



U.S. HIGHWAY 169 CORRIDOR COALITION MINUTES

May 28, 2009

The meeting of the U.S. Highway 169 Corridor Coalition Steering Committee was called to order at 6:35 p.m. at the Scott County Courthouse, County Board Room, in Shakopee, Minnesota by Jon Ulrich, Scott County Commissioner and Acting Chair.

Introduction of Attendees: Each member introduced themselves and their affiliations: Jon Ulrich, Scott County Commissioner; Lezlie Vermillion, Director of Public Works, Scott County; Lewis Giesking, Director of Public Works; St. Peter; Jim Gates, Deputy Director of Public Works, Bloomington; Al Forsberg, County Engineer, Blue Earth County; Jane Kansier, City of Prior Lake Building and Transportation Services; Ronda Allis, Region Nine Development Commission; Michael Leek, Shakopee Community Development Director; John Schmitt, Mayor City of Shakopee; Mark McNeill, Shakopee City Administrator; Neil Peterson, Coalition Advocate; Rod Axtell, City of Bloomington Council; Susan McNellis, Scott County, Assistant County Attorney; Ed Shukle, City Administrator, Jordan; Lisa Freese, Scott County Transportation Program Manager; Janet Williams, Mayor City of Savage; John Powell, Public Works Director Savage; Mike Laven, President, Mankato City Council.

Membership Status Update: Group reviewed the current membership responses that had been received as of 5/22/09 by the Scott County Clerk to the Board. It was noted that R-9 Development Commission approved, St. Peter and Mankato also approved. That shows 14 agencies have approved authorization of the joint powers agreement.

By-Laws:

It was noted that Jordan provided some comments that were incorporated into the proposed by-laws and distributed for final review. Members were asked to have comments back to Susan McNellis within a couple weeks. Motion was made by Axtell and seconded by Schmitt to approve the by-laws. Vote was unanimous to approve.

Election of Officers:

There were no names provided to the nominating committee of Ron Jabs, Jon Ulrich and Ed Shukle.

Mr. Shukle contacted Mr. Hovland and Mr. Oberle and asked if they would be interested in a leadership role. Ms. Vermillion contacted Mr. Axtell, Mr. Ulrich and Mr. McLaughlin if they would be interested. Unable to reach Mr. Schmitt.

The following were the interested candidates:

Hovland
Ulrich
Axtell – not take minutes
McLaughlin – not be the chair
Oberle

There was discussion on making sure representation on the leadership team for the entire corridor. It was clarified that the three year limit in the by-laws is for one position on the leadership team. This means a rotation of leadership positions can be developed. The first year there can be co-chairs.

Rod Axtell nominated Mr. Hovland for chair based on his tenure and experience on transportation issues. Acting Chair Ulrich asked for additional nominations three times. Seeing none, the group voted unanimously for Mr. Hovland as chair.

Janet Williams nominated Mr. Ulrich for vice-chair. Acting Chair Ulrich asked for additional nominations three times. Seeing none, the group voted unanimously for Mr. Ulrich as vice-chair.

Mike Laven nominated Mr. McLaughlin for secretary. Acting Chair Ulrich asked for additional nominations three times. Seeing none, the group voted unanimously for Mr. McLaughlin as secretary.

There was discussion on the role of the treasurer. Scott County had volunteered to be the fiduciary agent for the first couple years based on experience with other corridors. They would provide data to the treasurer for reports. Treasurer needs to be one of the checking signatories for the coalition. It was deemed that these four positions would form the executive committee to help drive the coalition forward and all four positions were needed in that regard.

Jon Ulrich nominated Mr. Axtell for treasurer. Acting Chair Ulrich asked for additional nominations three times. Seeing none, the group voted unanimously for Mr. Axtell as treasurer.

Minutes: Axtell moved and Schmitt seconded the minutes for approval. Approved unanimously.

Work Plan Discussion:

Vermillion discussed the basic work plan, what Mr. Peterson had been retained for duties under 2009, 3 a. The budget was to be \$15,000.

Coalition has done some graphics work through Bloomington that needs to be moved forward for discussion pieces.

Is this the plan we want to implement, now that a coalition what are the Board's goals?

Discussion ensued on need for work plan to help shape the dues and budget which have been a struggle.

Direction was provided to have the executive committee and technical committee meet prior to next Board meeting and get the executive committee's priorities for the work plan. Specific thoughts should be discussed tonight if folks had them. Mr. Peterson felt we needed to revise the work plan and he would provide input to those committees.

A discussion on a letter to the Governor regarding the TH 169/I-494 interchange took place. The tone is too attacking as written and needs to be more collaborative; needs to document we want them to pursue TIGER funds, document history, document collaboration and we would like a meeting of our executive committee with the Governor and Commissioner of Transportation. It was determined this should be a "coalition" letter on letterhead that begins to show us as an entity.

Updates: TAB, Stimulus Funds, Federal Highway Bill Reauthorization:

Vermillion updated the Board on the Technical committee's efforts to submit 5 HPP applications that were distributed electronically to the Board. 2 to Walz, one in Mankato and one in St. Peter. One to Kline for 4 interchanges that included engineering and environmental work: Le Seuer, Belle Plaine, Jordan and Shakopee. Paulsen received two, one for TH 169/I-494 and one for the transit study and corridor study update.

Acting Chair Ulrich suggested we send another letter on coalition letterhead to all of our Federal Delegation, State Delegation, TAB Members, Mayors and Councils thanking them for their efforts on this project and how we plan to move ahead. Staff is to try to get to Mayor Williams the Kline letter by Monday a.m., as she and Mayor Schmitt are attending a meeting with the Congressman. Vermillion to provide Mayor Schmitt with a couple bullets regarding our request to Congressman Kline with the Federal Bill Reauthorization.

Rod Axtell would like to see us develop good data regarding the commodities that move through the TH 169 corridor. Al Forsberg suggested the D-7 Freight study for good information. Lisa Freese asked Al for assistance in finding some nuggets to use as part of our literature. Al suggested Lisa Bigham from D-7. Ronda Allis will work with Lisa Bigham beginning tomorrow.

Corridor Advocate Update:

Mr. Peterson provided an advocate update. He stressed the importance of formal organization and identity for moving forward. He discussed a handout on unallotment. He also talked with the Transportation Alliance regarding services they can provide. It was noted that members received in September of 2008, a memo regarding the Transportation Alliance they could refer to.

Next Meeting:

The next Board Meeting date is set for June 18, 2009 at 7:00 P.M., Scott County Board Room

The executive committee and technical committee meeting is set for June 4, 2009 at 3:00 P.M. at the Scott County Board Conference Room, 2nd Floor adjacent to the Board Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Lezlie Vermillion
Public Works Director
Scott County