



US Hwy 169 Corridor Coalition

Working together to enhance safety, reduce congestion and maximize economic development along the US Highway169 inter-regional corridor.

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

November 12, 2009

Present: Jim Gates, Jon Ulrich, Rod Axtell, James Hovland, Lisa Freese, Neil Peterson, Tom McLaughlin, Ed Shukle and Lezlie Vermillion.

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 pm by Vice Chair Jon Ulrich

- 1) Welcome and approval of Agenda –Jon Ulrich, Vice Chair, Scott County
- 2) Adoption of Minutes. The Minutes of the September 10, 2009, meeting were distributed. They were reviewed. A motion was made by Mr. Axtell to approve, seconded by Ulrich and approved unanimously by voice vote.
- 3) Project One Pagers. Jim Gates presented a final version of the one pager package that has been put together by the technical committee with the assistance of the City of Bloomington staff. Vice Chair Ulrich suggested that more emphasis be placed on the Ports of Savage, especially in the graphics to tell a more complete story of the US 169 corridor. He noted its importance was even acknowledged by Mn/DOT by including the TH13/TH101 project in the I494/US 169 Interchange TIGER Application. It was also noted that the labeling should be adjusted to reflect coalition members more strongly. Of special concern was that Edina is a member and currently Eden Prairie is not, but the maps as presented didn't include Edina. Another concern was that the corridor wide graphic only went from Mankato to the I494 area. Some adjustments need to be made to more strongly reflect the desire to include US169 all the way to I-94. The Technical Committee was asked to consider those comments and incorporate them in some manner in the final version of the package.
- 4) Chair Hovland arrived. Chair Hovland noted that Mr. Axtell had lost his re-election bid for his council seat at the City of Bloomington last week. He noted

that Mr. Axtell's loss was a disappointment for the coalition and he acknowledged the efforts and leadership Mr. Axtell has provided leadership to the coalition.

- 5) Financial Report- Lezlie Vermillion presented the monthly financial report through October, 2009 noting the payments for the web server hosting to the City of Bloomington for the work they have been performing on the one pagers and web page. Since the September meeting the dues payment has been received from the City of St Peter. Then balance leaving a balance on hand of \$23,227.21. The Executive Committee voted to accept the financial report.
- 6) 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 asked staff why an insurance policy was even needed. Lezlie Vermillion and Lisa Freese recapped that insurance was a recommended item that came out of the Minnesota League of Cities review of the draft Joint Powers Agreement. Considerable discussion occurred regarding the actual need for a policy, especially in light of the fact that the proposed policy doesn't cover areas that might be a part of the coalition's work. For example, travel was not covered, so if members got into an accident traveling to and from a coalition activity it would need to be covered by the individual or the local unit of government that person represented. After considerable discussion Mr. Axtell made a motion to recommend approval of the policy, noting however that staff should further investigate the need for coverage prior to its renewal a year from now. Mr. McLaughlin seconded it and it was passed on to the Board for consideration.

- 7) Corridor Advocated report. It was reported that Mr. Peterson has returned the contract to Scott County and was awaiting receipt of the final executed copy with his desired changes reflected. Mr. Peterson presented a one page summary report of his work during October. He has made a trip to the Mankato area and St Peter. He met with Mr. McLaughlin, chair of the Blue Earth County Board; Wendell Sande of North Mankato and Barb Embacker of the Greater Mankato Area Chamber. He also tried to connect with the St Peter and LeSeuer, but was not able to connect with the city administrators.

While he has made some contacts with the business community and governmental entities, he has concerns regarding his ability to sell enough memberships. He requested the executive committee discuss his job description to determine if it was the right approach, especially given the economic times and the status of the coalition finances. A number of the businesses that he has contacted to date express support for the coalition, but he questioned whether he can realistically recruit businesses to join the coalition when they are struggling to make payroll and pay the rent. Mr. Peterson discussed that he perceived the executive board wanted him to make a certain quota for recruiting business members and based on his contacts to date, he doubted that was possible.

A discussion ensued regarding the focus of the corridor advocate position. It was suggested that membership recruitment efforts should focus on government recruitment at least for now. Making contacts with businesses along the corridor was a useful effort even if it doesn't result in dues paying members because it makes them aware there is an organized effort and helps the coalition develop a list of contacts that they may recruit to assist them in telling "the story" of how important US 169 is for movement of the their products and services with the legislature and Congressional Delegation. Chair Hovland recommended that the focus of the corridor advocate's role be discussed further by the full Board.

- 8) Technical Committee Update.
- a. Celebration Event Wrap-up. Ed Shukle provided a summary of the Celebration event held at the Ridges of Sand Creek Clubhouse in Jordan on October 29, 2009. About 30 attended the event with good representation up and down the corridor. The executive committee provided comments on the successes of the coalition since its early formation efforts in the summer of 2008 with a summary of the accomplishments and the web page distributed to all attendees. Former Mn/DOT commissioner Bob McFarlin spoke to the group on the

importance of transportation advocacy groups and the role that they can have in getting funding and projects prioritized. It was acknowledged that Bolton and Menk provided refreshments and appetizers for the event.

- b. Upcoming Board Meeting Education programs. Lisa Freese noted that the technical committee was trying to develop an Education component to every Board meeting agenda. Upcoming program ideas include the St Peter Design Build ARRA project being presented tonight, the Southwest LRT study, MnPASS/managed lane study on US 169 and the TH41 River Crossing EIS. It was suggested that we invite businesses and educational institutions along the corridor to come and present. Any ideas should be directed to the technical committee and they will continue to work on the program for 2010 board meetings.
- 9) The Executive Board meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm

Respectfully Submitted by Lisa Freese, Scott County Transportation Program Manager