



# 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

**October 13, 2011**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chair, Mr. Hovland.

Members Present:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Agency</b>
<b>Jim Hovland</b>	<b>Mayor</b>	<b>City of Edina</b>
<b>Jon Ulrich</b>	<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Scott County</b>
<b>Lisa Freese</b>	<b>Transportation Manager</b>	<b>Scott County</b>
<b>Jim Gates</b>	<b>Deputy Director Public Works</b>	<b>City of Bloomington</b>
<b>Vance Stuehrenberg</b>	<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Blue Earth County</b>
<b>Alan Forsburg</b>	<b>County Engineer</b>	<b>Blue Earth County</b>
<b>Ron Jabs</b>	<b>Board Representative</b>	<b>City of Jordan</b>
<b>Ed Shukle</b>	<b>City Administrator</b>	<b>City of Jordan</b>
<b>Bob Oberle</b>	<b>Mayor</b>	<b>City of Le Sueur</b>
<b>Seth Greenwood</b>	<b>Public Works Director</b>	<b>Nicollet County</b>
<b>Jane Kansier</b>	<b>Director of Bldgs/Trans Svs</b>	<b>City of Prior Lake</b>
<b>Ronda Allis</b>	<b>Comm &amp; Economic Dev Director</b>	<b>Region 9 Development Commission</b>
<b>Janet Williams</b>	<b>Mayor</b>	<b>City of Savage</b>
<b>John Powell</b>	<b>Public Works Director</b>	<b>City of Savage</b>

<b>Mark McNeill</b>	<b>City Administrator</b>	<b>City of Shakopee</b>
<b>John Schmitt</b>	<b>Mayor</b>	<b>City of Shakopee</b>
<b>Tim Strand</b>	<b>Mayor</b>	<b>City of St. Peter</b>
<b>Brandi Popenhagen</b>	<b>Project Coordinator Corridor Advocate</b>	<b>WSB &amp; Associates</b>

**1) Tour of Cambria: Followed by Business Meeting starting at 7:00 p.m. upon completion of tour**

The committee toured the Cambria facility.

**2) Welcome/Introductions – James Hovland, Chair, City of Edina**

Chair Hovland welcomed the Board members and guests.

**3) Adoption of Agenda**

Item 9 was removed and will be discussed at the November meeting. It was replaced with an election of a new Executive Committee secretary.

A motion was made by John Schmitt to approve the agenda. Mayor Janet Williams seconded the motion, which the Board passed by unanimous vote.

**4) Adoption of Minutes**

Mark McNeill motioned for the approval of the August 11, 2011, meeting minutes. John Ulrich seconded the motion, which the Board passed by unanimous vote.

**5) Acceptance of the Financial Report**

Ms. Lisa Freese presented and reviewed the financial statements for September 2011. Ms. Freese requested acceptance by the Board.

Mayor Bob Oberle motioned for approval. Ronda Allis seconded the motion, which the Board passed by unanimous vote.

**6) Educational Program, Cambria Presentation and Discussion with Coalition**

Butch Brey, Plant Manager, and Bob Brown provided information regarding Cambria's (LeSueur) use of US 169.

- 40 to 50 trucks are in and out of the facility every day.
- 15 to 20 trucks are traveling to the Belle Plaine facility daily. Two trucks going round the clock.
- There are a total of 250 employees, and approximately 175 employees access the facility daily.
- The employees typically live within a 30-mile radius of this facility.
- 10% of product uses rail locally; however, Cambria would like to expand this possibility by moving the line closer to the facility.
- 75% uses rail through the ports nationally.
- There are also 40 to 50 trucks in out of the Belle Plaine facility.
- Cambria's marketshare is mostly the Midwest but is expanding into Florida and other US markets.
- This campus can grow from two plants (currently) to five plants. This would grow the truck traffic by 150%.
- Cambria is doing well during this downturn of the housing market due to investments in residential remodels.
- Cambria described three major US 169 safety concerns:
  - The hill just south of the facility on US 169 creates an acceleration problem for trucks leaving the rest area. Trucks lack adequate gaps to leave and accelerate to free flow speeds when leaving the rest station. Vehicles traveling at 65/70 mph are not expecting trucks at very slow speeds as they approach this hill, resulting in crashes and/or many near misses.
  - The left turn at the old Cambria Avenue intersection remains in place. Vehicles are often caught turning left with nowhere to go resulting in dangerous situations for northbound traffic traveling at high speeds with a vehicle at a stop or very slow conditions trying to figure out where to go.
  - Their existing Cnty Rd intersection with US 169 poses many challenges for their truck drivers. There are not many gaps for these heavy trucks to turn left into or turn left out of safely. This results in risky movements due to impatience waiting for an acceptable gap. Butch has seen too many near misses and has directed drivers to use the interchange further south to turn around and make a right-in. This results in added time, driver frustration, as well as difficult movements at the interchange with frequent slow moving heavy trucks mixed in with high-speed vehicles.
  - It was suggested that Butch meet with MnDOT and the Corridor Advocate to express their challenges.
- Cambria expressed interest in working with the Coalition. Doug Weiszhaar will follow up with Butch or Bob.

- Members of the group expressed that tours with businesses should be part of future Board Meetings.

## **7) Executive Committee Report**

**Recruitment** – An effort to recruit private business was emphasized. The board was asked to bring lists of business representatives that Doug Weiszhaar would follow up with for recruitment. Board members were given another two weeks to provide their lists.

**Project Priorities Efforts** – An effort to prioritize coalition projects was discussed. The Technical Committee provided an objective analysis which ranked projects up and down the corridor. The board was asked to review the analysis and provide comments on the ranking and if any projects were missed.

**Legislative platform** – The Technical Committee will be looking at an organized legislative platform that the Board will review. This is expected to be used when coalition members talk with legislators.

## **8) Approve 2012 Dues Schedule**

Ms. Lisa Freese indicated that the Technical Committee reviewed the dues scheduled and recommended that annual dues for government coalition members remain the same. The Technical Committee will be considering a dues schedule for private businesses. She suggested that maybe the number of employees will establish the amount in dues similar to how population is used for government dues.

Mayor Tim Strand motioned for approval of the dues schedule for government. Jim Gates seconded the motion, which the Board passed by unanimous vote

## **9) Election of a new Executive Committee Secretary**

Mike Lavin sent an email to the Executive Committee resigning his position as Secretary. Mayor Bob Oberle was suggested as a replacement.

Vance Stuehrenberg motioned for approval of Mike Lavin's resignation. John Powell seconded the motion, which the Board passed by unanimous vote.

Vance Stuehrenberg motioned for approval of Mayor Bob Oberle's position of Secretary of the Executive Committee. Mayor Tim Strand seconded the motion, which the Board passed by unanimous vote

## **10) Corridor Advocate Update**

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Brandi indicated that Doug Weiszhaar was working on setting up a meeting with MnDOT on behalf of the coalition to discuss concerns with the 101 River Crossing study.

### **11) Technical Committee Report**

The following items will be worked on at the next Technical Committee meeting scheduled for October 27 at 1:30 p.m.

- Legislative report/platform
- Assemble names of business representatives
- An emphasis on increasing membership

### **12) Other Items**

#### **Minnesota GO – Comments due October 21**

It was suggested that Board members review the visioning being done by MnDOT and provide individual comments. The Board will not provide an official Coalition comment.

### **13) Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by Brandi Popenhagen, Project Coordinator - Corridor Advocate, WSB & Associates