

Roseville Public Works, Environment and Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 26, 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 Jarrod Cicha, Daniel Fergus, Allison Luongo, Des Mueller; and Youth Commissioners Carsten Bauer and Alexis Jendro (arrived at 6:32 p.m.)

Absent: None

Staff Present: Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer

2. Approve Agenda

Member Hodder moved, Member Fergus seconded, approval of the August 27, 2025, agenda as presented.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

3. Public Comments

None.

4. Communication Items

Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer provided a brief review and update on projects and maintenance activities listed in the staff report dated August 26, 2025.

Mr. Freihammer updated the commission on the Lexington Pathway project, stating that final plans are complete and construction is set for 2026. He mentioned that the Hamline Avenue project is underway, with design work continuing and water

main and pathway included. The Twin Lakes Phase Two and Booster Station Phase Four are expected to begin in 2026.

Mr. Freihammer mentioned that the pavement management project was completed with only minor repairs needed. Installation of wayfinding signage is expected to be finished in September, and the lighting project includes new streetlights along with a policy update recommended by the council. Light readings will be taken to compare lighting levels to actual lumens, thereby improving standards. He also noted that the bike plan update will be presented at the next meeting.

Mr. Freihammer updated the commission on Ramsey County projects, including the Hamline Avenue / Clarmar storm sewer, which is scheduled to begin in the fall with anticipated road closures. Upgrades on County Road C are planned for 2026, with an open house on August 28. He mentioned that the bridge project on County Road C might be delayed, which could potentially cause significant traffic impacts.

Mr. Freihammer explained that the State Fair updates include high attendance and parking restrictions, with additional no-parking zones added, and Falcon Heights paid parking has not caused significant issues in Roseville.

Mr. Freihammer provided an update on sustainability and environmental projects, mentioning that only one intern remains for the summer. He stated the Green To Go program continues, with 45 businesses in compliance. The packaging and resource fair was a success, and the climate equity action plan is in progress. Roseville's first clothing swap, organized by an intern, was also successful. Waste Management has taken over cart management, with some initial issues resolved. Call center problems persist, as residents continue to contact the City for service.

Mr. Freihammer indicated that a new maintenance worker has started, bringing the public works team up to full staffing. Street sweeping, Flex Seal application of storm sewers, and pavement repairs are ongoing. Crack sealing has begun, focusing on neighborhoods affected by previous road work. The ninth turn on compost has been completed, and they are preparing to stack it and open the leaf site sometime in October. Various utility projects, including motor and pump replacements, are also underway.

Mr. Freihammer updated the commission on council news and budget plans, including Ramsey County Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire's update on various projects. The council tabled consideration of the Aldine right-of-way vacation. The gold leaf presentation was received, highlighting Roseville's green initiatives. The New Tracks Roseville Area Circulator Bus Service for seniors was presented, and City Manager Trudgeon presented the City budget with significant proposals for review.

Mr. Freihammer discussed the Civic Campus Master Plan, which includes a half-percent sales tax for the Maintenance Operations Center. He indicated that

Concept C1 or C2 was advanced, with architect and construction management services requested. A construction manager at risk will be chosen by October 14, and an architect by October 15. A final design stakeholder group for the Civic Campus will be formed, involving various commissions and residents, and updates will be provided as consultants are onboarded.

5. Pathway Master Plan

Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer explained that the last Pathway Master Plan update was in October 2021, which focused on completed and removed segments. The current plan includes a preference list based on GIS analysis, prioritizing segments using various criteria. The plan is intended to be updated to address current needs, incorporating new studies and developments. It will guide future pathway projects and funding decisions. He mentioned that public feedback will be solicited on which parts of the plan should be updated and how the preference list should be revised.

Mr. Freihammer explained that interns documented the desired paths in Roseville, highlighting areas where residents walk despite the absence of official pathways. Examples include the north side of County Road C east of Victoria, the south side of County Road C west of Victoria, and Fernwood Court. These desired paths could be prioritized for future pathway projects, considering railroad crossings and other infrastructure needs. Public feedback will be gathered on how to incorporate these paths into the Pathway Master Plan. He noted that the commission will need to discuss the best way to engage the public and prioritize these segments.

Mr. Freihammer explained that the current preference list is based on statistical analysis, prioritizing segments according to various criteria. The list includes segments on arterial roads with more than 4000 ADT, following a policy to add pathways on one side before the other. The commission should discuss whether this threshold needs reevaluation and how it should be integrated into the ranking. He mentioned that funding considerations will be discussed, including the use of State Aid dollars, grant funds, and dedicated funding for new pathways. The commission will also explore ways to make the plan more useful and understandable to the public.

Member Fergus commented on the evaluation criteria, saying it was generally good but questioned whether further adjustments were needed.

Mr. Freihammer addressed the problem of tied rankings and the confusion they create, highlighting the need for clearer separation. He emphasized the list's role in project prioritization, recognizing feedback from the previous commission.

Member Luongo suggested comparing the criteria with the bike plan to ensure consistency and logical application, and also reviewing the list of criteria against city goals to identify similarities and ensure alignment.

Mr. Freihammer agreed, emphasizing the importance of consistency across various city plans.

Member Luongo suggested assigning higher rankings to arterials and considering factors such as ADT (Average Daily Traffic) and the number of lanes.

Mr. Freihammer acknowledged the dynamic nature of roadways and the importance of factoring these elements into the criteria.

Member Luongo recommended adding a cost-to-benefit ratio to prioritize projects by their ease and cost-effectiveness.

Mr. Freihammer recalled a previous discussion about including cost estimates in the criteria but noted the challenges of making accurate assumptions.

Chair Ficek proposed a simple ranking system (1, 2, or 3) to indicate project cost.

Mr. Freihammer endorsed that suggestion as a quick and simple solution. He cited the Hamline Avenue project example, where combining projects saved money and boosted efficiency.

Member Luongo suggested considering desired paths as a measure of public need and including them in the criteria.

Mr. Freihammer agreed, emphasizing the importance of right-of-way considerations and the potential for narrowing roads to reduce costs. He discussed the challenges of proper road sizing and how it affects curb lines and right-of-way expenses.

Member Luongo suggested using available right-of-way as a criterion, awarding more points to projects that need less curb movement.

Chair Ficek recommended updating the map to display all potential segments for review and to discuss their priorities.

Mr. Freihammer agreed, noting the need to update the map and review the list to generate new ideas and gather feedback.

Member Luongo suggested clearly listing City goals alongside the criteria to better promote the plan to Council.

Mr. Freihammer discussed the upcoming strategic plan and its possible effect on the pathway master plan.

Chair Ficek recommended including an executive summary and emphasizing maps and technical details in the plan.

Mr. Freihammer agreed, noting the need for specific design standards and maintenance requirements.

Chair Ficek suggested discussing minimum widths for trails and pavement thickness to ensure durability and prevent heaving.

Mr. Freihammer discussed the current design standards and emphasized the importance of referencing them in the plan.

Chair Ficek suggested the need to involve other commissions, especially parks, in the Pathway Master Plan.

Mr. Freihammer agreed and emphasized the need to coordinate with Parks and other commissions. He proposed a joint meeting or subcommittee to review the Pathway Master Plan and its alignment with other city plans. He outlined the next steps, which include updating the map, discussing the preference list, and incorporating feedback from the commission.

6. Future Agenda Items and Upcoming Meetings

Public Works Director Freihammer reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule and confirmed the next meeting date as September 30, 2025. He outlined topics for future meetings, including the updated bike plan, utility rates, and the climate equity action plan. He proposed a tour with St. Paul Regional Water and a presentation on stormwater projects.

Chair Ficek discussed the importance of resident education on lawn care and its impact on water quality with the commission.

7. Commission Direction on Member-Initiated Agenda Items

8. Approval of July 22, 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.

Motion

Member Mueller moved, Member Luongo seconded, approval of the July 22, 2025, meeting minutes as presented.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

9. Adjourn

Motion

Member Fergus moved, Member Mueller seconded, and the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:20 p.m.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion carried.