

**Gateway Corridor Commission**  
**June 9, 2011, 2011**  
**Woodbury City Hall, Birch Room**

<b>Members</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Present</b>
Rafael Ortega	Ramsey County	x
Lisa Weik	Washington County	x
Kathy Lantry	St Paul	x
Will Rossbach	Maplewood	
Paul Reinke	Oakdale	
Mary Giuliani-Stephens	Woodbury	x
Dean Johnston	Lake Elmo	x
Randy Nelson	Afton	x
Dan Kylo	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	
Dave Schultz, Alternate	West Lakeland	
Peg Larson, Alternate	Lakeland	

<b>Ex-Officio Members</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Present</b>
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	

<b>Others</b>	<b>Agency</b>
Ted Schoenecker	Washington County
Mike Rogers	Ramsey County RRA
Lyssa Leitner	Washington County
David Jessup	City of Woodbury
Josh Straka	Congresswoman McCollum's Office
Rachel Horn	Congresswoman Bachmann's Office
Mike Longaecker	Woodbury Bulletin
Allen Lovejoy	City of St. Paul
Steven Ebner	West Lakeland Township
Pauline Nixon	St. Paul District Council 1
Ray Stevens	West Lakeland

The Gateway Corridor Commission convened at 3:37p.m. by Chair Weik.

**Agenda Item #1. Introductions**

Introductions were made by those present.

Skip to Agenda Item #5 due to lack of quorum.

**Agenda Item #5. Amended and Revised Joint Powers Agreement**

Schoenecker updated the Commission on the two changes to the JPA and said we now have approval from everyone. The name change to 'Gateway Corridor' is official.

3:33 PM – Quorum was now present

**Agenda Item #2. Approval of Agenda**

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

**Agenda Item #3. Summary May 12, 2011 Meeting**

No changes were made to the May 12, 2011 meeting summary. Motion made by Johnston to approve agenda. Seconded by Ortega. **Approved.** Motion carried.

**Agenda Item #4. Consent Items**

Checks and claims: Motion made by Johnston to approve agenda. Seconded by Ortega. **Approved.** Motion carried.

**Agenda Item #6. Gateway Corridor AA Update**

**Item 6a. Update on Study**

Schoenecker referred to the status update memo in the packet. Washington County will be taking the funding request for the eighth alternative to the Washington County Regional Railroad Authority at their meeting next Tuesday. We have a resolution of support and funding from Ramsey County and the Metropolitan Council. We are planning open houses during the last two weeks in July in St. Paul, Woodbury, Hudson, and Eau Claire.

Zeller asked if attendance was similar at all four locations. Schoenecker said Woodbury had the highest and the other areas were similar. Zeller asked if we would consider dropping a location if it wasn't well-attended. Schoenecker said the challenge is the length of the corridor; if we cut one off, people are driving a significant amount of time to attend. We try to get relatively close to get better attendance.

Schoenecker said the FTA Initiation Package is our first check-in with the Federal Transit Administration. We will be submitting our information to the FTA for their review and comment.

**Item 6b. Approval of Evaluation Criteria Technical Memo**

Schoenecker referred to the Technical Memo included in the packet stating it is a tool to measure each alternative for comparison purposes. The memo does address the FTA's requirements and provides measurable items based on the Commission's goals and objectives. Giuliani-Stevens asked if they only wanted two goals highlighted. Schoenecker referred to page three of the memo stating the goals

separate themselves between two tiers; one quantitative and one qualitative. We hope to get feedback in 90 days.

Motion made by Johnston to approve the Technical Memorandum. Seconded by Nelson. **Approved.** Motion carried. The memorandum will be included in the Initiation Package being submitted to the FTA.

#### **Item 6c. Outreach Activities**

Schoenecker highlighted the groups they have spoken to. The recent focus has been on the St. Paul area. He said District 1 had good attendance and a lot of feedback, and they will revisit District 4 in the future. We will be trying to get all the St Paul District Councils together to try to get some commonality and get one voice talking about the Corridor. The AA project management team met with 3M for a technical meeting on alignment and station options specifically related to the AA study. 3M is supportive of looking at an alignment that would run along the frontage road and the south side of their property.

Greg Watson reported on yesterday's meeting with 3M. They are very interested in the corridor as a part of enhancing their improvements; they are spending a lot of time making improvements, adding to the facility, and taking a long-range look at how they recruit people. Watson and Zach Schwartz will act as the primary contact source with 3M to stay engaged as things come forth from the Commission. We also need to plan an educational open house on their campus to let their employees know about the available transportation methods. 3M's ex-officio member, Doug Stang, is trying to adjust his calendar so he can attend the Commission meetings.

Zeller asked if we have any data on where 3M's employees are commuting from. Giuliani-Stephens said most employees live nearby and drive; however, 3M feels that may limit their ability to recruit.

Schwartz commented that 3M is very receptive to having an on-campus open house. They don't want to be the centerpiece of why the Gateway Corridor is happening; they want to be a part of it, they want to benefit from it, and they are a strong ally. Weik said they have 11,000 employees at the Maplewood campus. Weik, Schwartz, Rossbach, Giuliani-Stephens, and Watson attended that meeting.

Watson said the Woodbury Chamber of Commerce recently passed a resolution in direct support of the Gateway Corridor. Both the Woodbury and St. Paul Chambers are closing the gap on all the business support they can get. Weik said all the businesses along the corridor can move their products and services better if we can mitigate traffic congestion.

#### **Agenda Item #7 Communications**

##### **Item 7a. Google Analytics Update**

Schoenecker referred to the updated numbers included in the packet. Looking at the week by week tracking, there is a spike the week before we attend a community outreach program. He noted that page 20 of 39 states the best way for people to stay in contact is to sign up to receive newsletters on the web site, and then take that information to their meetings and outreach activities.

##### **Item 7b. Media/Newsletter Communications**

Schoenecker said the packet includes information they have seen in newspapers as well as

newsletters/articles created by us to be put in a community newsletter. Ortega said we should be including the community newsletter for St. Paul. Schoenecker said they are on the list.

### **Agenda Item #8. Legislative Update**

**Item 8a. State:** Rogers said the budget is not very friendly to transit; it cut out state transit, but left suburban transit alone. The bill did allow the Met Council to make up for some of those cuts through the use of their reserve funds, the use of fund transfers from other areas. Other ways could include increasing fares, service reductions, route eliminations, and the ability to utilize CTIB sales tax funds if agreed to by the CTIB Board. This bill was vetoed by Governor Dayton partly due to what it does to transit, and also because of the zeroing out of funds for passenger rail. Governor Dayton welcomed how the bill included funding for better roads initiative to improve pavement quality and conditions.

The other main item is the potential State Government shutdown scheduled for July 1. There are discussions over what an essential service is, and who is an essential employee. The general hope is that a shutdown wouldn't last long; however, both sides see a shutdown as potentially advantageous for them and their next election.

**Item 8b. Federal:** Rogers said the big debate is the raising of the debt ceiling. There hasn't been much movement on that since our last meeting; however the negotiations are continuing. The republicans are pushing for more cuts and others want less cuts and less of a shock to the system. Some long-term budget economists think a broad-based, slower, and more deliberately laid out plan may be better.

There were votes on the fiscal year 2012 budget. There were talks about Medicare restructuring which gets at the debt reduction. None of the items passed, but were symbolic to get people on record. On the transportation authorization end, the Senate has previewed a surface transportation bill that would look to fund the program at current levels. Weik offered opportunities to comment to Horn and Straka. They declined. Weik will be attending the MN Transportation Alliance fly-in next week, and has meetings set up with Senator Klobuchar, Senator Franken, Representative Bachmann, and Representative McCollum.

### **Agenda Item #9. Other**

#### **Item 9a. Meeting Dates Summary**

Schoenecker referred to the summary of meetings tied to the Gateway Commission and the AA study. We are not planning a TAC or PAC meeting in July due to the open houses being conducted. Zeller asked if the Gateway Commission needed to meet in July. Schoenecker said we would know in a few weeks. Weik suggested that the Commission members should attend the open houses. Schoenecker distributed promotional materials that have been produced; postcards which give very quick short brief information and then directs people to the web site or an email option, and a newsletter with the most up-to-date information on the AA.

### **Agenda Item #10. Adjourn**

Johnston moved to adjourn. Seconded by Nelson. **Approved.** Motion carried. Weik called the meeting adjourned at 4:21p.m.