

Summary of Meeting
Gateway Corridor Commission
January 12, 2012
Woodbury City Hall, Birch Room

Agenda Item #3

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

Others	Agency
Mike Rogers	Ramsey County RRA
Ted Schoenecker	Washington County
Wayne Sandberg	Washington County
Tim Mayasich	Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority
Pat Thompson	St. Croix County
Rachel Horn	U.S. Representative Bachmann's Office
Katie Topinka	Senator Franken's Office
Allen Lovejoy	City of St. Paul
David Jessup	City of Woodbury

Stephen Ebner	West Lakeland Township
Linda Jungwirth	Assistant to Ramsey County Commissioner Rettman
Sally Eral	City of Landfall Village
Chris Amundson	Student

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. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Chair Weik opened nominations for the position of Chair for the 2012 Gateway Corridor Commission. Reinhardt nominated Lisa Weik for the position of Chair. Lantry seconded. **Approved.** Motion carried. Nominations were opened for the position of Vice Chair. Lantry nominated Dean Johnston for Vice Chair. Reinhardt seconded. **Approved.** Motion carried.

Agenda Item #3. Approval of Agenda

No changes were made to the agenda. Motion made by Reinhardt to approve the agenda. Seconded by Lantry. **Approved.** Motion carried.

Agenda Item #4. Summary of December 8, 2011 Meeting

No changes were made to the December 8, 2011 meeting summary. Motion made by Rossbach to approve the December 8, 2011 meeting summary. Seconded by Kylo. **Approved.** Motion carried.

Agenda Item #5. Consent Items

Motion made by Reinhardt to approve checks and claims. Seconded by Kylo. **Approved.** Motion carried.

Agenda Item #6. Gateway Corridor AA Update

Item 6a. Update on Study

Schoenecker highlighted some of the activities happening in the Gateway Corridor. The primary activities have gone through the TAC and there is a PAC meeting next Wednesday. The consultant is still compiling the ridership and cost numbers, and as each meeting occurs, this information is getting more refined. The packet includes upcoming meetings and what will be discussed at the meetings. The PAC and TAC meeting will be combined in March and will look specifically at the matrix of alternatives, what will be presented at the open house, and a potential draft recommendation on an LPA. The February Gateway Commission meeting will include a thorough update from the consultant on the AA.

Giuliani Stephens asked if there has been any concern that the timeline is too compressed based on what still needs to be done by the consultants. Schoenecker said it was discussed with the consultant about three months ago and we did push the schedule out one month further; therefore, we feel that gives us enough time to get all those matrix of travel-time and user

benefits. Giuliani Stephens asked what the effect on the timing process will be if we select more than one alternative. Schoenecker said we haven't had those detailed discussions yet; however, adding alternatives would create additional time and analysis. Weik commended the consultant firms for holding the scheduled timeline and not compromising the data.

Item 6b. Outreach Activities

Schoenecker referred to the packet showing previous and future outreach meetings regarding the AA. As more detailed information on ridership and costs is available, we are proactively setting up meetings with entities we met with previously. If you are aware of an entity that wants a presentation on the AA, please contact Schoenecker to schedule one.

Schwartz updated the Commission that the event scheduled for 3M has been revised to be held at Globe University on February 3rd, from noon to 1:00p.m. They are working on an information handout for that event and once it is prepared he will share with the Commission.

Agenda Item #7 Communications

Item 7a. Website/Social Media/Videos

Schoenecker referred to the update in the packet on the website and Google analytics. The website is still having new visitors, which is positive. We are going to continue to help maintain the site so it has updated information. In addition to the Communications Consultant, Washington County has hired Lyssa Leitner as a Special Project staff to assist in facilitating communications.

Schoenecker referred to the implementation a Facebook page as discussed at the March and April 2011 Gateway Commission meetings. Questions included cost, but with Leitner on staff, we have an internal person who can keep it updated and it would not be necessary for the Communications Consultant to maintain that process. Staff believes this is the right time to launch a Facebook page, leading into this last round of open houses; it provides an additional forum for people to connect to what the Commission is doing. Staff will move forward with the implementation and maintenance of the Facebook page, and depending on usage, discuss additional forums like Twitter and YouTube.

Amundson commented that Facebook will have a lot of commentary, both positive and negative, and what is the strategy for managing, monitoring, and sorting the comments and posts. Weik said comments could be allowed or disallowed depending on your settings. Schoenecker said establishing a policy on the Facebook page to address more of the inflammatory-type comments; if you allow comments, you can remove certain comments at any time. Secondly, does the Commission want to use it as a social medium so that a dialog can happen and we can receive other entities' comments on a post. There are different levels of what we can allow on the Facebook page; staff can bring back some answers to those questions at next meeting. Looking at the purpose of Facebook and Twitter, it is to allow that dialog back and forth to get comments and feedback, whereas the web site doesn't allow outside comments. Weik commented that Metropolitan Mosquito Control has also launched a Facebook page; Government entities are utilizing the medium for communications.

Schoenecker showed four videos of the alternatives included in the AA. They utilized the County's GIS software to show a fly-thru view of the alternatives. These videos are bare-boned, but they give a different perspective. Weik commented that they are helpful. Schoenecker said it's a push of a button to make the videos public or private; we could email the links to Commission members and/or put a link on the web site. We can email the links for you to view on your own and discuss at a later meeting. Giuliani Stephens commented that people may want to watch the videos at the open houses. Schwartz commented we would need to clarify that not everything is on the map, it's not up to engineering standards, and it's not a final decision; the video is a general idea to help with a visual.

Amundson commented that his company, a real estate appraisal firm, co-sponsored an 'Outlook for 2012' presentation. There was a broker present who does investment deals around the country, and we asked what effect transit might have. He described Denver as being about ten years ahead of Minneapolis in terms of their system build-out. He said there is a clear preference now for not only tenants looking for transit locations, but also investment dollars, globally, chasing those same locations. Weik agreed that a fixed transit system is a safer investment for developers.

Item 7b. Google Analytics Update – November/December
Information provided in the packet.

Agenda Item #8. Legislative Update

Item 8a. State

Rogers said the session starts the end of this month. It's a short session and it is a bonding session; there is an opportunity for bonding money to come into transit and into the Gateway Corridor. It's important to work with our legislators to get the message out about the corridor and keep the momentum moving forward. There is a break in the session in early February, a ten-day break again around Easter, and the wrap up of the session in April; therefore, it doesn't really give much time for bills to be introduced, heard, and acted upon. The message is that we need to be out there early and often to make sure that Gateway stays at the top of the list.

i. Resolution of Support

Schoenecker said the \$1,000,000 requested is part of Washington County's legislative platform, we've included that in our resolution, and it is now part of CTIB's legislative platform. The item before the Commission is a resolution from the Gateway Commission in support of that request from Washington County. Reinhart asked if we need to take this resolution back to our respective Counties and CTIB, or is this something Washington County has already passed and is asking for support. Schoenecker said Washington County has approved this request as part of their legislative platform; the item before the Commission is a resolution in support of Washington County's request. The resolution is not asking you to pass a similar resolution by your individual entities; however, you can do that if you wish.

Motion made by Reinhardt to approve to resolution. Seconded by Lantry. Commissioner's

Reinhardt, Weik, Lantry, Rossbach, Giuliani Stephens, Johnston, Kylo, and Nelson in favor. **Approved.** Motion carried. Commissioner's Reinke and Zeller were absent.

Weik commented that Washington County will be having its annual meeting with the legislators on January 23rd and will be discussing the legislative platform. Weik added she is also the Chair of the Regional Rail Authority this year for Washington County, and Vice Chair of the Washington County Board.

ii. Identification of Legislative Spokesperson(s)

Weik said she is very active at the legislature and plans to be as much or even more this year. She added that she is the 2012 delegate to CTIB for Washington County, along with Dennis Hegberg, and she is continuing to be the all-point person for transportation.

Motion made by Reinhardt to appoint Weik as spokesperson. Seconded by Rossbach.

Giuliani Stephens said she would be willing to be the alternate. Rossbach concurred that she would be a good alternate.

Chair Weik called the question. All in favor. **Approved.** Motion carried.

Item 8b. Federal

Rogers referred to the packed stating the 112th Congress did conclude, and a lot of things are starting to kick in to election mode. There is some hope that something will happen with the six-year reauthorization bill prior to its expiration in March; if not, nothing may happen since it'll be too close to elections. On the fiscal year 2013 appropriations, both the House and Senate would like to get their bills passed on-time, and part of that will start when Obama puts out his budget in February. From the congressionally directed spending, formally known as Earmarks category, it's looking like there will be some reform to the process which may have some opportunities for people to ask for funding directly for their specific project.

Schwartz asked if Washington County is leading the effort to maintain the bonding for the Gateway Corridor. Rogers said it is this group that is leading the effort, mainly by Chair Weik who is from Washington County.

Agenda Item #9. Other

Item 9a. Meeting Dates Summary

Reinhardt said Rush Line's regularly scheduled meeting is March 15th and she would prefer not to meet that day since Rush Line doesn't meet every month. Another option for the 15th Gateway meeting would be to hold it from 1:30p.m. to 3:00p.m. to allow Ortega, Rossbach, and Rogers enough time to get to their next meeting. Schoenecker said it should say either the 15th or 22nd. The meeting is being moved to better align with the PAC and TAC meetings. He will email Commission members to check their schedules for a 1:30 p.m. March 15th meeting date.

Item 9b. Arterial BRT Presentation - February

Schoenecker said a representative from Metro Transit will be here in February to make a presentation on the Arterial BRT Study. Weik added, as a footnote, that arterial BRT is not eligible for CTIB funding.

Schoenecker requested updated contact information if there are new or different assignments to the Gateway Corridor Commission, PAC, or TAC.

Rachel Horn updated the Commission that a vote on the St. Croix Bridge is expected next month; it is moving forward and continues to move forward. Weik commented that Washington County really appreciates Bachmann's support.

Weik said Amtrak is moving their offices to the Union Depot, but there isn't a date yet. Rogers said the Union Depot project has approximately 3,000 jobs. Weik said she heard a report today that Amtrak has had great numbers, an increase in riders, and are going to be purchasing additional locomotives, all of which affects the Twin Cities.

Agenda Item #10. Adjourn

Motion made by Johnston to adjourn. Seconded by Lantry. **Approved.** Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 4:31 p.m.