



**Public Works Department**

Wayne Sandberg, P.E.  
Public Works Director, County Engineer

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Deputy Director

**GOLD LINE JOINT POWERS BOARD  
MINUTES  
August 27, 2025**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Xiong called the Gold Line Joint Powers Board (JPB) meeting to order at 10:22 a.m. The meeting was held in Conference Room A at the Ramsey County Courthouse, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, located at 15 West Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55102.

**ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Chair – Mai Chong Xiong, Ramsey County Commissioner  
Vice Chair – Michelle Clasen, Washington County Commissioner  
Stan Karwoski, Washington County Commissioner

Members Absent: Rafael Ortega, Ramsey County Commissioner

Staff Present: Sara Allen, Lyssa Leitner, Aaron Zellmer, Sara Favreau, Patrick Collins, Scott Schwahn, Hoang Truong, Jennifer Jordan

Others Present: Morgan Abbott, Steve Barrett, Mary Richardson, Doug Host (online), Brian McClung (online)

**Announcements**

None.

**ACTION ITEMS FOR APPROVAL**

**Approval of Agenda**

*A motion to approve the agenda was moved by Commissioner Clasen, seconded by Commissioner Karwoski. All in favor. Motion carried.*

### **Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting**

*A motion to approve the minutes from April 23, 2025, Meeting was made by Commissioner Clasen, seconded by Commissioner Karwoski. All in favor. Motion Carried.*

### **Approval of the 2026 Gold Line Joint Powers Board Administrative Budget**

*A motion to approve the 2026 Gold Line Joint Powers Administrative Budget was made by Commissioner Karwoski, seconded by Commissioner Clasen. All in favor. Motion Carried.*

### **Approval of Staff Recommendations regarding the future of the Gold Line Joint Powers Board**

Patrick Collins, Washington County Attorney recommends while most of the work on the Project is complete, there are several significant obligations requiring ongoing JPB oversight, The advantages of continuing the JPB include: continuity in policy-maker oversight in the final completion of the Gold Line project, and the need for required representation of the ECCB.

- 1.) It is recommended that the JPB continue operations through 2027 or until financial obligations are fulfilled. The Board should reevaluate in mid-2027 to determine if a change of course is needed or wanted.
- 2.) The JPB Bylaws will be amended to provide for one annual meeting to elect officers, establish a meeting schedule and locations, and adopt the budget. Meetings can also be called by the Chair.
- 3.) The Capital Grant Agreement (CGA) will be amended to extend the term through December 31, 2027 or until all close-out obligations are fulfilled and to establish a fifth grant activity period to reflect the extended CGA term. The amendment would reflect the most current cashflow. We anticipate the CGA amendment will be brought to the JPB in late 2025 or early 2026.
- 4.) The Financial Services Agreement with Washington County will be amended to extend the term to correspond to the term of the JPA.
- 5.) The consulting contract with Mary Richardson will be extended to December 31, 2026.

*A motion to approve the Staff Recommendations regarding the future of the Gold Line Joint Powers Board was made by Commissioner Karwoski, seconded by Commissioner Clasen. All in favor. Motion Carried.*

### **Gold Line Joint Powers Board 2024 Audit**

Doug Host, from Clifton Allen Larson, provided information on the audit, stating that it went very well, with no weaknesses in the controls, and a letter of clean opinion on the financial statements was issued.

Commissioner Karwoski asked if another Audit would be needed for the year 2027, and if so, would the audit cost be the same with fewer transactions? Doug Host said that would depend on the revenue for 2027. There would be less to audit, but more administrative time would be required, and this would need to be determined in 2027.

### **METRO Gold Line Project Update**

Steve Barrett, the Gold Line Project Manager, provided a project update, presenting slides that showcased progress on the landscaping. The corridor has several shrubs and trees put in that have a two-year warranty.

One of the largest punch list items has been repairing cracked concrete panels. The buses were able to operate around the repair work.

Morgan Abbott, Deputy Project Manager, presented information about the electric buses and charging infrastructure. Testing of the charging equipment is being done currently. Metro Transit continues to meet quarterly with the City of Woodbury and the Police Department.

Commissioner Karwoski requested ridership numbers for Washington County compared to Ramsey County. Lyssa Leitner responded that the ridership data gathered is tracked based on the station.

#### **Gold Line Joint Powers Board Communications and Government Relations Update**

Brian McClung, of McClung PR, provided an update and explained an advocacy toolkit that was created for communication and promotion of the Gold Line with local Chambers and others, and a collection device to collect stories about the Gold Line. The Woodbury Chamber indicated interest in having a ride along with Woodbury Chamber members. Commissioner Karwoski encouraged Mr. McClung to continue utilizing resources for public engagement.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

None

**Next Meeting** – December 18, 2025, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM, at the Gold Line Project Office, 121 7<sup>th</sup> PI E #102, St. Paul, MN 55101.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 11:44 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Favreau, Clerk

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