



Agenda
Gateway Corridor Commission
February 10, 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. Approval of Agenda		Approval
3. Summary January 13, 2011 Meeting*		Approval
4. Consent Items		Approval
a. Checks and Claims*		
5. Gateway Corridor Alternatives Analysis**	CH2M Hill	Approval
6. St Croix River Bridge Presentation**	MnDOT	Information
7. Insurance Coverage for Commission*	Washington County	Approval
8. Recap of 2009 / 2010 Commission Activities	Washington County	Information
9. Communications Consultant Contract*	Washington County	Approval
10. Legislative Update	Ramsey County	Information
a. State		
b. Federal*		
11. Other	Washington County	Information
a. Summary of Meetings*		
b. Bus Tour		
12. Adjourn		

*Attachments

** Information to be provided at the meeting.

Gateway Corridor Commission
January 13, 2011
Woodbury City Hall, Birch Room

Members	Agency	Present
Rafael Ortega	Ramsey County	x
Lisa Weik	Washington County	x
Kathy Lantry	St Paul	
Will Rossbach	Maplewood	x
Paul Reinke	Oakdale	
Mary Giuliani Stephens	Woodbury	x
Dean Johnston	Lake Elmo	
Dan Kyllo	West Lakeland	x
Randy Nelson	Afton	x
Brian Zeller	Lakeland	
Victoria Reinhardt, Alternate	Ramsey County	
Gary Kriesel, 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	
Mike Amundson	Baytown Township	x
Doug Stang	3M	
Richard McNamara	Oakdale Business and Professional Association	
Tim Ramberg	St. Croix County	
Matt Kramer	St Paul Chamber of Commerce	x

Others	Agency
Ted Schoenecker	Washington County
Mike Rogers	Ramsey County RRA
David Jessup	City of Woodbury
Tim Mayasich	Ramsey County RRA
Ray Stevens	West Lakeland Township
John Kaul	Washington County State Lobbyist
Josh Straka	Congresswoman McCollum's Office
Rachel Horn	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. Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair

Chair Kriesel opened nominations for the position of Chair for the 2011 Gateway Corridor Commission. Rossbach nominated Lisa Weik for the position of Chair. Ortega seconded. **Approved.** Motion carried. Nominations were open for the position of Vice Chair. Giuliani Stephens nominated Dean Johnston for Vice Chair. Kyllo seconded. **Approved.** Motion carried.

Agenda Item #3. Approval of Agenda

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

Agenda Item #4. Summary December 9, 2010 Meeting

Schoenecker indicated there is a small revision to be made to the December 9, 2010 meeting summary. He noted that on agenda item #10 of the legislative update a correction is needed. Please correct the third line down to read: *and it is unlikely there will be any federal stimulus money.* Motion by Nelson to approve the meeting summary as amended. Seconded by Rossbach. **Approved.** Motion carried.

Agenda Item #5. Consent Items

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

Agenda Item #6. Previous Agenda Items

- a. Alternative Analysis Update:
Schoenecker referred the Commission Members to the Alternative Analysis Update handout in their packet. He updated the Commission as to where the study was to date. The focus has been on a more technical nature trying to screen the options down to a manageable number of seven. These options will then be brought forward to the Policy Advisory Committee meeting, and the final decision making body will be this board, the Gateway Corridor Commission.
- b. Amended Joint Powers Agreement (JPA):
Schoenecker indicated that since the revision and amendment of the JPA at the September 2010 meeting, we have received the signed resolutions from most of the members and have three remaining members to take action. We have been in contact with them and they are in the process of approval or will be taking action soon.

Agenda Item #7. Ex-Officio Appointment

Schoenecker reminded the Members that historically this Commission believed that the business community was important to the Corridor's success. Invitations were sent out to request ex-officio members from area businesses to sit on the board. The St Paul Area Chamber was one of those members originally requested, and now we are back in contact with the St Paul Chamber. Recently, we sent a participation request to renew that relationship. Ortega nominated St Paul Chamber member Matt Kramer to be an ex-officio member. Seconded by Giuliani Stephens. **Approved.** Motion carried. It was noted that Zach Schwartz, a member of the St Paul Chamber Staff, who specializes in

transportation issues, will probably be the one that attends the meetings in the future. He was currently out of town.

Agenda Item #8. Appointment of Member to Wisconsin Gateway Coalition

Kriesel confirmed that he will stay on as the ex-officio, non-voting member of the Wisconsin Gateway Coalition representing the Gateway Corridor Commission, unless there is another member who would like to take over this representation. It was discussed, and agreed no change in this position was needed. No action required.

Agenda Item #9. Establishment of Meeting Dates and Times

Schoenecker noted that we can make additional changes at a later time to the meeting schedule as needed. Motion by Ortega to approve the amended 2011 meeting dates and times. Seconded by Nelson. **Approved.** Motion carried.

Agenda Item #10. Legislative Update

- a. State: John Kaul indicated that the Governors budget will appear on Feb 15, 2011, as a new governor always gets an extra month to prepare the budget. He noted that he attended a hearing recently in the health-finance committee. One agenda item was how the state functions in a shut down. Mr. Kaul felt the motive for this topic was to get people thinking about working together and problem solving. Larry Shelto from Woodbury was appointed to the Records and Affairs Department. Remaining appointments are for Administration, Corrections, Deed, Human Rights, Housing-Finance and Public Safety. Nothing of significance has occurred yet, partially due to the turnover in the new legislative session. Kriesel asked his opinion of the legislative meeting recently at the Oak Marsh Golf Course with the Washington County Board. Kaul indicated the turn-out was good with only a few legislators not attending, as well as, good discussions. Kriesel noted this year's legislative agenda for Washington County has been downsized. Additionally we are very focused on addressing the reduction of the administrative paper work, specifically in the social service area. Ortega indicated that Ramsey County is in agreement in that concept. Weik noted in the Washington County package presented, four of the six agenda items are transit related.

Schoenecker indicated that we have not assigned a legislative spokesperson for the Corridor for this up-coming session. Assigned to this committee were: Mary Giuliani Stephens, Dean Johnston, Dan Kylo and Lisa Weik with Rafael Ortega as alternate. The business entity representative will be Greg Watson. Schoenecker reminds the Commission that it will be unlikely that four people will be attending these meetings; typically only two will need to attend.

- b. Federal: Legislative Update.

Kriesel offered Congresswoman Bachmann's Staff & Congresswomen McCollum's Staff our sincere thoughts and prayers in regards to the recent shooting in Arizona. Additionally, we continue to appreciate their hard work and support on Washington County issues. Schoenecker reported there was not much going on at the Federal level, but noted that Andy Burmeister with Lockridge Grindal came out to give an update to the Washington County Board on Tuesday. He talked about the broad change in representation in the Legislature, but indicated

that there are some commonalities that they feel strong about, and transportation is one of these important issues. The Transportation Reauthorization Bill will ramp up in March.

Agenda Item #11. Other

a. TLC Presentation to Sierra Club

Schoenecker informed the Commission that the Transit for Livable Communities (TLC) will be giving a presentation to the Sierra Club. Key Points will include the overall benefit of transit; as well as, where transit works with density and population. Specifically they will address the potentials for The Gateway Corridor including the highlights of recent studies linking enhanced transit and the land use component. They have requested the Gateway Corridor Commission have a representative attend this meeting to answer questions that may come up. Schoenecker reminded the Members that this meeting will remain focused on transit and not the St Croix River Bridge Crossing. Kriesel expressed his disappointment that we were not engaged early on meeting with the Sierra Club, and indicated that he will be attending this meeting as a member of the Sierra Club not as a Gateway Corridor Commission Advocate. Randy Nelson noted that Afton is in support of the St Croix River Bridge Crossing and feels it has a great impact on the our Corridor. Ortega indicated that it is an issue that does impact us and we should get educated on this topic. Nelson indicated that we need to have an opinion as a group because it can impact the decisions we make. Schoenecker indicated that as a body we are able to pass a resolution of support. Weik indicated that this should be an informational item on the agenda for a future meeting. Schoenecker referred the Members to review TLC's website. They are a non-profit transit advocacy group with their focus being on transit, bicycling and walking.

- b. Weik noted that Kriesel was elected to the Complete Streets Initiative with Anoka County Commissioner Dennis Berg as the representative and Weik has been appointed to be an alternate on Design Build. This week the Washington County Commissioners elected Weik as Vice Chair of the Regional Rail Authority and Dennis Hegberg as Chair. Ortega reminded all that the Union Depot ground breaking is next Tuesday at 2:00. Over 400 invitations have been sent out with over 200 RSVP's received. He reminded all to attend. Additionally, Weik noted that she has been named as an alternate on CTIB, and will continue to attend those meetings. In other business: Amundson noted that he was in Kansas City Missouri recently on business and viewed a local mayoral debate. One of the main issues was transit, as Kansas has no transit system, or any organizations like this to prepare for modes of transportation. This has had a major impact on their city, and it really shows how much farther ahead we are in this area than others in the country.

Agenda Item #12. Adjourn

Ortega moved to adjourn. Seconded by Nelson. **Approved.** Motion carried. Weik called the meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.



Agenda Item #4

DATE: February 4, 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:

Alternatives Analysis (CH2M Hill)

<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Nov 27 – Dec 31, 2010	\$46,529.50

Detailed invoices can be made available upon request.

Action Requested: Approval of Claims and Checks



Agenda Item #7

DATE: February 4, 2011
TO: Gateway Corridor Commission
FROM: Staff
RE: Insurance Coverage

In February 2010, the Gateway Corridor Commission approved the selection of the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust (LMCIT) to provide insurance coverage for the Commission. As a part of their annual operating procedure, they request that the Commission submit a Property / Casualty Coverage Application. This application has two main parts:

- Liability Coverage Waiver Form
- Expenditure Worksheet

Liability Coverage Waiver Form

This portion of the application asks the Commission to decide whether or not to waive the statutory tort liability limits to the extent of the coverage purchased. From the application,

“If a City does not waive the statutory tort liability limits, an individual claimant would be able to recover no more than \$500,000 on any claim on which the statutory tort limits apply. The total which all claimants would be able to recover for a single occurrence to which the statutory tort limits apply would be limited to \$1,500,000. The statutory tort limits would apply regardless of whether or not the city purchases the optional excess liability coverage.”

Expenditure Worksheet

This portion of the application asks for a summary of the Commission’s budget – operating expenses, capital outlay, capital projects and debt service.

The Washington County Risk Manager has reviewed the application and recommends that the commission DOES NOT WAIVE the monetary limits on tort liability established by Minnesota statutes. This is also consistent with other corridor commission insurance coverage plans.

Action Requested: Approval of the Insurance Coverage Application as recommended by the Washington County Risk Manager.

SECTION I: LIABILITY COVERAGE WAIVER FORM

Cities obtaining liability coverage from the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust must decide whether or not to waive the statutory tort liability limits to the extent of the coverage purchased. The decision to waive or not to waive the statutory limits has the following effects:

- a. *If the city does not waive the statutory tort limits*, an individual claimant would be able to recover no more than \$500,000. on any claim to which the statutory tort limits apply. The total which all claimants would be able to recover for a single occurrence to which the statutory tort limits apply would be limited to \$1,500,000. These statutory tort limits would apply regardless of whether or not the city purchases the optional excess liability coverage.
- b. *If the city waives the statutory tort limits and does not purchase excess liability coverage*, a single claimant could potentially recover up to \$1,500,000. on a single occurrence. The total which all claimants would be able to recover for a single occurrence to which the statutory tort limits apply would also be limited to \$1,500,000., regardless of the number of claimants.
- c. *If the city waives the statutory tort limits and purchases excess liability coverage*, a single claimant could potentially recover an amount up to the limit of the coverage purchased. The total which all claimants would be able to recover for a single occurrence to which the statutory tort limits apply would also be limited to the amount of coverage purchased, regardless of the number of claimants.

Claims to which the statutory municipal tort limits do not apply are not affected by this decision.

This decision must be made by the city council. **Cities purchasing coverage must complete and return this form to LMCIT before the effective date of the coverage.** For further information, contact LMCIT. You may also wish to discuss these issues with your city attorney.

_____ accepts liability coverage limits of \$_____ from the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust (LMCIT).

Check one:

- The city **DOES NOT WAIVE** the monetary limits on municipal tort liability established by Minnesota Statutes 466.04.
- The city **WAIVES** the monetary limits on tort liability established by Minnesota Statutes 466.04, to the extent of the limits of the liability coverage obtained from LMCIT.

Date of city council meeting _____

Signature _____ Position _____

Return this completed form to LMCIT, 145 University Ave. W., St. Paul, MN. 55103-2044



Agenda Item #8

DATE: February 4, 2011
TO: Gateway Corridor Commission
FROM: Staff
RE: 2009 / 2010 Recap of Activities and Budget

With the Gateway Commission being created in 2009 and now having a full year of operations under our belt, a summary of activities, successes and budget are provided below.

Activity	General Timeframe
Gateway Commission Created	May 2009
Elections – Kriesel, Chair; Hargis, Vice-chair	June 2009
Create Vision and Goals for Commission	August 2009
Ex-Officio Membership Requests	September – December 2009
Strategic Communications Plan Consultant Selection	April 2010
Become Ex-Officio Member to WI Gateway Coalition	June 2010
Approve Gateway Corridor Branding	July 2010
Alternatives Analysis Consultant Selection	August 2010
Gateway Corridor Launch Event	August 2010
Meet with Congressional Delegation in DC	September 2010
Approve Final Strategic Communication Plan	December 2010



Included below are specific Federal and State funding requests that the Commission has supported.

Funding Source	Request	Amount	Status
2010 State Bonds	Woodbury Park-and Ride	\$1,000,000	Vetoed out of bonding bill
FY 2009 Federal Appropriations	Alternatives Analysis	\$250,000	Included as part of AA contract
FY 2010 Federal Appropriations	Alternatives Analysis / Environmental Analysis	\$750,000	No appropriations bill passed
Transportation Reauthorization	Environmental / engineering / right-of-way acquisition	\$8,000,000	Pending
2011 State Bonds	Environmental / engineering – next phase of development	\$1,000,000	Pending

In order for the Commission to accomplish its vision and goals, a budget was established to specifically address those identified needs and priorities. Included below is a summary of the budget and the actual amounts that were spent or obligated through a contract in 2009 / 2010.

Budget Item	Budget Amount	Actual / Obligated	Amount Remaining
Strategic Communication Plan	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0
Alternatives Analysis	\$1,400,000	\$1,400,000	\$0
Management / Administration	\$14,000	\$2,267	11,733
Interest Earnings	\$0	\$4,564	\$4,564
End of Year Balance (Carryover to 2011)			\$16,297

Action Requested: Information



Agenda Item #9

DATE: February 4, 2011
TO: Gateway Corridor Commission
FROM: Staff
RE: Communications Consultant

In 2010, the Commission selected Tunheim Partners to develop a Strategic Communication Plan for the Commission. Some of the primary work tasks associated with that contract included:

- Public Information Strategy
- Branding Strategy and Development
- Audience and Stakeholder Identification
- Community and Media Relations
- Website Development, Hosting and Management
- Supporter Distribution List
- Material Development and Production

The work tasks for this contract have been completed and have culminated in the Commission approving the final Strategic Communication Plan on December 9, 2011.

Recognizing the importance of the communication, outreach and engagement activities for the Corridor, the Commission approved a 2011 work plan and budget (\$25,000) for the selection of a communications consultant. Some of the keys communication areas for 2011 include:

- Website management
- E-Newsletter preparation and delivery
- Communication coordination with the Alternatives Analysis consultant
- Media relations
- Business community engagement

With their understanding of the Gateway Corridor and successful deliver of the Strategic Communication Plan, staff would recommend that the Commission enter into a contract with Tunheim Partners for the Commission's communication needs. Tunheim Partners has provided a general scope of work (attached) that could meet the Commission's communication needs for 2011.

Action Requested: Approval for staff to develop a detailed scope of work with Tunheim Partners and direct the Washington County Regional Railroad Authority, acting as fiscal agent for the Commission, to enter into a contract with Tunheim Partners for an amount not to exceed \$25,000.

MEMORANDUM

Date: January 12, 2011
To: Ted Schoenecker, Washington County Public Works
From: Tunheim Partners
Re: Gateway Corridor - 2011 Scope of Work

In 2010, the Gateway Corridor was successfully rebranded and gained significant attention from the media, residents in the corridor as well as the business community. Because of its earlier successes, the Gateway Corridor is the only corridor with momentum going into 2011. Communities in Wisconsin and Minnesota are excited about the corridor. Led by the St Paul Area Chamber of Commerce, the business community is becoming increasingly interested in this corridor. The AA study continues to make headway. That makes 2011 an important year for the corridor.

We recommend that the Gateway Corridor Commission utilize and cultivate initial attention gained from such audiences to build more support and momentum to move the project forward.

Strategic Counsel

Throughout 2011, Tunheim Partners will provide counsel the Commission and staff as they strategically position themselves as the next transit corridor to be built in Minnesota.

Business Community Engagement

The Gateway Corridor has a significant advantage over other proposed corridors in the Twin Cities metropolitan area because of the support and enthusiasm from the business community. To successfully position the corridor as the next transitway ready for development, it is vital for the Commission to continue building support among the business community. Both the Woodbury and St. Paul Area Chambers of Commerce have shown support for the corridor and can be used as resources as the Commission works to engage the broader business community.

Deliverables:

- Tunheim will work with staff to identify members of local chambers and business leaders that can serve as spokespeople for the corridor in the broader business community.
 - Outline roles and expectations Outline roles and expectations for spokespeople from local chambers
 - Create talking points, presentations and materials for spokespeople from local chambers
 - Assist in scheduling community outreach events for the business community.
 - Create and maintain a database for members of the business community to sign up with support for the corridor
 - Create email templates for supporters to sent to their companies internally

Community Outreach

The Commission should continue to communicate with members of the community providing updates on the study and other important information on the project.

Deliverables:

- Communicate with members of the community.
 - Write and send seven e-newsletters.
 - Create a presentation deck and talking points for Commission members to speak and advocate for the corridor at local rotaries and special events

Timeline:

- E-newsletters – Throughout the year (see attached timing and action)
- Presentation for Commission – By end of 2nd Quarter

Media Relations & Website

It is important that the Gateway Corridor Commission remains visible and that the project is covered positively in the media.

Deliverables:

- Update the Gateway Corridor website with recent news, upcoming meetings, information from the Alternatives Analysis Study and other updates on the project
- Engage media outlets in the Commission's efforts.
 - Community newsletters
 - Earned media opportunities from timely topics, including guest editorials, editorial visits and news releases.

Timeline:

- Community newsletters – Entire year (see attached timing and action)
- Website updates – Throughout the year
- Other communication efforts throughout the year.

Gateway Corridor Communications
Timing Action

ACTION	TIMING	STATUS
Maplewood newsletter due	2/1/2011	e-newsletters
Dayton's Bluff newsletter due	2/10/2011	Community Newsletters - Round 1
Afton newsletter due	2/15/2011	Community Newsletters - Round 2
Lakeland newsletter due	2/15/2011	Community Newsletters - Round 3
District 1 newsletter due	2/15/2011	Community Newsletters - Round 4
e-Newsletter #1 sent	2/16/2011	
Woodbury newsletter due	2/20/2011	
Lake Elmo newsletter due	2/25/2011	
e-Newsletter #2 sent	3/30/2011	
Oakdale newsletter due	4/15/2011	
Maplewood newsletter due	5/2/2011	
e-Newsletter #3 sent	5/10/2011	
Dayton's Bluff newsletter due	5/10/2011	
Afton newsletter due	5/13/2011	
Lakeland newsletter due	5/17/2011	
Woodbury newsletter due	5/20/2011	
Lake Elmo newsletter due	5/25/2011	
District 1 newsletter due	6/15/2011	
e-Newsletter #4 sent	6/20/2011	
Oakdale newsletter due	7/15/2011	
Maplewood newsletter due	8/1/2011	
e-Newsletter #5 sent	8/2/2011	
Dayton's Bluff newsletter due	8/10/2011	
Afton newsletter due	8/15/2011	
District 1 newsletter due	8/15/2011	
Lakeland newsletter due	8/16/2011	
Woodbury newsletter due	8/20/2011	
Lake Elmo newsletter due	8/25/2011	
e-Newsletter #6 sent	9/13/2011	
Oakdale newsletter due	10/15/2011	
Maplewood newsletter due	11/1/2011	
e-Newsletter #7 sent	11/2/2011	
Dayton's Bluff newsletter due	11/10/2011	
Afton newsletter due	11/15/2011	
Lakeland newsletter due	11/15/2011	
Woodbury newsletter due	11/20/2011	
Lake Elmo newsletter due	11/25/2011	



Agenda Item #10b

DATE: February 4, 2011
TO: Gateway Corridor Commission
FROM: Staff
RE: Federal Update

Included below is a summary on the Congressional Delegation activities from Lockridge Grindal Nauen.

Action Requested: Information

Federal Update – Week of January 31st 2011

CONGRESS IN ACTION

With House Members away from Washington this week for their first “Constituent Work Week” of the year and the Senate being the only body in action, Capitol Hill was relatively quiet this week. This may be a familiar scene throughout this session of Congress as the House schedule provides for additional District Work Days than in years past.

Of note, the Senate considered the Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization bill and voted on a full repeal of the health care overhaul bill. Meanwhile, the House Budget and Appropriations Committee Chairman outlined their plans for the remainder of fiscal year 2011.

Fiscal Year 2011 Spending:

The federal government is currently operating under a Continuing Resolution (CR) until March 4, 2011, providing funding for programs at fiscal year 2010 levels. In order to keep the federal government operating past this date, Congress must take prior to the current CR’s expiration.

With this in mind, the House recently directed Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan (R-WI) to come up with budget numbers for the remainder of the year and instructed him to cap non-security discretionary spending to “2008 levels or less”. This week, Chairman Ryan announced that he will set the spending cap at a level that will require at least \$58 billion in immediate cuts from the President’s fiscal year 2011 budget proposal.

Following the release of Chairman Ryan’s top-line spending levels, Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee Hal Rogers (R-KY) released a statement suggesting that the committee will go further by reducing the President’s fiscal year 2011 request by a total of \$74 billion.



The House Appropriations Committee will now adopt separate caps for their individual spending bills and it is possible that they may release a draft measure next week that shows which programs actually will be cut when the House moves the week of Feb. 14 to extend the current CR for the remainder of the year.

Fiscal Year 2012 Appropriations:

In November, the House and Senate Republican Caucuses voted to place a two year moratorium on Congressionally Directed Spending items and suggested that they would not consider any bills that included these projects. Additionally, the President stated during his State of the Union Address that he would veto any bill with the inclusion of these types of projects.

After several weeks of speculation as to what the Democratic controlled Senate would do, Senate Appropriations Chairman Daniel Inouye (D-HI) released a statement suggesting that his committee will impose a moratorium on Congressionally Directed Spending items in spending bills for the remainder of fiscal year 2011 and the upcoming fiscal year 2012.

Inouye left open the possibility of a return of Congressionally Directed Spending items. His committee will revisit the issue and look for ways to improve the process, after the consequences of the ban are "fully understood."

The recent action by Chairman Inouye effectively closes the fiscal year 2012 appropriations process to Congressionally Directed Spending items. That said, we expect the process to proceed in the future under a new set of parameters.

Transportation:

House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman John Mica (R-FL) announced the locations for a series of national field hearings and public forums on pending major surface transportation legislation.

The nationwide meetings with state and local officials and transportation stakeholders are being held to help inform the Committee's drafting of a long-term reauthorization of the nation's highway, transit, and highway safety programs.

The Committee will seek input on how to consolidate and improve the performance of programs, cut government red tape and streamline the project delivery process, increase private sector investment in our infrastructure, identify creative financing alternatives, and other ideas for writing the legislation. The previous multi-year law (SAFETEA- LU) expired in September 2009.

Chairman Mica, Members of the Committee and other lawmakers will participate in the hearings and meetings, which will begin on February 14, 2011 in West Virginia, home state of the Committee's Ranking Democrat Member Nick J. Rahall. At least a dozen other sessions across numerous states are currently planned for February 17-25, including a joint House-Senate hearing in Los Angeles in



cooperation with Senator Barbara Boxer, Chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. (Further details regarding meetings will be announced at a later date.)

The Committee will travel to the following communities to gather information for the transportation reauthorization bill:

Beckley, West Virginia; Charleston, West Virginia; the Philadelphia Metropolitan area; Scranton, Pennsylvania; Rochester, New York; Columbus, Ohio; Indianapolis, Indiana; **the Chicago Metropolitan area**; Vancouver, Washington; Fresno, California; Los Angeles; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Jonesboro, Arkansas; the Memphis Metropolitan area.

Health Care Reform:

Last month the Republican-controlled House passed legislation by a vote of 245-198 to repeal last year's health care overhaul legislation.

This week the Senate voted on a similar measure which would have repealed the health care bill as well as health care related provisions in a related reconciliation law. The measure failed by a margin of 51-47.

While efforts to repeal the entire legislation failed, the Senate backed a measure by a vote of 81-17 which would remove a controversial tax reporting requirement. Specifically, the amendment would repeal a provision in the health care overhaul law requiring businesses to submit a 1099 form to the IRS for each vendor whom they pay more than \$600 each year for goods. Republicans, Democrats, and the president alike have said the 1099 provision is too burdensome and should be eliminated.

The amendment was offered during consideration of the Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization bill.

Earlier in the week a federal judge declared the entire health care overhaul law unconstitutional, saying the government can't require Americans to buy insurance.

Energy:

During remarks at Penn State University, President Obama called for an overhaul of tax incentives for energy efficiency upgrades at commercial buildings, as well as new federal spending for a large-scale retrofit initiative. According to the White House, this initiative will aim to reduce the energy consumption of commercial buildings by 20 percent over 10 years "by catalyzing private sector investment through a series of incentives to upgrade offices, stores, schools and other municipal buildings, universities, hospitals, and other commercial building"

It is expected that the President's upcoming budget submission will propose changes to an existing incentive for owners of new or existing commercial buildings to make energy efficient upgrades by changing a current tax deduction to a tax credit. The budget proposal is also likely to include a loan guarantee program at the Energy Department to provide financing for energy efficiency improvements at hospitals, schools and commercial buildings. Finally, the president is expected to propose a new



competitive grant program for states and local government that “streamline” efficiency standards and encourage upgrades.

SPECIAL NEWS, NOTES, AND EVENTS

The U.S. Conference of Mayor’s City Representatives Meeting *Monday, January 31st*

Members of the Lockridge Grindal Nauen Federal Relations Group attended a meeting called by the U.S. Conference of Mayor’s to discuss the outlook of numerous federal issues of importance to cities as the 112th Congress proceeds. Specifically, attendees discussed the Build America Bonds program, transportation and high speed rail funding and the outlook for Congressionally Directed Spending items in 2011. The U.S. Conference of Mayor’s indicated that they were working to extend and expand these programs in an effort to stimulate economic growth.

National Narcotics Officers' Associations' Coalition Reception (NNOAC) *Tuesday, February 1st, 2011*

Members of the Lockridge Grindal Nauen Federal Relations Group attended an event hosted by the National Narcotics Officers' Associations' Coalition to celebrate our nation's narcotics officers and honor Members of Congress who have made local law enforcement a priority. Senator Richard Shelby (R-AL) was presented with the NNOAC 2010 legislator of the year award for his dedication to local law enforcement issues. Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT), Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee and Terrance Gainer the Senate Sergeant at Arms also spoke.

Capitol Hill Staff Updates:

Bill Richard, former Chief of Staff to **Congressman Jim Oberstar** recently joined the Office of **Governor Mark Dayton** as his Washington DC Federal Liaison

Paul Blocher, former Legislative Director to Congresswoman Michele Bachmann (R-MN06) has joined the staff of **Congressman Chip Cravaack (R-MN08)** as his Legislative Director.



Agenda Item #11a

DATE: February 4, 2011
TO: Gateway Corridor Commission
FROM: Staff
RE: Summary of Meetings

With the Gateway Alternatives Analysis (AA) now underway, there are many meetings between the Gateway Commission, the AA Policy Advisory Committee (PAC), the AA Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and open houses for the AA. To help in planning and scheduling, a summary of these meetings through June is included below:

Month	Meeting	Date
February	Gateway Commission	February 10
	AA TAC	February 16
	AA Open House – Union Depot	February 23
	AA Open House – Woodbury City Hall	February 24
March	AA Open House – Eau Claire	March 1
	AA Open House - Hudson	March 2
	Gateway Commission	March 10
	AA TAC	March 23
April	AA TAC	April 13
	Gateway Commission	April 14
May	AA TAC	May 11
	Gateway Commission	May 12
	AA PAC	May 25
June	AA TAC	June 8
	Gateway Commission	June 9

Action Requested: Information