

**Appendix J:**

- 1) BRC June 17, 2008 meeting agenda**
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**ST. LOUIS COUNTY  
CAPITAL INVESTMENT INITIATIVE  
BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION**

Agenda for June 17, 2008 Meeting

1. Public comment
2. Commission discussion on:
  - A. Have we identified the critical needs of St. Louis County?
  - B. What funding mechanism should be used to meet the expenditure requirements of these needs?
3. Discussion on draft final report
4. Other
5. Setting of next meeting date
6. Adjournment

Summary of June 17, 2008 meeting (held on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor of County Government's 41 S. Central Avenue Building)

Commissioners attending: Skip Mange (Chairman); Frederick Douglas, David Mason, Don Musick, James Qin, John Siscel; Sally Roth; George Brill; Colleen Wasinger; Hazel Erby; Barbara Fraser and Steve Lichtenfeld.

St. Louis County Government personnel attending: Pam Reitz, Director of Administration; Sheryl Hodges, Director of Highways & Traffic and Public Works; Lindsey Swanick, Director of Parks and Recreation; Jackie Wellington, Executive Vice President of the Economic Council; Genevieve Frank, County Clerk and County Council Administrative Director; Stephanie Leon Streeter, Deputy Director of Highways & Traffic and Public Works and David Wrone, Public Information Manager for Highways & Traffic and Public Works.

Chairman Skip Mange opened the meeting by describing the previous week's Public Hearing as a success. He then opened the floor to additional public commentary. Three citizens spoke. (A fourth individual arrived later and shared his comments near the end of the meeting.)

Bill Hartmann, an instructor at Forest Park Community College, described himself as a spokesman for both his students and residents who live north of Olive Boulevard. Hartmann was concerned that St. Louis County would reduce its portion of Metrolink funding if voters reject Prop M. He said many of his students from North County use public transportation to get to and from school. "We need 'Plan B' in the event that Prop M fails," he said.

Ann Mack, executive director of Trailnet, spoke next. She encouraged St. Louis County to develop an improvement plan for Hanley Road that placed more of an emphasis on pedestrians and bicycle riders. "If you design for cars, you'll get more cars. If you design for people, you'll get more people," Mack said. "Is the goal really to move cars as fast as we can through our communities? If we get this wrong, it's a 50-year-plus mistake."

Ginger Harris then addressed commissioners. She suggested that the County's Department of Highways and Traffic place a quarter-cent sales tax initiative on an upcoming ballot – with the funds generated dedicated exclusively for H&T's use.

Before opening the meeting to general discussion, Mange asked the commission two questions:

1. Had the County's critical needs been fully identified?
2. Was the commission aware of any items that had not yet been publicly addressed?

In response, David Mason asked if County Government had received information from the community that the Blue Ribbon Commission should consider. Sheryl Hodges replied that although governmental agencies routinely field requests for action and information

from the public, no additional needs had materialized that fit the parameters of the commission's work.

Commission member Barbara Fraser encouraged her fellow team members to make a recommendation that best reflects the needs of "the whole body of people." She expressed her desire to see, in the not-so-distant future, a "more walkable, livable and usable County."

Fraser also questioned the wisdom of building office space on the County-owned parking lot at the intersection of S. Central and Carondelet. She referred to the large number of people who routinely use the lot before proceeding to the justice center, courthouse or government center. The Economic Council's Jackie Wellington observed that County Government's Shaw Parking Garage is located only two blocks south, and has a substantial number of parking spaces available.

Frederick Douglas urged his fellow commissioners to "look outside the box" and consider moving at least some elements of County Government's Clayton campus elsewhere. "We don't necessarily have to be in Clayton," said Douglas. He also suggested that County Government consider entering into a public/private partnership to make the move out of Clayton a reality.

Other commissioners mentioned that society's increasing use of computers was subtly altering the traditional method by which citizens interact with government. As an example, Mange referred to an on-line permit application system implemented by the County's Department of Public Works. "These sorts of systems have reduced the need to physically come to Clayton," he said.

Colleen Wasinger questioned the viability of relocating parts of County Government elsewhere. "Clayton is the hub of the County," she said.

Don Musick also expressed skepticism about using a public private partnership to dilute County Government's presence in Clayton. Instead, he suggested that such a coupling be established to strengthen the County's facilities in Clayton. He also emphasized his desire to see the commission – and, by extension, County Government – "take a balanced look at the entire plain of need."

"My concern is that something is going to come up short because something else squeaked louder," Musick said.

The Commission then discussed the merits of and potential problems with various funding mechanisms.

The group ultimately voted 11-1 to recommend to County Executive Charlie Dooley that Metrolink's "Prop M" be placed on the November 2008 ballot. In this same vote, the Commission recommended that St. Louis County place on the November 2008 ballot a

“no tax increase” General Obligation bond issue. Commissioner Barbara Fraser voted “no.”

The Commission also voted 11-1 to recommend that a “Use Tax” and a Parks sales tax be placed on the April 2009 municipal election ballot. Fraser cast the lone dissenting vote on this measure, as well.

Commission Chairman Skip Mange expressed his desire to submit an official recommendation – complete with a final report – to the County Executive by this August.

The group agreed to hold its next meeting on July 1, at a location yet to be determined.

Before adjourning, the commission heard from resident Gary Higgs, who shared his concerns about the lack of a “harmonized addressing system in St. Louis County.”