



Minutes of the regular meeting of the Rochester-Olmsted Council of Governments held at 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, **April 23, 2025**, in Conference Room 186 located at 2122 Campus Drive S.E., Rochester, MN 55904.

Members Present:

- Ms. Diana Connelly, (Chair) Townships
- Mr. Brian Mueller, County Commissioner
- Ms. Kim Norton, City of Rochester
- Mr. Nick Miller, Rochester City Council
- Mr. Patrick Keane, Rochester City Council
- Mr. Al Roder, Small Cities
- Mr. Bill Schimmel, Small Cities
- Mr. Dave Iseminger, Small Cities
- Mr. Mark Benscoter, Community Representative
- Mr. Todd Morrow, Rochester ISD #535

Members Absent:

- Mr. Randy Reimer, Community Representative
- Mr. Andy Friederichs, Rochester City Council
- Mr. Shaun Palmer, Rochester City Council
- Ms. Michelle Rossman, County Commissioner

- Ms. Stephanie Podulke-Smith, County Commissioner
- Mr. John Johnson, Townships

Staff Present via Conference Room A:

- Mr. Dave Dunn, Planning Director
- Ms. Allison Sosa, ROCOG Executive Director
- Mr. Jarrett Hubbard, Principal Planner
- Ms. Beth Davis, Executive Support Supervisor
- Ms. Ali Bosco, Planner
- Ms. Heather Flynn Planner
- Ms. Karli McElroy, Planner
- Mr. Tony Hill, Division Administrator
- Ms. Sandi Goslee, Principal Planner
- Mr. Kurt Wayne, MnDOT

Others Present via Microsoft Teams:

- Mr. Sam Budzyna, Public Works-Traffic

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

Ms. Connelly, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

Mr. Keane moved to approve the minutes of March 26, 2025. Mr. Schimmel seconded the motion. The motion carried.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

Metropolitan Transportation Plan 2050 – Chapters 4 and 5

- Allison Sosa introduced Chapters 4 and 5 of the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, noting that these chapters are shorter than previous ones and focus on the current transportation system and its performance.
- Allison mentioned that chapters 4 and 5 were sent out to attendees about two weeks ago, giving them time to review the documents before the meeting.

- Allison indicated that the presentation would provide a high-level review of chapters 4 and 5, with detailed information to be presented by Jarrett Hubbard.
- Sandi Goslee presented Chapter 4, which takes stock of the current transportation system, including sidewalks, bike paths, transit, roadways, and freight movement. The chapter emphasizes identifying gaps and safety issues in the system. She encouraged attendees to provide feedback on the chapter, especially if they have suggestions for analytical improvements or notice any missing information.
- Sandi discussed the existing sidewalk and bike path network in Rochester and other cities in Olmsted County, noting gaps in the system and the importance of addressing these gaps for safety reasons.
- Sandi highlighted that Rochester has a fairly extensive sidewalk network, but gaps exist, particularly on major roadways and in newly incorporated suburban subdivisions.
- Sandi emphasized the importance of sidewalks for connecting users to places they cannot or choose not to drive to, for both recreational and work purposes.
- Sandi pointed out that gaps in the sidewalk network pose potential safety issues, as pedestrians and wheelchair users may have to enter traffic and stressed the need to limit these gaps.
- Sandi highlighted the transit system in Rochester, including fixed routes, the link BRT, and regional services. She also mentioned the potential for future commuter services and the importance of accommodating freight movement. She discussed the various transit services in Rochester, including fixed routes, link BRT, and primary transit networks that support higher residential density areas. She mentioned the expansion of regional services by companies like Rolling Hills, which have increased their offerings due to higher demand.
- Sandi noted the potential for future commuter services, particularly those previously sponsored by Mayo Clinic, and the need to consider resources for re-establishing such services.
- Sandi emphasized the importance of ensuring that roads can handle truck traffic for freight movement, including the weight and size of vehicles and their ability to make turn movements safely. She provided an overview of the roadway network, including classifications, ownership, and conditions. She noted that most roadways are in good shape, but some need fixing. She also discussed the importance of maintaining roads to accommodate freight movement. She explained the different types of roadway classifications based on their function and surrounding land uses, as well as the ownership by various governmental entities. She noted that most roadways under the purview of local and state authorities are in good condition, but some require maintenance and fixing.
- Sandi mentioned that most bridges in the area are in good condition, with only a few in poor shape. She emphasized the importance of monitoring bridge conditions to ensure safety. She reported that most bridges are in good condition, with only six in poor shape, and only one of those six is under the Roco system. She emphasized the importance of monitoring bridge conditions to ensure safety and mentioned that there are systems in place to keep track of bridge conditions.

- **Aviation and Freight:** Sandy briefly discussed the role of aviation in the transportation system and the importance of ensuring roads can handle truck traffic for freight movement. She also noted that rail is not a significant factor in the area. She mentioned that while aviation is not under their control, it is important to ensure that roads can handle the traffic to and from the airport, including cargo movement. She reiterated the importance of maintaining roads to handle truck traffic for freight movement, ensuring they meet standards for weight and size.
- **Regional Transit and Commuter Services:** Sandi discussed the potential for regional transit and commuter services, mentioning on going experiments with different bus companies and the interest in expanding these services to benefit the community. She discussed ongoing experiments with different bus companies, such as Ready Auto Lacrosse, to provide commuter services for Mayo Clinic employees and potentially other citizens. She noted an interest in expanding regional transit and commuter services to benefit the community, including those who work at Mayo Clinic or other local employers. She mentioned past efforts with Southeast Minnesota Together to establish regional transportation, which faced funding challenges but still have ongoing interest and potential for future development.
- **Chapter 5 Overview:** Jarrett presented Chapter 5, which focuses on the analysis of the transportation system, including congestion, safety, and performance measures. He noted that the data is still being collected and may change. He discussed the identified corridors with congestion and safety issues, based on previous studies and ongoing data collection. He emphasized the importance of monitoring these corridors for future projects.
- **Performance Measures:** Jared explained the performance measures required by federal law, including safety, pavement and bridge conditions, travel time, and transit safety. He highlighted the current status of these measures and the need for ongoing monitoring.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Next ROCOG board meeting will be Wednesday, May 28, 2025, at noon.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Miller moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Mueller seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Diana Connelly, ROCOG Chair

Allison Sosa, ROCOG Executive Director

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