, Meeting Minutes

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

Chair Ficek noted that the online agenda packet for the May 27, 2025, meeting had been amended.

Motion

Member Fergus moved, Vice Chair Hodder seconded, approval of the May 27, 2025, meeting minutes as amended.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

4. Communication Items

Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer gave a brief overview and update on projects and maintenance activities outlined in the staff report dated June 24, 2025.

Mr. Freihammer explained that the Lexington pathway is still awaiting easements but is expected to be bid on and constructed this year. He indicated that the Wagner Western pathway has the Tamarack section ready for bidding, with delays due to land swaps with the county, and the Dale/Owasso lift station is nearing completion, with only minor punch list items remaining. He noted that sewer televising has begun for the 2025 sewer cleaning and lining project, and a solar contract was awarded.

Mr. Freihammer explained that most of the work on the mill and overlay street was completed as part of the pavement management project, with reclaiming starting after July 4, 2025. Wayfinding signage is scheduled to go up later this fall, and intersection lighting projects are currently active. The bike plan demonstration project is underway, with feedback being collected.

Chair Ficek inquired about the delineators.

Mr. Freihammer confirmed that those would stay up during winter.

Chair Ficek and Vice Chair Hodder discussed the impact of the delineators on plowing and community feedback.

Mr. Freihammer emphasized the importance of gathering feedback on the bike plan pilot project.

Chair Ficek shared anecdotal observations on increased bike activity and plans to gather data before and after the pilot.

Mr. Freihammer emphasized the importance of monitoring community feedback on the pilot project. He updated the commission on various Ramsey County initiatives, including the Dale Street project and County Road improvements. He explained that MnDOT's Snelling project would be finished in 2026, with a continuous pathway from Highway 36 to Gray Fox Road.

Mr. Freihammer mentioned ongoing planning for the G line and flood mitigation projects. He noted that Roseville staff has been busy with Rosefest, including the parade and Touch a Truck event.

Mr. Freihammer provided updates on sustainability initiatives, including the local climate action planning grant from the MPCA. He indicated Pale Blue Dot Consulting was hired to facilitate the climate action planning, and the solar project and Climate Action Plan were awarded, with more updates expected.

Mr. Freihammer emphasized the importance of involving the commission in the climate action planning process.

5. Joint Council Meeting Prep

Chair Ficek and Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer discuss the upcoming joint meeting with the city council on July 21, 2025.

Chair Ficek proposed a format where commission members present their key projects and discuss council feedback.

The commission expressed interest in discussing the council's role in various projects, including the Green Team and flood mitigation.

Chair Ficek wondered if the joint meeting with the city council ever involved multiple commissions together.

Mr. Freihammer mentioned that there was a particular meeting he recalls that included multiple commissions, but joint meetings usually involve only one commission at a time. He suggested inviting other commissions to provide updates and discuss collaboration opportunities with the PWETC.

6. City Campus Master Plan Update

Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer provided a summary of the updated Civic Campus Master Plan, which was presented to the city council. He noted that the consultant conducted a facility condition assessment, rating the condition of existing buildings. The main central building is in good shape, while the North and East garages are in poor condition. He explained that the consultant proposed various options for the campus layout, including splitting the building and relocating the VFW.

7. Recycling Cart Update

Environmental Manager Ryan Johnson provided an update on the recycling cart rollout, thanking Blaze Credit Union for their support.

Mr. Johnson explained that the rollout involved staging 11,000 carts at Blaze Credit Union and distributing them across the city. He highlighted the challenges faced during the rollout, including issues with data accuracy and timing. He noted that the streets division assisted with initial drop-offs and swaps, and Waste Management is now handling the rollout of the new dumpsters.

8. Sustainability Intern Update

Sustainability Intern Ness Carda introduced himself and shared an overview of his background and education.

Mr. Carda explained that he has been working on the Green To Go Ordinance and meeting with businesses to ensure compliance. He has compiled a supplier list to help businesses transition to sustainable practices.

Mr. Carda explained he has also participated in various sustainability initiatives, including organizing a bee event and a packaging fair.

Mr. Carda discussed the climate equity action planning process, including the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The plan involves community engagement and aims to reflect the community's values and priorities. Upcoming events include tabling at Taste of Rose Fest and a zero-waste event at Juneteenth.

Mr. Carda emphasized the importance of community involvement in the planning process and discussed the various activities scheduled for the summer.

Mr. Carda outlined plans to host an EV ride and drive event in Roseville, emphasizing the recent event and the importance of ongoing education about electric vehicles and lawn equipment. The proposed event would involve partnerships with the American Lung Association, Ramsey County, and St. Christopher's Capital Church to provide information on grants and tax credits.

Mr. Carda discussed potential collaborations with the community garden in Roseville, including possible expansion, and mentioned a contact at Project Sweetie Pie in Minneapolis for urban garden projects.

Mr. Carda explained he started the internship four weeks ago and was still waiting to hear back from Project Sweetie Pie.

Member Fergus asked about how Styrofoam recycling might affect the Green To Go requirement, noting it was a special item and would not impact the No-Styrofoam Policy. He also inquired about funding for solar projects in schools, mentioning a grant that covers 40-70% of the costs and seeking clarification on who would pay the remaining amount.

Vice Chair Hodder suggested reaching out to representatives from other school districts that have successfully implemented solar projects, such as Mounds View School District, and mentioned Ideal Energy as a potential partner.

Vice Chair Hodder emphasized the advantages of no-money-down deals and 13-year ownership spans for solar projects, sharing personal interest in the initiative.

Chair Ficek inquired about the status of the Green To Go contacts, mentioning that 11 of them were already compliant.

Mr. Carda reported mixed feedback, with some businesses understanding the urgency and switching immediately, while others waited due to overstock. He

emphasized the importance of collaboration and providing information to help businesses secure grants and resources.

Vice Chair Hodder asked about the availability of new recycling materials.

Mr. Carda explained that, although it is easier now, utensils still pose a significant challenge due to high costs and limited recycling options.

Chair Ficek mentioned the need for volunteers for the Climate Equity Action Plan and encouraged interested parties to contact the city.

Vice Chair Hodder praised the interns' work and recommended recruiting more volunteers.

9. Future Agenda Items

Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer discussed upcoming agenda items, mentioning there are no scheduled events for the July meeting, but he was open to suggestions from the commission.

Member Fergus suggested inviting a representative from the Long-Term Ecological Research project to discuss their sampling and research on local lawns and pollinators.

10. Adjourn

The Commission adjourned to receive a tour of the City Campus.

Motion

Member Fergus moved, Vice Chair Hodder seconded, adjournment of the meeting to the City Campus Solar Tour at approximately 8:05 p.m.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion carried.