

**Gateway Corridor Commission Meeting Summary  
November 10, 2011  
Woodbury City Hall, Birch Room**

*Agenda Item #3b*

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

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

<b>Others</b>	<b>Agency</b>
Mike Rogers	Ramsey County RRA
Ted Schoenecker	Washington County
Andy Gitzlaff	Washington County
John Kaul	Washington County
Clint Gridley	Woodbury
Rachel Horn	Congresswoman Michele Bachmann's Office
Tim Cossalter	Senator Amy Klobuchar's Office
Sandy Rummer	Met Council
Charleen Zimmer	Zan Associates for Met Council
Phyllis Letendre	League of Women Voters-Woodbury/Cottage Grove
Linda Jungwirth	Assistant to Ramsey County Commissioner Rettman
Sally Eral	City of Landfall Village
Stephen Ebner	West Lakeland Township

The Gateway Corridor Commission convened at 3:31 p.m. by Chair Weik.

**Agenda Item #1. Introductions**

Introductions were made by those present.

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

No action due to lack of quorum.

**Agenda Item #3. Summary October 13, 2011 Meeting**

No action due to lack of quorum.

**Agenda Item #4. Consent Items**

**Item 4a. Checks and claims:** No checks and claims were submitted during the past month. No action necessary.

**Agenda Item #5. Met Council Transitway Guidelines**

Mary Karlsson, Transportation Planner with the Metropolitan Council, distributed and gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Draft Regional Transitway Guidelines, what is in them, and how they were developed. They have been working on them for about the past two years, and the draft is currently out for comments until November 18<sup>th</sup>. The Council is intending to adopt these as a stand-alone document separate from the Policy Plan, and comments are encouraged.

Giuliani Stephens asked if highway BRT travel-time is competitive with driving. Karlsson said yes, especially considering travel-time reliability. Giuliani Stephens asked if there are any systems where you can buy your fare online and download it onto your phone. Karlsson said there are some systems but Metro Transit is not one at this point.

Schoenecker said, in relation to these guidelines and what the Gateway Corridor is doing, Charleen Zimmer, who is working with the Met Council on developing these guidelines, is also part of the Gateway AA study team. A lot of what you'll see in the Alternative Analysis incorporated some of the concepts of these draft guidelines. Secondly, these guidelines don't specifically look at an exclusive BRT guideway type system. We have two alternatives within the AA looking at that, and if they look like they are viable options, it will be one of the first in the region. Lastly, the lead agency responsibilities can change throughout the course of the project; an organization doesn't need to follow it all the way through.

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

**Item 6a. Update on Study**

Andy Gitzlaff gave a PowerPoint presentation on the AA update including a coordination update on Agency/Stakeholder meetings held and upcoming meetings. Staff expects to come back to the Commission in a month or two with some ridership projections. Gitzlaff presented the eight build alternatives which appear reasonable and feasible. They will be doing analysis to see how the eight compare to each other. More detailed maps are available and can be sent to Commission members upon request.

Johnston asked if the consideration for Park and Rides on the north side of I-94 east of Oakdale are off

the table. Gitzlaff said they are assuming the Woodbury Drive/Keats Avenue location on the south side. There are three potential sites on the north side; however, the sites are placed on the south as a place holder to do the estimating for the study. Reinke asked if there is a timeline on Metro Transit's recommendation or decision. Gitzlaff said Met Council has the funding in place, but landowner negotiations could take time. Zeller asked where the northerly spike on the Alternative 7 – Commuter Rail map is located. Gitzlaff said it's in Baytown at Osgood Avenue; it was looked at as a potential station location at one point, but siting it near a curve makes it difficult. The location was moved to Manning to make it more centrally located, although there is a desire to capture some of the market from the Stillwater area. Reinke asked if the potential realignment of Highway 63 in the Baldwin area would make a difference in the planned station. Ramberg said the new highway will be about one-half mile outside of downtown; therefore, it shouldn't have an effect. Gitzlaff said the station locations were coordinated with the area planners. Schoenecker clarified that the map for Alternative 8 – BRT Managed Lane should show only one station location at McKnight instead of one at McKnight and one at Sunray/ 3M. Weik asked if there would be a lot of work to redesign the bridges with the managed lane alternative. Gitzlaff said we can fit the lane in the center, but the station locations could require some bridge rebuilds.

#### **Item 6b. Outreach Activities**

Schoenecker referred to the ongoing list of outreach activities included in the packet. Zach Schwartz is coordinating a meeting with 3M. Schwartz said 3M is interested in hosting a meeting and he is working with Gateway staff to determine the best timing for the meeting. We envision reaching out to the entire east metro business community and bring them into the 3M meeting; we have seen that they want to be involved, and we want the technical staff to clearly explain where we are in the process. Johnston said the Lake Elmo business community is represented by the Greater Stillwater Area Chamber of Commerce and asked if they are included. Schwartz said that once a meeting date is set, they would be asking Commission Members to reach out to other business community members that may not have been initially reached, get their input, and encourage attendance at this meeting.

#### **Agenda Item #7. Information on Draft Environmental Impact Statement**

Schoenecker gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Draft EIS to give the Commission a better handle on where it fits into the entire transitway process and what it will be looking at. Giuliani Stephens asked if there are check-ins along the way. Schoenecker said yes; there is a lot of communication with the Federal agencies to make sure we're on the right path. Zeller asked where the money is coming from. Schoenecker said the money for the DEIS has been identified; Washington County has funding through its contribution of CTIB and Ramsey County has funding through the Gateway Corridor Commission. The funding for the FEIS and New Starts Application is not programmed in anyone's budget yet. Zeller said it seems the demand is relatively obvious from the west and moving towards the east, and he sees the demand trickling down as it moves east. He asked if there are opportunities to scale back, if appropriate, to save costs. Schoenecker said yes; the 90-mile corridor is broken into segments. Because the AA looks at each station individually, we can confidently know ridership by station. Giuliani Stephens asked if the Federal team has any involvement in the decision of which alternatives are studied. Schoenecker said it's not black and white; it starts with the relationships we have with FTA. For the most part, unless there is some very technical reason to not carry something through, the FTA leaves it in the hands of the local entities to say which alternatives they chose and why. Giuliani Stephens asked if we are working with a specific identified Federal team. Schoenecker said yes; the FTA is broken into regions, and the region that looks at the Twin Cities is based in Chicago.

## **Agenda Item #8 Communications**

### **Item 8a. Google Analytics Update – September**

Schoenecker distributed a sheet showing the number of visitors to the web site stating September was lower due to previous months open houses. Reinke said the web site still has July open house dates on it. Schoenecker said the update is in process.

## **Agenda Item #9. Legislative Update**

### **Item 9a. State**

Rogers said there is not a lot happening on the State level other than the stadium. December and January will have more discussions for us to pay attention to. At this point, it does not look like a special session will be happening; the regular session starts January 24, 2012.

### **Item 9b. Federal**

Rogers said the discussion is on the Super Committee on debt reduction and the need for new revenue. There seems to be some concessions between Democrats and Republicans to bring new revenue in by closing some loopholes in the tax code. November 23<sup>rd</sup> is the deadline to have their plan before Congress, and Congress is supposed to act on it before the end of the year. If nothing happens, it would trigger a massive cut to defense and to Medicare; it's such a poison pill that they'll enact something if they can't come to an agreement. From the appropriations measures for 2012, the Senate passed their minibus appropriations to bring the HUD bills through. The House still needs to act, but they have said they will come up to existing funding levels for transportation in a new six-year bill.

Kriesel said there is good news on the Stillwater Bridge. It passed a huge hurdle and is the closest it's ever gotten. It will go to the House and Senate next for debate.

## **Agenda Item #10. Other**

### **Item 10a. Strategic Meeting Dates Summary**

December 8<sup>th</sup> meeting will be a lighter agenda due to a Washington County Board meeting that evening. December 9<sup>th</sup> is the WI Gateway meeting.

## **Agenda Item #11. Adjourn**

Weik called the meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.