

Appendix N:

1) BRC Commission Member Statements

Minority Statement from Commissioner Colleen Wasinger

The issues facing St. Louis County and its aging infrastructure are important ones. The goals of the BRC were to assist in identifying the critical needs of St. Louis County and what funding mechanisms may be available to meet the expenditure requirements of these needs. Staff identified five areas that require a significant capital investment: buildings, transportation, parks, economic development and safety/security and communications. The five areas identified need further prioritization in terms of what the greatest need is for our community. Out of the identified priorities what funding mechanisms are reasonable and justified for our constituency. For example, are the building requirements more important than the interoperable communication system? Constituents have raised issues relative to how best to spend bond money. Can bond funds be used to pay for the interoperable communication system instead of a sales and use tax? There is a lot of misinformation about the sales and use tax and feedback from our constituency is still necessary. With regard to the Metro proposed transportation tax, constituent questions remain as to how public monies are being handled by Metro. These are just some of the issues that need to be discussed by the Council before deciding if and when these issues should be placed on the ballot.

**Minority Statement from
Commissioner Barbara Fraser**

- 1) The recommendation of the Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC) to delay funding for a countywide (inter-operable) emergency communication system is not acceptable. Preparing St. Louis County for a catastrophic emergency should be the County's number one priority and should therefore take precedence over the construction of new county facilities. While construction of new buildings and the sale of others will affect many hundreds of county employees and will ultimately have a positive affect on the county, the delay of disaster coordination will have a dramatic impact on all our citizens. A mega-disaster (major earthquake, severe tornado, chemical spill or deadly virus) would have a widespread impact on economic activity, property and human life in the St. Louis metropolitan area. Our region is currently handicapped by fragmentation among more than 860 governmental units in two states. Recently, the St. Louis County Strategic plan (pg 5-38 in draft) and Focus St. Louis identified disaster preparedness as a priority that must be addressed. Focus St Louis specified that emergency responders must be able to communicate with each other in order to assess situations and determine appropriate responses. The investment in preventing potential human and economic loss is well worth the investment in emergency preparedness.

- 2) The Blue Ribbon's Commission's mission to follow it's stated first step -("The first step in the process is to identify and prioritize the capital needs of the County") has not been completely followed – While the BRC certainly identified the capital needs of the county, we have not taken a vote to prioritize these needs. This prioritization of the capital needs is a necessity to fulfill the Committee's stated goals and should be part of the BRC's final report.