



Agenda

Gateway Corridor Commission

January 13, 2011 - 3:30 PM

Woodbury City Hall, Birch Room
 8301 Valley Creek Road
 Woodbury, MN 55125

<u>Item</u>	<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Action Requested</u>
1. Introductions		
2. Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair*	Washington County	Approval
3. Approval of Agenda		Approval
4. Summary December 9, 2010 Meeting*		Approval
5. Consent Items		Approval
a. Checks and Claims*		
6. Previous Agenda Items*	Washington County	Information
a. Alternatives Analysis Update		
b. Amended JPA		
7. Ex-Officio Appointment*	Washington County	Approval
8. Appointment of Member to Wisconsin Gateway Coalition*	Washington County	Approval
9. Establishment of Meeting Dates and Times*	Washington County	Approval
10. Legislative Update	Washington County	
a. State		
i. Legislative point person(s)*		Assignment
b. Federal*		Information
11. Other		
a. TLC Presentation to Sierra Club*		Information
12. Adjourn		

*Attachments



Agenda Item #2

DATE: January 7, 2011
TO: Gateway Corridor Commission
FROM: Staff
RE: Election of Officers

The Gateway Corridor Commission Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) calls for the election of a Chair and Vice-Chair at the first Gateway Corridor Commission meeting of the calendar year. Also, based on the JPA, the Chair and Vice-Chair position shall consist of at least one financial member.

For 2010, the Chair was Washington County Commissioner Gary Kriesel and the Vice-Chair was Mayor Bill Hargis. For 2011, Mayor Mary Giuliani-Stephens will be on the Commission representing Woodbury. Also, Washington County Commissioner Lisa Weik has been assigned as the member representative for Washington County. All other member representation has remained the same.

A listing of the 2011 Commission Members and Ex-Officio Members is included on the next page.

Action Requested: Election of Officers



Gateway Corridor Commission Members 2011

County Regional Railroad Authorities

Lisa Weik
Washington County Commissioner

Rafael Ortega
Ramsey County Commissioner

Cities and Townships

Kathy Lantry
City of St Paul, Council President

Dean Johnston
City of Lake Elmo, Mayor

Will Rossbach
City of Maplewood, Mayor

Randy Nelson
City of Afton, Council Member

Paul Reinke
City of Oakdale, Council Member

Dan Kylo
West Lakeland Township, Chair

Mary Giuliani-Stephens
City of Woodbury, Mayor

Brian Zeller
City of Lakeland, Mayor

Ex-Officio Members

Mike Amundson
Baytown Township, Supervisor

Greg Watson
Woodbury Chamber of Commerce

Doug Stang
3M

Richard McNamara
Oakdale Business and Professional
Association

Tim Ramberg
Wisconsin Gateway Coalition

**Gateway Corridor Commission
December 9, 2010 Meeting Summary
Woodbury City Hall, Birch Room**

Members	Agency	Present
Rafael Ortega	Ramsey County	x
Gary Kriesel	Washington County	x
Kathy Lantry	St Paul	
Will Roszbach	Maplewood	x
Paul Reinke	Oakdale	
Bill Hargis	Woodbury	x
Dean Johnston	Lake Elmo	x
Dan Kylo	West Lakeland	x
Randy Nelson	Afton	x
Brian Zeller	Lakeland	
Tony Bennett, Alternate	Ramsey County	
Bill Pulkrabek, Alternate	Washington County	
Lisa Weik, Alternate	Washington County	x
Paul Rebholz, Alternate	Woodbury	
Nicole Park, Alternate	Lake Elmo	
Dave Schultz, Alternate	West Lakeland	x
Pat Snyder, Alternate	Afton	
Peg Larson, Alternate	Lakeland	

Ex-Officio Members	Agency	Present
Greg Watson	Woodbury Chamber of Commerce	x
Mike Amundson	Baytown Township	
Doug Stang	3M	
Richard McNamara	Oakdale Business and Professional Association	
Tim Ramberg	St. Croix County	x

Others	Agency
Ted Schoenecker	Washington County
Raymond Stevens	West Lakeland Township
Andy Gitzloff	Washington County
Roger Rebholz	St. Croix County
Mike Rogers	Ramsey County RRA
Don Place	Woodbury Resident
John Kaul	Washington County State Lobbyist
Steven Elmer	Met Council
David Jessup	City of Woodbury
Darin Broton	Tunheim Partners
Mary Giuliani Stephens	Mayor-Elect, City of Woodbury
Josh Straka	Congresswoman McCollum's Office

Others	Agency
Zach Schwartz	St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce
Allen Lovejoy	City of St. Paul
Julie Quist	Congresswoman Michele Bachmann's Office

The Gateway Corridor Commission convened at 3:34 p.m. by Chair Kriesel.

Agenda Item #1. Introductions

Introductions were made by those present.

Agenda Item #2. Approval of Agenda

No changes were made to the agenda. Motion made by Rossbach to approve agenda. Seconded by Johnston. **Approved.** Motion carried.

Agenda Item #3. Summary October 14, 2010 Meeting

No changes were made to the October 14, 2010 meeting summary. Motion by Johnston to approve the meeting summary. Seconded by Hargis. **Approved.** Motion carried.

Agenda Item #4. Consent Items

- a. Checks and claims: Motion by Ortega to approve the consent items. Seconded by Johnston. **Approved.** Motion carried.

Agenda Item #5. Previous Agenda Items

- a. Alternative Analysis Update: Schoenecker reiterated that the AA includes Minneapolis to Eau Claire. He will act as Chair of the TAC meetings; however a Chair and Vice Chair for PAC meetings is needed. Rossbach nominated Ortega to be the Chair of PAC. Nelson seconded. **Approved.** Motion carried. Weik suggested the Vice Chair be a representative from WI. Tim Ramberg from WI said Chuck Whiting is leaving and Dan Fedderly is quite active and would likely be able to serve. Dan Federly is also the Chair of the WI Gateway Coalition. Kriesel motioned for Fedderly to be the Vice Chair of PAC. Rossbach seconded. **Approved.** Motion carried.
- b. Revised and Amended Joint Powers Agreement (JPA): We have recently received Ramsey County's resolution. Afton will be discussing the amended JPA in January, and we still need St. Paul and Oakdale to finalize the completion. Staff will follow up with those cities.

Agenda Item #6. Final Strategic Communications Plan

Darin Broton, Tunheim Partners, distributed final copies of the Plan. He thanked the members and staff who made comments and suggestions on the plan. Tunheim recommends, at this time, holding off on social media for six to nine months based on the available resources. They suggest revisiting this as the Alternative Analysis Study is further along. As the corridor continues to develop and look for federal and state funding, social media could be a very useful tool. He distributed printed copies of the PowerPoint Presentation (draft) that would be used as a speaker's tool. Broton said things to consider over the next year include:

- Defining the Corridor: we need to examine both of the end points.

- Define the business community's role and opportunities to further engage them.
- Engaging the public: the commission should attend community events to educate civic leaders and the public as to what's going on so they can become advocates for the corridor.

Kyllo asked if the logo is trademarked. Kriesel suggested it would be advisable to copyright the name and logo. Ortega concurred.

Stevens said the State of MN should be included on the list as a major employer in the Plan. Ortega said we should identify all the big businesses along the corridor. Kriesel asked how we communicate to the residents along the corridor. Broton said the time to communicate is now so that when the final route is determined it is not a surprise to anyone. He reiterated attending civic engagements to keep people aware. Ortega suggested a goal sheet be made for meeting with people. Stevens suggested contacting the education facilities.

Motion made by Rossbach to approve the Strategic Communications Plan. Seconded by Hargis. **Approved.** Motion carried.

Agenda Item #7. Final 2011 Workplan and Budget

Schoenecker said the final version has not changed from the draft version presented at the last meeting. Motion made by Ortega to approve the 2011 Workplan and Budget. Seconded by Johnston. **Approved.** Motion carried.

Agenda Item #8. Financial Services Agreement

Schoenecker said we are formalizing the agreement between the Gateway Corridor Commission and the Washington County Regional Rail Authority for the WCRRA to act as the Commission's Fiscal Agent. Motion made by Ortega to approve the Chair to sign the Financial Services Agreement. Seconded by Johnston. **Approved.** Motion carried.

Schoenecker said the name change to Gateway can't happen until the amended JPA is signed.

Agenda Item #9. Wisconsin Coalition Update

As of Tuesday, St. Croix County approved Tim Ramberg as a replacement for Chuck Whiting. Ramberg said the WI group is excited to move forward, and they have an electronic newsletter out now. Hargis said he would like a better understanding of the politics in WI since the Governor has said he isn't going to take any federal money for the project. Rebholz said they don't have the governor educated yet; however, last Tuesday in Madison, there were 700 people meeting to keep the rail routing moving forward.

Ortega said congress has removed the earmarks for 2011, and we should talk about getting our congressional people to sign a letter that they still support the Gateway Corridor. We need to make sure the funding is in place now for the next few years; it is important to keep our delegation corraling our support and keep pushing our agenda so federal and state funding doesn't stray. Hargis concurred that we need to have a proactive strategy in place. Motion by Hargis to send a letter to the legislators to reaffirm their support of the corridor. Seconded by Ortega. **Approved.** Motion carried.

Agenda Item #10. Legislative Update

- a. State: John Kaul said it was a historic election and currently there are lots of meetings and moving around. The first three to four weeks of the legislature will be orientation. The budget deficit is historic, and it is unlikely there will not be federal stimulus money. The budget will be priority one, two, and three. Ortega said he has been at meetings at the State House this past week, and the reality is that you can't cut six billion dollars; there needs to be a combination of cuts and revenue. Hargis asked what it could mean in the transportation/transit area. Kaul said he doesn't think there will be much money to get and it will be put on the backburner for now; it could be two slower years without great initiatives. Hargis said we need to use the two-year lull as an opportunity to do our homework and prepare.

Kriesel thanked Mayor Hargis for his service. He has been a great public servant for Woodbury and Washington County. Hargis said he will still be involved in Transportation and the Gateway policy. The new mayor will take his place in January.

Kriesel and Weik left the meeting at 4:33 p.m.

- b. Federal: Andy Burmeister from Lockridge Grindal Nauen updated the Commission on what's going on in Washington and the impact of elections. The large-scale item is the flip in the house and how that could affect the Commission's objectives: it is clear that both sides have to work together to get things accomplished and there is a desire to do that. There will be different ways to ensure this project stays on the minds of legislators. Stevens said it might be worth including discussions about the Highway 36 Bridge and the National Park Service to show the importance and need of the Gateway Corridor. Hargis asked what the perception of the WI delegation of projects like the Gateway Corridor is. Burmeister said they get the importance, but he's not sure how it will play out with the governor.

Agenda Item #11. Other

- a. HUD Sustainability Grant: The grant application submitted was successful in getting five million dollars, and Gateway Corridor identified as a part of this study.
- b. St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce Letter: They are voicing their support for the Gateway Corridor. Zach Schwartz from the St. Paul Chamber of Commerce said the Chamber would be interested in participating with this Commission in contacting area businesses. Schwartz answered Ortega saying he would be attending future meetings. Hargis asked if the Chamber is ex-officio. Schoenecker said not yet. The January meeting will be used to invite the newly elected officials to update them on the Corridor.
- c. Media Information: Included in packet.

Schoenecker said the January meeting will include a lot of administrative items such as scheduling meeting dates for 2011.

Agenda Item #12. Adjourn

Ortega moved to adjourn. Seconded by Rossbach. **Approved.** Motion carried. Hargis called the meeting adjourned at 4:59 p.m.



Agenda Item #5

DATE: January 7, 2011
TO: Gateway Corridor Commission
FROM: Staff
RE: Checks and Claims

Included below is a summary of the invoices that have been received since the previous meeting:

Strategic Communication Plan (Tunheim Partners)

<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Amount</u>
November 2010	\$1,487.50

This last payment completes Tunheim Partners' work scope for completion of the Commission's Strategic Communication Plan.

Alternatives Analysis (CH2M Hill)

<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Sept 15 – Oct 29, 2010	\$33,907.57
<u>Oct 30 – Nov 26, 2010</u>	<u>\$40,760.51</u>
Total	\$74,668.08

Detailed invoices can be made available upon request.

Action Requested: Approval of Claims and Checks



DATE: January 7, 2011
TO: Gateway Corridor Commission
FROM: Staff
RE: Previous Agenda Items

Alternatives Analysis Update

Two meetings of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) have been held with the majority of the discussion being about the Universe of Alternatives and screening those alternatives to a realistic number to bring into the next step for further analysis. The TAC recommended moving 7 alternatives forward to the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) for their review and consideration for recommendation to the Gateway Corridor Commission at your February meeting.

The next meeting of the PAC will be on February 2 at 3:00 at Woodbury City Hall. Also, the first round of open houses for the study is scheduled for:

- Feb 23 – St Paul Union Depot
- Feb 24 – Woodbury City Hall
- March 1 – Hudson (St Croix County Government Center)
- March 2 – Eau Claire (exact location to be determined)

These open houses will be from 5-7 PM and will be the first introduction to the study and will highlight the universe of alternatives and the screened down alternatives that will move forward.

Action Requested: Information.

Revised and Amended Joint Powers Agreement (JPA)

At the September 2010 meeting, the Commission discussed the steps necessary to revise and amend the JPA. Electronic copies of the amended JPA and resolution have been sent to each of the Commission members for them to take action.

To date, we have received the resolutions and signature pages from:

Washington County Regional Railroad Authority	Lake Elmo
Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority	West Lakeland Township
Maplewood	Lakeland
Woodbury	

We have talked with staff from St Paul, Oakdale and Afton and they have recently taken action on this item or will be taking action soon. In order to finalize the revised and amended JPA, we will need the original, signed resolutions and signature pages from all parties.

Action Requested: Information



Agenda Item #7

DATE: January 7, 2011
TO: Gateway Corridor Commission
FROM: Staff
RE: St Paul Area Chamber of Commerce Ex-Officio Invitation

Recognizing the importance of the business community, other local agencies and Wisconsin representatives, the Commission sent letters to several entities asking for their involvement in the Commission as ex-officio members. To date, the ex-officio members include:

- Baytown Township
- Woodbury Chamber of Commerce
- Oakdale Business and Professional Association
- West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
- 3M Corporation

Based on recent discussions with the St Paul Area Chamber of Commerce, a follow-up letter was sent to the Chamber inviting them to become ex-officio members of the Commission. The Chamber has received and accepted that invitation. Included below is the response from the Chamber president, Matt Kramer:

I received a very nice letter from Gary today regarding his nomination of the Saint Paul Area Chamber as an ex-officio member of the Gateway Corridor. We are honored to be part of your team and Zach Schwartz, who I've cc:'d on this e-mail, will be our designee.

We very much support this project and look forward to adding our voice to your efforts as you move forward.

Action Requested: Appoint the St Paul Area Chamber of Commerce as an ex-officio, non-voting members of the Commission.



Agenda Item #8

DATE: January 7, 2011
TO: Gateway Corridor Commission
FROM: Staff
RE: Wisconsin Gateway Coalition Representation

At its June 2010 meeting, the Gateway Corridor Commission appointed Chair Gary Kriesel as the I-94 Corridor Commission member to the Wisconsin Coalition as an ex-officio, non-voting member. Ted Schoenecker was appointed the alternate.

The next meeting of the Wisconsin Gateway Coalition will be on January 18, 2011 at the Menomonie Government Center, Room 5B.

Action Requested: Appoint a Gateway Corridor Commission member to the Wisconsin Coalition as an ex-officio, non-voting member.



Agenda Item #9

DATE: January 7, 2011
TO: Gateway Corridor Commission
FROM: Staff
RE: 2011 Meeting Schedule

Through the development of the Bylaws, the Commission identified a regular scheduled meeting date of the second Thursday of every month at 3:30 PM. Included below are the actual dates for 2011:

January 13

February 10

March 10

April 4

May 12

June 9

July 14

August 11

September 8

October 14

November 10

December 8

Action Requested: Motion to adopt the 2011 meeting schedule.



Agenda Item #10a

DATE: January 7, 2011
TO: Gateway Corridor Commission
FROM: Staff
RE: Legislative Spokespersons

At the October meeting, the Commission approved a resolution of support requesting \$1,000,000 in state bond funds for the Gateway Corridor through the 2011 legislative session. When the legislative session and committee hearings begin, a representative (or representatives) from the commission will need to be present to work with the legislative author and present the information about our request at the hearings. In addition to these session and committee hearings, staff is working on arranging individual meetings with the legislators in the corridor to introduce the commission, bring them up to speed on where the commission is and to look at what is coming in the next months to years.

In order to effectively plan for and attend these hearings and meetings, staff recommends the Commission discuss the assignment of a legislative spokesperson(s) from its members. The main role of this individual is to be available to provide testimony at any of the legislative committee hearings. Staff will prepare talking points, handout materials and also be in attendance at any of these meetings.

Last year, the Commission assigned Chair Gary Kriesel and Vice-Chair Bill Hargis as the legislative point persons.

Action Requested: Assignment of the legislative spokesperson(s) for the 2011 legislative session.



Agenda Item #10b

DATE: January 7, 2011
TO: Gateway Corridor Commission
FROM: Staff
RE: Federal Update

Included below is a summary prepared by Lockridge Grindal Nauen on Congressional activities for the week of January 3rd.

Action Requested: Information.

Federal Update – Week of January 3rd, 2011

CONGRESS IN ACTION

Welcome to the first installment of the **Lockridge Grindal Nauen Federal Relations Group** federal update for 2011 and the 112th Congress. As you may recall, the House and Senate gavelled the 111th Congress to a close prior to the Holidays and reconvened at noon on Wednesday of this week to swear in new Members and begin the new session of Congress.

With 87 Republicans and 9 Democrats, the House of Representatives swore in their largest freshman class in more than 60 years. Republicans now control the House by a margin of 242-193. Democrats maintain control of the Senate by a margin of 53-47. Both the House and Senate spent most of this week organizing their respective Chambers.

In addition, on Thursday the House voted to cut their operating budget. The resolution would cut operating budgets for most House committees, leadership offices, and individual members' offices by 5 percent. The exception would be the Appropriations Committee, which will see its budget reduced by 9 percent. House Republicans also indicated their desire this week to move forward on efforts to repeal the recently passed Health Care bill and replace it with alternatives.

The Senate will adjourn at the end of this week for a two-week recess to mark the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, while the House is expected to be in session for a portion of next week.

House Rules Package:

Following the election of John Boehner (R-OH) as Speaker of the House, the Chamber adopted a rules package (along party lines by a vote of 240-191) for the 112th Congress that its framers have suggested



is designed to control federal spending, cut the deficit, and make the chamber more accountable to the public.

Specifically, the rules plan replaces the current PAYGO rule — which requires offsets for the costs of both increases in mandatory spending and reductions in tax revenues — with a new “cutgo” rule that applies only to mandatory spending, and which would bar the use of tax increases to offset the costs of new mandatory spending.

The rules package also includes language that would allow Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan (R-WI) to unilaterally establish spending caps for the remainder of fiscal year 2011 (the end of September).

Proposed Senate Rule Changes:

On Wednesday, a group of Senate Democrats proposed changes to the Chamber’s operating rules that would reduce senators’ power to slow down or block legislation and nominations. The proposal would eliminate senators’ ability to filibuster motions to bring legislation to the floor (known as a motion to proceed), though senators could still seek to filibuster final passage.

The measure would also require the disclosure of the names of senators who place holds on legislation or nominations, force senators who object to legislation to hold the floor through filibuster-style speeches, and cut the time for debate on nominations that get at least 60 votes to break off filibusters from 30 hours to two hours.

While debate on the rules changes began Wednesday, the Senate will be on hiatus until Jan. 24 for off-site party retreats and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day break. Negotiations between the two parties are expected to take place during that time.

Transportation:

On Tuesday, House Republicans rejected an attempt to ease a proposed rule that will make it easier to cut highway and transit spending on the House floor. The language, which was included in the House passed rules package, calls for eliminating an existing point of order that prevents the House from taking up any legislation that includes spending levels for highway and transit programs that are lower than what is guaranteed in authorization law.

John Mica (R-FL) Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee was among those who supported changing the rule. Sources have indicated that although the rule was not changed, major players involved have committed to work together to minimize its impact on the overall level of transportation funding.

Health Care Reform:

On Monday, House Republicans unveiled their repeal of the nation's new health care law, setting the stage at the same time for legislation that would rewrite it on Republican terms. The Rules Committee met Thursday to consider the pending rule and the House debated and considered the rule on the floor Friday. It is expected that the repeal vote will occur next Wednesday, January 12th.

House Republicans have suggested that the legislation failed to lower costs as promised and is a barrier to job growth for both small and large businesses. Citing a provision that closed the gap in the



prescription drug program for Medicare beneficiaries (referred to as the “doughnut hole”), Senate Democrats have emphasized potential consumer consequences of repealing the law and have made clear they intend to defend it.

The effort to repeal the healthcare law is not expected to advance since Democrats still control the Senate and the President is expected to veto any legislation which alters the law.

President’s FY2012 Budget Request:

The White House confirmed over the holidays that President Obama’s proposed budget for fiscal 2012 will be delayed by about a week in February. By law, the president’s budget is required to be submitted to Congress by the first Monday in February (the 7th this year), but there is no penalty for missing that deadline. The Administration now expects that the budget will be released the week of Feb. 14th. The President is expected to use his budget plan to argue for key investments while providing for longer-term efforts to reduce deficits.

Appropriations:

The House Appropriations Committee is expected to announce their Subcommittee chairs this afternoon. We will provide a list of these Members in next week’s update.

In December, the House Republican caucus adopted a one-year moratorium on congressionally-directed spending items or “earmarks”. Although the newly adopted House rules do not include this moratorium, it is expected that House leaders will implement the ban through leadership decisions, including, but not limited to refusing to consider any legislation that includes earmarks.

In the Senate, however, it is very possible that Members could put forward spending and authorization bills that include earmark requests. This could end up complicating House Republicans’ efforts when the conference stage begins.

SPECIAL NEWS, NOTES, AND EVENTS

Minnesota State Society Reception Honoring the Minnesota Delegation

Wednesday January 5, 2011

Representatives of the Lockridge Grindal Nauen Federal Relations Group attended the Minnesota State Society’s Capitol Hill Reception honoring Minnesota’s Congressional Delegation for the 112th Congress. The reception was held in conjunction with the swearing-in of Minnesota’s House delegation.

Congressman Chip Cravaack (R-MN08) was sworn in for his first term and attended the reception. Other Members including **Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)** and **Senator Al Franken (D-MN)** also attended the event.

Minnesota Congressional Delegation Open Houses

Wednesday January 5, 2011

In conjunction with the start of the 112th Congress, Members of Minnesota’s Congressional Delegation held open houses in their offices. Lockridge Grindal Nauen Representatives fanned out across the Hill and visited the offices of **Congressman Tim Walz (D-MN01)**, **Congressman John Kline (R-MN02)**, **Congressman Erik Paulsen (R-MN03)**, **Congresswoman Betty McCollum (D-MN04)**, **Congressman Keith Ellison (D-MN05)**, **Congresswoman Michele Bachmann (R-MN06)**, **Congressman Collin Peterson (D-**



MN07), and Congressman Chip Cravaack (R-MN08) to visit with Members and their staff about the upcoming legislative session.

MINNESOTA DELEGATION NOTES

Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) has proposed measures to improve the FDA's ability to handle drug shortages. To read about the measure, click [here](#).

Senator Al Franken (D-MN) became a cosponsor of the Udall/Merkley/Harkin proposal to reform the filibuster. For an opinion article about potential impacts of proposed rule changes, click [here](#).

Congressman Tim Walz (D-MN01) was interviewed this past week by MPR about being in the minority. To read a transcript of the interview or listen online, click [here](#).

Congressman John Kline (R-MN02) announced his role this week as a leading co-author of legislation to repeal health care reform. Click [here](#) to read more about his efforts.

Congressman Erik Paulsen (R-MN03) was named to the Human Resources, Select Revenue Measures, and Social Security Subcommittees for the House Ways and Means Committee. To read his press release about the assignments, click [here](#).

Congresswoman Betty McCollum (D-MN04) announced December 17th that a \$1.18 million federal grant is being awarded to the Dakota County Railroad Authority. Read more about the Department of Transportation grant [here](#).

Congressman Keith Ellison (D-MN05) announced his plans for a telephone town hall to be held next Tuesday, January 11th on the scheduled House vote to repeal the Affordable Care Act. To learn more or sign up, click [here](#).

Congresswoman Michele Bachmann (R-MN06) has joined the list of potential Republican presidential hopefuls. Click [here](#) to read more about it.

Congressman Collin Peterson (D-MN07) announced this week that despite supporting partial repeal of some elements of the health reform bill, he will not vote in favor of the Republicans' bill to fully repeal it. Read more on the story [here](#).

Congressman Chip Cravaack (R-MN08) discussed how he will prioritize conservative values over Republican values in his first nationally televised appearance. Click [here](#) to see a clip of his comments.



Agenda Item #11

DATE: January 7, 2011
TO: Gateway Corridor Commission
FROM: Staff
RE: Transit for Livable Communities (TLC) Presentation to Sierra Club

Staff was recently made aware of a presentation that is going to be given by the Transit for Livable Communities (TLC) to the Sierra Club on the potential for improved transit along I-94 to improve congestion and protect the Wild and Scenic Riverway. Included below is the notice:

Transit in the Valley: the I94 (Gateway) Corridor and more!

Can transit along Interstate 94 (Gateway Corridor) alleviate congestion and preserve scenic open space in eastern Minnesota and western Wisconsin?

Sierra Club's St. Croix Valley Interstate Group has been working for decades to protect the scenic St. Croix River and the surrounding valley. They have invited TLC to their January meeting to provide information about how expanded transit can alleviate traffic congestion while protecting the Wild and Scenic Riverway.

Join us for an informative presentation and an invitation to join TLC and the Sierra Club in working for expanded transit in this region.

When Tuesday, January 25, 2011
7 PM - 8:30 PM

Where Boutwells Landing
5600 Norwich Parkway
Oak Park Heights, MN 55082
[See Map](#)

If you are interested in attending, please register on-line at TLC's website (www.tlcmnnesota.org). Staff has not yet had an opportunity to talk with TLC about the details of this presentation. We will have more information for you at the meeting on Thursday.

Action Requested: Information.