

Gateway Corridor Commission
August 11, 2011
Woodbury City Hall, Birch Room

Members	Agency	Present
Rafael Ortega	Ramsey County	X
Lisa Weik	Washington County	X
Kathy Lantry	St Paul	
Will Rossbach	Maplewood	X
Paul Reinke	Oakdale	
Mary Giuliani-Stephens	Woodbury	X
Dean Johnston	Lake Elmo	X
Randy Nelson	Afton	
Dan Kyllo	West Lakeland	X
Brian Zeller	Lakeland	X
Victoria Reinhardt, Alternate	Ramsey County	
Gary Kriesel, Alternate	Washington County	X
Paul Rebholz, Alternate	Woodbury	
Brett Emmons, Alternate	Lake Elmo	
Pat Snyder, Alternate	Afton	X
Dave Schultz, Alternate	West Lakeland	X
Peg Larson, Alternate	Lakeland	

Ex-Officio Members	Agency	Present
Mike Amundson	Baytown Township	X
Greg Watson	Woodbury Chamber of Commerce	X
Richard McNamara	Oakdale Business and Professional Association	
Doug Stang	3M	
Tim Ramberg	St. Croix County	
Zach Schwartz	St Paul Chamber of Commerce	X

Others	Agency
Mike Rogers	Ramsey County RRA
Lyssa Leitner	Washington County
Andy Gitzlaff	Washington County
David Jessup	City of Woodbury
Stephanie Eiler	CH2M Hill
Ellen Biales	St. Paul City Council – Ward 7
Clint Gridley	City of Woodbury
Allen Lovejoy	City of St. Paul
Garneth Peterson	St. Paul District Council 1
Ann Marshall	Citizen
Phyllis Letendre	Citizen

The Gateway Corridor Commission convened at 3:34 p.m. by Chair Weik.

Agenda Item #1. Introductions

Introductions were made by those present.

Agenda Item #2. Approval of Agenda

No changes were made to the agenda. Motion made by Johnston to approve agenda. Seconded by Rossbach. **Approved.** Motion carried.

Agenda Item #3. Summary June 9, 2011 Meeting

No changes were made to the June 9, 2011 meeting summary. Motion made by Johnston to approve June 9, 2011 meeting summary. Seconded by Rossbach. **Approved.** Motion carried.

Agenda Item #4. Consent Items

Item 4a. Checks and claims:

Gitzlaff distributed an updated checks and claims memo with two additional items. Motion made by Johnston to approve revised checks and claims. Seconded by Rossbach. **Approved.** Motion carried.

Agenda Item #5. Gateway Corridor AA Update

Item 5a. Update on Study

Gitzlaff distributed updated copies of supplemental information on the AA. Stephanie Eiler presented a PowerPoint presentation on the outreach activities and public comments. The second round of open houses is completed and the general comments included:

- Support for transit improvements
- Desire for feeder bus service and all-day service
- Concerns about traffic impacts, intersection impacts, business impacts during construction, right-of-way impacts, and environmental impacts
- Mixed opinions on preferences of BRT verses LRT.

Eiler presented the background and documentation on the revisions to the Alternatives that were recommended by the PAC and TAC. The discussion of a recommendation to dismiss the East 7th Street and White Bear Avenue Alternatives will be deferred to the September 7th combined PAC/TAC meeting.

Motion made by Johnston to approve the PAC/TAC recommendation to dismiss the BNSF Midway Subdivision Commuter Rail alignment option from consideration. Seconded by Rossbach. **Approved.** Motion carried.

Motion made by Rossbach to approve the PAC/TAC recommendation to revise Segment 3 Alternatives: BRT, LRT, and BRT Managed Lane. Seconded by Johnston. **Approved.** Motion carried.

Rossbach commented that this revision makes a lot of sense. We don't have a way to build a new bridge and we can't use expand the existing bridge; therefore, we need to use what we have existing at this moment. The recommendation indicates that both of the Departments of Transportation should look to make the situation better in the future.

Giuliani-Stevens asked what's going to be happening or what do we expect to learn over the next month that will help us make the decision about the St. Paul segments in September. Eiler said we will have more information on the impacts of changing the alignment; the next step allows them to have meetings to address concerns and look at impacts.

Item 5b. Outreach Activities

Gitzlaff referred to the outreach activities outlined in the packet. Future meetings include the East Side Area Business Association on September 14th, and the Oakdale Business Association on September 1st. Staff will keep the Commission updated if additional meetings are scheduled. Participation from Commission members is encouraged, especially if the meeting is in the member's district. There has been a lot of promoting for the open houses. Copies of five printed articles and eight on-online articles were included in the packet. Weik stated she has done a couple of presentations recently, as well as a taped segment on Monday for the Local Cable access channel. It will be broadcast from August 15th through September 15th on local markets in the east metro. The segment was brief; however, she has been invited to come back and do a longer segment on the Gateway Corridor.

Zeller commented that in one article, a position was taken in terms of the implementation of LRT, and we may want to update our talking points so that we can all be consistent and not discuss a predetermined outcome. Weik agreed. Kriesel also read the article and concurred that the information must be data driven. Zeller said, typically, calls he has received are assuming we are after one mode of transportation, and he tries to assure people that we're waiting to see what the study reveals. Zeller requested someone review the previous talking points and share them with the WI Gateway Corridor Commission so they are on the same page. Gitzlaff said staff can review the information to see if updates need to be made.

Agenda Item #6. Copyright/Trademark for Gateway Corridor

Gitzlaff provided background information on the value of pursuing a trademark of the Gateway Corridor logo. Staff recommended not submitting an application to trademark the Gateway Corridor. Motion made by Johnston to accept staff's recommendation to not trademark the Gateway Corridor. Seconded by Kylo. **Approved.** Motion carried.

Agenda Item #7 Communications

Item 7a. Google Analytics Update – May/June

Gitzlaff reviewed the reports in the packet for the months of May and June. They are expecting a big increase in July because of all the promoting for the open houses and the released newsletters. Weik said attendees of the open houses have commented that they visit the web site.

Agenda Item #8. East Metro Railroad Capacity Analysis Study Presentation

Rogers distributed copies and gave a PowerPoint presentation on the East Metro Rail Capacity Study. The study objectives include identifying capacity improvement scenarios with focus on technical issues and constructability, freight railroad acceptance, and limited cultural and environmental analysis. Rossbach asked who's paying for this study. Rogers said it is paid with 80% Federal funds and 20% State Bond funds; the study contains enough engineering to qualify for State funding.

Agenda Item #9. Legislative Update

Item 9a. State

Rogers discussed the state legislative update summary in the packet. Passenger rail is being funded for 2012 and 2013 at \$500,000 yearly, consistent with previous years. Transit service was cut significantly - \$25 million over the next two years; however, the appropriation increases for 2014 and 2015 which will bring it back to current funding levels. Metro Transit said there won't be any service cutbacks or fare increases; they will be able to shift some funds around to accommodate the cuts. CTIB will increase allocations of the net cost of operations to those transitways receiving sales tax funds from 50% to 75% for the next two years. Rogers also reviewed the \$20 million allocation of the Capital Investment Bill for the Transit Capital Improvement Program.

Item 9b. Federal

Rogers referred to debt ceiling increase information included in the packet. There are two separate transportation bills going forward. Right now we are running under extensions of SAFETEA-LU, which is the current six year bill. The Senate would like to pass a two-year extension or authorization bill which would allow them to fund transportation at current levels. The House is looking at passing a six-year bill that is about \$56 million less than the previous six-year bill.

Agenda Item #10. Other

Item 10a. Strategic Communication Plan Updates:

Gitzlaff said there is newly updated contact information based on legislative changes. Staff distributed copies of the section to be replaced in the communication packet.

Item 10b. Meeting Dates Summary

A schedule of upcoming meetings through the end of the year is included in the packet. There is one change; the TAC and PAC meetings in September will be combined on September 7th. There will not be a PAC meeting on September 21st.

Item 10c. Media Articles

Copies of media articles were provided in the packet. Weik said she went to Washington DC with the Transportation Alliance. She said it was very productive and she met with Senator's Klobuchar and Franken staff. She was also able to talk to Representative's Bachmann and McCollum staff, and the WI delegation staff to update them on the Gateway study.

Agenda Item #11. Adjourn

Ortega moved to adjourn. Seconded by Johnston. **Approved.** Motion carried. Weik called the meeting adjourned at 4:48p.m.