



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

November 12, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chair, Mr. James Hovland.

Members Present:

Name	Title	Agency
Lezlie Vermillion	Director of Public Works	Scott County
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
Ronda Allis	Community Development Director	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
Mark McNeill	City Administrator	City of Shakopee
Ron Jabs		City of Jordan
Ed Shukle	City Administrator	City of Jordan
Brian Malm	Engineer	North Mankato
Neil Peterson	Corridor Advocate	
Warren Erickson	City Council	City of Prior Lake
Jane Kansier	Transportation Manager	City of Prior Lake
James Hovland	Mayor	City of Edina
Al Forsberg	County Engineer	Blue Earth County
Tom McLaughlin	Commissioner	Blue Earth County
Lewis Giesking	Public Works Director	St. Peter
Jerry Pfeifer	City Council	St. Peter
Jim Grube	County Engineer	Hennepin County
Matt Rottermond	Project Manager	Mn/DOT-Mankato

1) Welcome/Introductions

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

2) Adoption of Agenda

Mayor Hovland proceeded with the agenda. Council member Axtell moved for approval, Councilmember Abbott seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

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 financial statement through October 2009 and requested acceptance by the Board.

Mayor Schmitt moved; Councilmember Erickson seconded acceptance of the financial report and the board voted to approve the report.

5) Membership Update

Ms. Freese noted that the Deputy Clerk received an executed joint powers agreement from Nicollet County. But we still have not received a JPA or dues from the City of Mankato.

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 Report

Ms. Freese reported that contract issues have been worked out and the final document is being prepared and should be provided to Mr. Peterson. Mr. Peterson handed out his October summary report. Chair Hovland asked Mr. Peterson to share his concerns about the role of his position, in particular his concern about business recruitment

potential. Discussion of the members occurred. No conclusions were reached but the general consensus of the discussion was that government membership was a priority and that business awareness was more important than memberships at this point, for the coalition. To be able to call on business partners to accompany them on a trip to the legislature or to meet with the states federal delegation more important than necessarily have dues paying business affiliate members. The discussion helped to clarify that the intent of the coalition's contract with Mr. Peterson was not intended to require that he bring in review equivalent to his contract but to rather grow interest and awareness in the coalition's existence and purpose.

7) Liability Insurance

Staff was directed to seek a proposal for general municipal liability for the Coalition. Michael Leek and the Shakopee staff submitted a request for proposal to the Capesius Agency locally, who, in turn, worked with the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust (LMCIT) to develop the attached proposal.

In short, what is proposed is a general municipal liability policy with an annual premium cost of \$850.00. Many of the listed items, which is based on a typical municipal liability policy, are specifically noted as "not covered" as they are not relevant to the operation of the Coalition.

Mr. Leek was unable to attend tonight's meeting but offered the following actions for the executive board and coalition to consider.

1. Offer and pass a motion directing that the appropriate persons proceed with securing the liability coverage as outlined.
2. Table the item for additional information and discussion at a future meeting.

The executive board discussed the issue earlier this evening and recommended that the board approve this expenditure with the understanding that staff would do further research as to the need for insurance for the coalition before the policy renewal in 2010. Mayor Schmitt expressed concern that the coalition didn't have enough information on what the policy covered and why it was needed. After considerable discussion, Council member Erickson moved to talk until next meeting and requested that staff provide more information. Mayor Schmitt seconded the motion and it was approved.

8) Draft Corridor Document

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

The Board agreed the product should be somewhat of a living document but that for now the package was almost complete and ready to roll out. They requested that the Technical Committee make the following enhancements:

1. Add more documentation for the need to fix I494/169-data on congestion and crashes
2. Make sure Edina is on the mapping
3. Develop 2 maps for the overall corridor area
4. Add a map on the Freight one pager to show Ports of Savage

9) Web Page Presentation-

Mr. Gates introduced Erik Juhl from the City of Bloomington. Mr. Juhl ran through the website explaining the structure and the web site contents. The Board members commented on the quality of the design and the appeal of the website graphics/layout.

A couple of desired corrections were identified: removing the reference to partnering agency, adding Edina as a label on the maps and correcting the affiliate membership intent. The website is up and operational. The City of Bloomington would prefer to not be responsible for the maintenance of the website, but the responsibility is still to be sorted out by the Technical Committee. The website address is <http://www.us169corridorcoalition.com>.

10) Corridor Accomplishments Celebration Discussion

Mr. Shukle provided a brief update on the Celebration Event on October 29, 2009 at the Ridges of Sand Creek Golf Course near Jordan. About 30 participated in the event.

Former DOT Commissioner Bob McFarlin provided the keynote and the Executive Board provided an overview of the corridor coalition successes. Bolton and Menk donated refreshments for the event

11) Tiger Grant Application Update

Ms. Freese noted that we anticipated hearing on the TIGER application in January 2010. Jim Gates played a copy of a video that MnDOT has produced on the project discussing

the performance based approach. A letter from the Minnesota FHWA office acknowledge approval of the interchange modification request for the full build project and the willingness to work on developing criteria for a performance based project was distributed. Chair Hovland commented that this was a success and that this is a major breakthrough in the impasse between MnDOT and the FHWA to move forward with the project. Now if funding can be secured.

12) St. Peter Design Build-Education Program

Lewis Giesling, St. Peter Public Works Director introduced Matt Rottermund from the MnDOT-Mankato District. Mr. Rottermund, the project manager for the project, presented an overview of the Saint Peter US169 project funded through the ARRA program. Highlights included the historical context of the corridor and the business impacts of the full road closure. The City of St. Peter provided assistance to the businesses through the closure which was a unique approach that to the best of their knowledge had not been done in Minnesota. There was some discussion of the design build process and it was noted that another community in the coalition would be involved in another Mn/DOT project being done using this approach-the City of Savage TH13/101 Interchange Project.

13) Next Meeting Date

Next meeting is December 10, 2009 at 7:00 pm at the Scott County Government Center.

In 2010 the coalition would like to explore rotating the meeting locations to other places along the corridor. The technical committee will explore the options.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Freese, Scott County Transportation Program Manager.