



MEETING SUMMARY

Red Wing Bridge - Project Advisory Committee (PAC) #1

March 22, 2012

10:00 a.m. to Noon

Red Wing Public Library - Foot Room

Meeting Chair: Chris Hiniker

Minutes by: Mark Benson

Present: Dean Hove, Rick Moskwa, Ted Siefert, Greg Isakson, Ken Bjornstad, Diane Richter-Biwer, Chad Johnson, Nick Schaff, Patty Brown, Whitney White, Greg Paulson, Chad Hanson, Kristin Kammuller, Jay Owens, Brian Peterson, Tara Carson, Jim Koenig, Chris Hiniker, Mark Benson, Dan Dorgan, Todd Lang, Todd Stevens, Nancy Klema, Tom Beekman, Greg Haig, Peter Leete, Anthony Nemcek-Zahorsky, Richard Bunce, Teresa Martin

Copies to: PAC Members

- I. Introductions
- II. Project Background
 - A. Chad Hanson provided an overview of the history of the Red Wing Bridge including studies that have been completed since 2001 that have documented traffic issues and the condition of both the Eisenhower Bridge and the Highway 63 bridge over Highway 61.
- III. Scope of Work
 - A. Chris Hiniker provided an overview of the scope of work for the current project stage which includes completing an alternatives analysis and the preliminary design for the proposed project improvements.
- IV. Project Committees
 - A. Chris explained that the role of the PAC is to provide two-way communication between the agency they represent and MnDOT and its design team.
 - B. The role of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), which meets monthly, is to provide technical input and assist in resolving technical issues.
- V. Purpose and Need
 - A. Chad Hanson reviewed the project purpose and need statement. He noted the primary purpose is to provide a structurally sound crossing of the Mississippi River at Red Wing and a structurally sound crossing (connection) over Highway 61.
 - B. He noted the State's Chapter 152 bridge funding program raised the issue of fracture critical bridges around the state and has made rehabilitation or replacement of these bridge types a priority. The Red Wing (Eisenhower) Bridge is a fracture critical design and is eligible for Chapter 152 funding.
 1. Question: What does fracture critical mean? It was noted the term fracture critical applies to a type of bridge design that when one structural member fails the entire bridge can fail and collapse.

- C. Chad indicated the bridge over Highway 61 is considered historic so additional efforts to preserve the bridge will be investigated.
- D. Question: How much traffic volumes on the bridge changed since the 2005 Downtown Transportation Study? It was noted that traffic volumes have changed very little since 2005, primarily because of the slow economy.

VI. Alternatives Analysis Process

- A. Chris Hiniker provided an overview of the overall alternatives analysis process.
- B. Todd Lang reviewed some of the primary bridge related tasks that will be completed over the next year.
- C. Teresa Martin discussed the Section 106 process which is a federal law defining how historic considerations come into play during the development of transportation projects. Historic studies have been completed which identify eligible historic resources and a new historic commercial district was defined. More detailed studies will be undertaken once the range of alternatives has been narrowed.
 - 1. Question: How do historic preservation issues get balanced with other improvement needs? It was noted that historic issues need to be balanced with the full range of social, economic, and environmental issues.
- D. Question: Has there been a meeting with the US Coast Guard (USCG)? There has been an initial meeting with USCG to review navigation requirements. USCG staff indicated that moving the bridge to a new location further upstream is a major concern due to the bend in the river.
- E. Chris Hiniker presented findings from a preliminary assessment of potential new location alternatives for the river crossing. The areas assessed included Bench Street and at Plum Street, Bush Street, and Broad Street in the downtown area. He noted there are significant challenges associated with any new crossing location and that given these challenges it is recommended the study process focus on trying to identify a workable bridge solution at the current crossing location. Furthermore, other crossing locations will not be further investigated unless it is determined there are no reasonable and practical improvement alternatives at the current crossing location.
 - 1. Decision: The PAC agreed that the alternatives process should focus on the existing corridor.
 - 2. PAC Comments:
 - a. It is very important to keep the river crossing open during construction given 30 percent of Red Wing's work force commutes from Wisconsin and the nearest alternate crossing is 30 miles upstream and downstream.
 - b. It is important to improve the connection between TH 63 and TH 61
 - c. Improving traffic conditions in the downtown area is important
 - d. Pedestrian access and safety is a major issue in the downtown area
 - e. Concern was expressed over potential increased road maintenance costs to the city if the river crossing was moved from the existing location
 - f. Any impacts to Red Wing Shoe's corporate offices would be a major issue

VII. Public Outreach

- A. The project website has been established. Please visit the site throughout the course of the project. <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/d6/projects/redwing-bridge/index.html>
- B. A copy of the first newsletter was distributed. It was noted the newsletter will be electronic based to manage production costs. All newsletters will be posted on the project website. Hardcopies can be provided upon request to leave at reception areas of city and county

- buildings. PAC members were encouraged to advertise the website information with their contacts.
- C. The first Public Open House will be held on April 12th from 5:00 to 7:00pm at the Red Wing Library.
 - D. An environmental agency workshop will be scheduled for later April or early May. The purpose of the workshop is to facilitate communication between MnDOT and WisDOT and the various resource agencies that have an interest in and future permitting/approval role in the project.
 - E. Other Outreach Efforts
 - 1. A series of listening sessions will be held preceding future PAC meetings. The purpose of these sessions will be to provide an informal venue for stakeholders to meet with project team members to ask questions and learn more about the project. The sessions will likely be scheduled from 11:00am to 12:30pm.
 - 2. It was noted that MnDOT will meet with any group upon request.

VIII. Next Meeting

- A. The second PAC meeting will be held on June 21st from 1:00 to 3:00 pm in the Red Wing Library – Foot Room

If there are errors contained in this document, or if relevant information has been omitted, please contact Chris Hiniker at 651-490-2063.