

Appendix M:

- 1) BRC July 29, 2008 meeting agenda**
- 2) BRC July 29, 2008 meeting summary**

**ST. LOUIS COUNTY BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION
ON CAPITAL INVESTMENT INITIATIVE**

Agenda for July 29, 2008 Meeting

1. Commission review, revision, and approval of final report
2. Commission review, revision, and approval of transmittal letter
3. Other
4. Adjournment

Summary of July 29, 2008 meeting (held on the 10th floor of County Government's 121 S. Meramec Building in Clayton, Missouri).

Commissioners attending: Skip Mange (Chairman); John Sisco, Sally Roth, Judith Metzger, Pat Kellett, David Mason, Frederick Douglas, Nancy Cross, James Qin, George Brill, Don Musick, Hazel Erby, Barbara Fraser and Colleen Wasinger.

St. Louis County Government personnel attending: Charlie A. Dooley, County Executive; Garry W. Earls, Chief Operating Officer; Pam Reitz, Director of Administration; Sheryl Hodges, Director of Highways & Traffic and Public Works; Lindsey Swanick, Director of Parks and Recreation; Stephanie Leon Streeter, Deputy Director of Highways & Traffic and Public Works and David Wrone, Public Information Manager for Highways & Traffic and Public Works.

Also attending: Jessica Mefford-Miller, Director of Research and Development for Metrolink.

Chairman Skip Mange opened the meeting and explained that most of the day's discussion would focus on polishing the commission's final report – draft copies of which were provided by staff. Mange also noted that the minority reports written and very recently submitted by Barbara Fraser and Colleen Wasinger would be included as a separate appendix in the final document.

Ideally, Mange said, the commission would formally present the final report to County Executive Charlie Dooley sometime during the following week.

Sheryl Hodges asked that commissioners submit any changes or comments to her by the end of Wednesday (July 30). She added that a document distributed that morning ("Upgrade Existing versus Build New Building Analysis") would be included in the final report as part of the already-existing Appendix L.

In response to a question from Commissioner George Brill, Hodges said St. Louis County would post the final report on the County's web site.

Commissioner Barbara Fraser expressed her concerns that the Commission had not fully fulfilled its original mission. "We identified St. Louis County's needs, but prioritizing those needs was in our mission, too. I'm not sure we did that."

Several commissioners disagreed, with Frederick Douglas stating: "We've gone as far as we can." Don Musick added: "Didn't we prioritize by our decision to place certain issues on a ballot for public vote? What we've done is to say, 'This is the most expedient way to go about getting the necessary funds.'"

Musick then raised the subject of Prop M, and his apprehension about the measure's prospects for success in the November election.

“Because of all the bad press that Metro has gotten over the last few years, this is going to be a real hill to climb,” he said.

In addition to publicly lending its support to the passage of Prop M, Musick suggested that the Blue Ribbon Commission consider launching a campaign in support of all the measures it recommended for placement on a ballot.

“This is a lot of money to go after in a very bad market,” Musick said. “You have to do everything you can to get the word out.”

After discussion, the Commission agreed to note in its final report transmittal letter that the Commission would continue to officially exist and lend support to the upcoming ballot measures. Commissioners also recommended that County staff hold public forums in each County Council district in an effort to fully educate voters about the various measures they will soon be asked to endorse.

County Executive Charlie Dooley then spoke about the importance of the November election – and in particular, the critical need for Prop M’s passage.

“If we can’t frame these issues to the individual residents and businesses, the propositions will not pass, period. And if we fail this November, the region is going to fail,” Dooley explained. “How can you attract new businesses to this region without mass transportation? A full one-third of Metro will vanish if Prop M fails. I don’t say that to scare you; it’s a fact.”

Dooley concluded by saying. “Politicians don’t like to talk about tax increases, but we can’t get this done any other way. The public needs to see us moving forward as a group. We can’t depend on anybody else. We’re the core government of the entire region.”

The Commission agreed to meet at 8:30 a.m. on August 20.