

# **Roseville Public Works, Environment and Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes**

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Tuesday, October 28, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.  
City Council Chambers, 2660 Civic Center Drive  
Roseville, Minnesota 55113

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## **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, and Members Jarrod Cicha, Daniel Fergus, and Des Mueller

**Youth Commissioners:** Carsten Bauer and Alexis Jendro

**Absent:** Members Allison Luongo, Katie Brokaw Palalay (Excused)

**Staff Present:** Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer and Sustainability Specialist Noelle Bakken

## **2. Public Comments**

## **3. Approval of Agenda**

**Member Fergus moved, Member Hodder seconded, to approve the October 28, 2025, agenda as presented.**

**Ayes: 5**

**Nays: 0**

**Motion carried.**

## **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 October 23, 2025.

Mr. Freihammer provided updates on various construction projects, including the maintenance operations center. The city council selected LHB and Kraus-Anderson for the project, with the first kickoff meeting scheduled for Friday, October 31, 2025. He also updated the commission on the Lexington Avenue pathway, the

Tamarack pathway, and the Hamline pathway. He explained that the wayfinding signs were halfway installed, with some issues regarding sign blade directions being corrected, and 16 of 19 lights had been upgraded, with the final three expected to be installed later this year. A new adopt-a-streetscape or right-of-way program was being introduced, allowing residents to maintain streetscape areas, and he updated the commission on storm sewer projects that are currently underway. He also provided updates on the County Road C and County Road D projects and the MnDOT Snelling project.

Sustainability Specialist Noelle Bakken provided updates on various sustainability initiatives. She mentioned that she was part of the Met Council Central Sub-Region Water Policy and Planning Work Group's core planning team to ensure equity throughout the planning process. She also shared that she attended the Midwest Climate Resilience Conference and emphasized the importance of climate justice and equity.

Ms. Bakken explained that Ramsey County's Climate Team is hosting an energy and electrification resource fair on November 3, 2025, with a community engagement event scheduled for November 12, 2025, focusing on the climate equity action plan. Waste Management is addressing issues in recycling collection, with improvements in call center and walk-up services.

Mr. Freihammer provided maintenance updates, including ongoing street and pathway patching, streetscape upkeep, and the whole fall cleanup. Regarding the utility division, six new Mueller meters have been installed, with more to follow.

Mr. Freihammer explained that the council approved an updated streetlight policy and the fire department's Safer Grants. The council directed staff to continue operating the leaf site as usual, with added signage and documentation to monitor usage.

Chair Ficek discussed the leaf site's budget implications and potential trade-offs with staff and the commission.

Member Mueller asked about leaf debris disposal, and Mr. Freihammer explained the process.

Member Fergus asked about the Green To Go program.

Ms. Bakken gave updates on enforcement and compliance.

Youth Commissioner Bauer asked about the bike lane demonstration project.

Mr. Freihammer confirmed that feedback was collected. He introduced another demonstration project at the Keya Park, seeking community input.

## **5. Climate Equity Action Plan**

Sustainability Specialist Noelle Bakken presented the Climate Equity Action Plan, highlighting the importance of equity and community involvement. She detailed the project timeline, current City goals, and the need for updated objectives that align with county and state frameworks.

The foundational documents reviewed included the Climate Vulnerability Assessment, Greenhouse Gas Inventory report, Ground Cover Study, Renewable Energy Potential Study, and Baseline Assessment with Goal Recommendations.

Ms. Bakken emphasized the importance of community input and the Climate Justice Advisory Group's role in refining goals and actions. She reviewed upcoming community engagement events and highlighted the value of storytelling and community feedback in the planning process.

Ms. Bakken highlighted the importance of stakeholder feedback to set realistic goals. She discussed collaboration with three watershed districts in Roseville, focusing on flooding and water quality. She also mentioned the joint grant application with Ramsey County and their climate equity action plan. Ramsey County's role in providing greenhouse gas inventories and vulnerability mapping was also emphasized.

Ms. Bakken outlined the plan for deeper community engagement, including surveys of climate justice groups and community workshops. Youth-centered engagement with Roseville Area High School was discussed, with a meeting scheduled in a week or two. She mentioned monthly meetings with Ramsey County and the Great Plains Institute to align plans. She called for help in sharing information and encouraged participation from non-residents with close ties to the community.

Member Fergus asked about non-residents sharing stories.

Ms. Bakken confirmed it was acceptable for them to have close ties to the community.

Chair Ficek and Vice-Chair Hodder expressed enthusiasm about collaborating with schools and municipalities.

Chair Ficek asked whether the presentation would be available for viewing. He emphasized the importance of sharing the survey and public webpage with the community.

Ms. Bakken confirmed that the presentation would be included in the packet and mentioned plans to create a landing page on the City's website.

**6. 2026 Proposed Utility Rates**

Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer presented the 2026 utility rates, starting with the water fund. He indicated that a 5.5 percent increase from 2025 to 2028 is recommended to cover costs, including a substantial increase from St. Paul Regional Water Services. The sanitary sewer fund was proposed to increase by 2.2 percent to cover expenses, with a 1.06 percent increase from the Met Council, while the storm sewer fund remains unchanged. The environmental fund (recycling) was proposed to increase by 3 percent due to a new contract with Waste Management.

Mr. Freihammer explained the breakdown of costs for each fund, including maintenance, staff, and administrative expenses. The storm sewer fund covers costs related to street sweeping, catch basins, and drainage. The environmental fund mainly covers recycling operations and staff time for cleanup events. The overall average increase for all rates for a typical Roseville home would be 3.44 percent, which equals \$28.83 annually.

Chair Ficek and Vice-Chair Hodder discussed the possibility of using the storm sewer service fee for improvements at the leaf center.

Mr. Freihammer explained the current funding structure and the possible effects of raising rates. The suggestion was made to consider potential increases in the 2027 rates due to possible higher costs for the leaf center.

The importance of future discussions and data collection to identify the best course of action was highlighted.

**Motion**

**Member Fergus moved, Member Cicha seconded, to recommend that the City Council approve the 2026 utility rate.**

**Ayes: 5**

**Nays: 0**

**Motion carried.**

The commission discussed the recommendation to consider the storm sewer service fee for potential improvements at the leaf center, but it was not officially voted on.

**7. Commission Direction on Member-Initiated Agenda Items**

Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer outlined the agenda for upcoming meetings, including the 2026 Public Works Plan and a noise ordinance update.

The significance of community engagement and the possibility of organizing a tour of the St. Paul water plant were mentioned.

**8. Approval September 30, 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 Cicha moved, Member Fergus seconded, approval of the September 30, 2025, meeting minutes as presented.**

**Ayes: 5**

**Nays: 0**

**Motion carried.**

**9. Adjourn**

**Motion**

**Member Fergus moved, Member Hodder seconded, adjournment of the meeting at approximately 8:37 p.m.**

**Ayes: 5**

**Nays: 0**

**Motion carried.**