



# US Hwy 169 Corridor Coalition

*Working together to enhance safety, reduce congestion and maximize economic development along the US Highway 169 inter-regional corridor.*

## Membership Board Meeting Minutes

**September 10, 2009**

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. by Chair, Mr. James Hovland.

Members Present:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Agency</b>
Lezlie Vermillion	Director of Public Works	Scott County
Michael Leek	Community Development Director	City of Shakopee
Jon Ulrich	Commissioner	Scott County
Lisa Freese	Transportation Program Manager	Scott County
Gene Abbott	City Council	City of Savage
John Powell	Public Works Director	City of Savage
John Considine		Region Nine Development Commission
Jim Gates	Deputy Director of Public Works	City of Bloomington
Rod Axtell	City Council	City of Bloomington
John Schmitt	Mayor	City of Shakopee
Ron Jabs		City of Jordan
Ed Shukle	City Administrator	City of Jordan
Brian Malm	Engineer	North Mankato
Neil Peterson	Corridor Advocate	
Jane Kansier	Transportation Manager	City of Prior Lake
James Hovland	Mayor	City of Edina
Mark McNeill	City Administrator	City of Shakopee
Al Forsberg	County Engineer	Blue Earth County
Tom McLaughlin	Commissioner	Blue Earth County
Russ Wille	Community Dev. Director	St. Peter
Jim Grube	County Engineer	Hennepin County

### **1) Welcome/introductions**

Chair Hovland welcomed the group and requested each member to introduce themselves and their affiliations.

### **2) Adoption of Agenda**

Mayor Schmitt moved and Council Member Abbott seconded the adoption of the agenda.

### **3) Adoption of minutes**

Council Member Axtel motioned for the approval of the July 29, 2009 meeting minutes. Mayor Schmitt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

### **4) Acceptance of the Financial Report**

Ms. Freese presented a format for approval of the month's financial statement and acceptance by the Board.

Format based on other coalitions that Scott County does this type of work. First page is revenue and expenses to date with account balance. Second page is summary of month's expenses and third page will be a budget and expense report for our corridor advocate.

Commissioner Ulrich moved and Mayor Schmitt seconded acceptance of the financial report.

### **5) Membership Update**

Ms. Freese presented the membership update.

We are still waiting for joint powers agreement and dues from Mankato. Ms. Freese and Commissioner McLaughlin are going to make contact with Mr. Hentges.

Belle Plaine has paid their dues but we are waiting for their joint powers agreement and appointed elected official and alternate.

St. Peter we are waiting for their joint powers agreement. St. Peter was just sent an invoice as we completed discussion on the appropriate staff member to contact.

Nicollet County was to consider membership at a September meeting, Ms. Freese was going to get back in contact with them.

As soon as we receive all the joint power signature blocks a pdf of the final agreement and signatures will be sent out to all members.

## **6) Corridor Advocate Contract**

Ms. Freese provided an update on the contract with Mr. Peterson that was approved by the Board last month. Ms. Freese and Mr. Peterson are still finalizing a couple issues revolving around insurance but believe a solution is near and will finalize soon.

## **7) Liability Insurance Update**

Mr. Leek who is leading this item was detained due to another meeting and this item was skipped over until his arrival.

## **8) Draft Corridor Document**

Mr. Gates presented the draft individual project one pagers for the projects along TH 169 as well as the corridor overview description.

He is still working with DOT on obtaining mapping and information for I-494 to I-694.

He also requested feedback on the project one pagers by September 17 for the next technical committee.

He has had comment from some Technical members but would like more.

Ms. Vermillion presented the reason for the one pagers, form a library to put together corridor brochures when meeting with Federal and State delegations to discuss the importance of US 169 and why these projects need funding support.

Mr. Gates noted the final project will be of higher resolution when printed.

Mr. Forsberg suggested that this document could be provided to local newspapers for getting the word out.

Ms. Vermillion noted that we need to add some information to the north such as the US 169 and Bren road project. Mayor Hovland suggested a one pager be developed for that project for Mr. Peterson to discuss with Minnetonka.

Ms. Vermillion noted that the TH 41 River Crossing was a different sort of project and those members should weigh in on whether that should be part of the packet. The local TH 41 interchange is a project but should the new river crossing be? Mr. Gate's discussed that planting the seed was critical for moving that project along and it should remain. Mayor Schmitt noted that it might generate some interest in Chaska and Carver County and bring them to the table.

### **9) Web Page Outline**

Mr. Gates distributed a web page outline. This document outlines the different web page contents and the technical team working on them. The goal is to have this ready for a technical team meeting on September 17, 2009. Bloomington staff has begun to populate the web page and will be looking for feedback at the next meeting.

Commissioner Ulrich stated that when businesses come on board as members, there should be a hot link from the US 169 webpage to their company's web page.

### **10) Corridor Accomplishments Celebration Discussion**

Mr. Shukle presented the preliminary plan for a corridor coalition celebration on October 29, 2009.

It will be held from 7 pm to 9 pm at the Ridges of Sand Creek Golf Course just south of Jordan.

Former DOT Commissioner Bob McFarlane will speak for about 20 minutes and then answer questions.

Mr. Shukle would like the US 169 Chairman and/or members to present background and information regarding the Corridor Coalition as an introduction to the celebration.

This is being held where the original kick off meeting for the Coalition was held. Invitations are to go out in late September or Early October. This will be for all current members and an opportunity to invite others to join.

## 11) Tiger Grant Application Update

Ms. Freese updated the Board on the recent discussions regarding the I-494/US 169 interchange application.

Meeting in August with Senator Klobuchar's staff to update them on the project. Couple issues the performance based design (does not include two interchange movements) and the policy based design which includes all freeway freeway movements. \$35 million dollars less to build the performance base design.

During the ARRA discussion, the FHWA locally would not accept the performance based design and sighted the approved work that included the policy based design. DOT submitted the interchange modification request of the performance based design and the FHWA has not accepted that design. Mn/DOT committed at Klobuchar meeting if they did not come to a resolution with FHWA they would submit the policy based design for TIGER funds. So as of the TH 610 groundbreaking there was still no resolution but the Mn/DOT did discuss with Sec. Mendez of the US DOT their concerns and why they support the performance based. Mn/DOT felt made progress and he had a genuine understanding and support for flexible designs due to economics. Issue is lack of current guidelines to when and what commitments need to be made. Mn/Dot also made a commitment that if/when needed they would program and build and if the performance based did not meet the need, they would program and build the other ramps. Mn/DOT will submit the policy based design and hopes that through discussions they may be selected and use the flexible design concept with commitment to monitor.

Mr. Gate's also stated he is seeing some acceptance at FHWA based on I-35W/I-494 interchange discussions.

Com. Ulrich updated the Board on the TAB's decision to support allocation of the \$34 million crosstown loan payment to a TIGER project if selected. This would bring a local commitment of \$34 million to either the I-494/US 169 interchange project or the St. Croix Bridge crossing which is a significant local contribution.

Mayor Hovland updated the Board on an August 13 meeting that DOT called and included FHWA staff regarding the flexible design concept. After Mn/DOT's presentation FHWA stated they are not against the performance based design but lack criteria for decision making. DOT stated would submit the full build. Commissioner Ulrich added that this was the first time John Sullivan of FHWA indicated that D.C. had heard this could be accomplished in a phased approach. Mayor Hovland did indicate that if St. Croix crossing was the recipient of TIGER Funds it could free up bonding dollars for another project.

Mr. Peterson asked if no TIGER Funds to I/494 and US 169 what becomes its status and if does get funded what about other project priorities on the corridor.

Mr. Forsberg responded that it was his understanding that TIGER funds are to be equitably distributed around the country and between rural and urban. Mayor Hovland stated DOT is submitting 5 projects that fall into three thresholds, less than \$100 million, \$100 - \$200 Million, and over \$200 million. Discussion on being only eligible for one project per state. Unless TIGER funds go to either St. Croix or 494/169 it will be very difficult to fund the US 169/I-494 interchange without additional state bonding to make happen. Mayor Hovland discussed a strategy of working with the north metro to discuss a major bond to move TH 610, US 169/I-494 and I-494 forward.

Commissioner McLaughlin discussed how important it is to get projects ready to go to construction. TH 14 and TH 169, TH 282 and TH 169 are ready and we should be working on getting them funded. Mr. Forsberg stressed it his experience we need to get projects shelf ready. Blue Earth is submitting a TIGER Fund application for TH 14 and CSAH 12.

#### **6.) Liability Insurance Update (returned to item 6)**

Mr. Leek updated the Board that he has submitted the application to LMCIT and is waiting to hear back on their recommendation for our insurance coverage and what our premium would be.

He is also going to look into the auto insurance coverage issue.

#### **12) Next Meeting**

Next meeting is October 8, 2009 at 7:00 pm at the Scott County Government Center.

The Corridor Coalition Celebration will be on October 29 from 7-9:00 at the Ridges of Sand Creek Golf Course south of Jordan.

#### **13) Other Items**

Mayor Hovland requested a quick update from Mr. Peterson regarding his recruiting work. He has had a half dozen informal conversations with businesses stressing the economic importance of the corridor and how the local governments are working together to solve the issues. He feels the businesses are on board with the need and when he is able to present some graphics and information they will become willing members of the coalition.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lezlie Vermillion, Scott County Public Works Director.