



# Agenda

## Gateway Corridor Commission

### January 12, 2012 - 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. Election of Chair and Vice Chair*	Washington County	Approval
3. Approval of Agenda		Approval
4. Summary December 8, 2011 Meeting*		Approval
5. Consent Items		Approval
a. Checks and Claims*		
6. Gateway Corridor AA	Washington County	Information
a. Update on Study*		
b. Outreach Activities*		
7. Communications	Washington County	Information
a. Website / Social Media*		
b. Google Analytics Update – November / December*		
8. Legislative Update		
a. State	Ramsey County	Information
i. Resolution of Support*	Washington County	Approval
ii. Identification of Legislative Spokesperson(s)*	Washington County	Discussion
b. Federal*		Information
9. Other	Washington County	Information
a. Meeting Dates Summary*		
b. Arterial BRT Presentation - February		
10. Adjourn		

\*Attachments



*Agenda Item #2*

**DATE:** January 3, 2012  
**TO:** Gateway Corridor Commission  
**FROM:** Staff  
**RE:** Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2012

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 2011, the Chair was Washington County Commissioner Lisa Weik and the Vice-Chair was Mayor Dean Johnston from Lake Elmo. A listing of the 2011 Commission Members and Ex-Officio Members is included on the next page.

**Action Requested:**

- 1) Approval of 2012 Chair of the Gateway Corridor Commission
- 2) Approval of 2012 Vice-Chair of the Gateway Corridor Commission

**Gateway Corridor Commission  
December 8, 2011 Meeting Summary  
Woodbury City Hall, Birch Room**

<b>Members</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Present</b>
Rafael Ortega	Ramsey County	
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	X
Randy Nelson	Afton	X
Dan Kylo	West Lakeland	X
Brian Zeller	Lakeland	X
Victoria Reinhardt, Alternate	Ramsey County	X
Gary Kriesel, Alternate	Washington County	
Paul Rebholz, Alternate	Woodbury	
Brett Emmons, Alternate	Lake Elmo	
Pat Snyder, Alternate	Afton	
Dave Schultz, Alternate	West Lakeland	X
Peg Larson, Alternate	Lakeland	

<b>Ex-Officio Members</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Present</b>
Mike Amundson	Baytown Township	X
Greg Watson	Woodbury Chamber of Commerce	X
Richard McNamara	Oakdale Business and Professional Association	
Doug Stang	3M	
Tim Ramberg	St. Croix County	X
Zach Schwartz	St Paul Chamber of Commerce	

<b>Others</b>	<b>Agency</b>
Mike Rogers	Ramsey County RRA
Ted Schoenecker	Washington County
Lyssa Leitner	Washington County
John Kaul	Washington County
Pat Thompson	St. Croix County
Josh Straka	U.S. Representative Betty McCollum's Office
Allen Lovejoy	City of St. Paul
David Jessup	City of Woodbury
Andy Parrish	U.S. Representative Bachmann's Office
Linda Jungwirth	Assistant to Ramsey County Commissioner Rettman
Sally Eral	City of Landfall Village

The Gateway Corridor Commission convened at 3:00 p.m. by Chair Weik.

**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 Johnston to approve the agenda. Seconded by Rossbach. **Approved.** Motion carried.

**Agenda Item #3. Summary Previous Meetings**

**Item 3a. Summary October 13, 2011 Meeting**

No changes were made to the October 13, 2011 meeting summary. Motion made by Reinhardt to approve the October 13, 2011 meeting summary. Seconded by Johnston. **Approved.** Motion carried.

**Item 3b. Summary November 10, 2011 Meeting**

No changes were made to the November 10, 2011 meeting summary. Motion made by Reinhardt to approve the November 10, 2011 meeting summary. Seconded by Johnston. **Approved.** Motion carried.

**Agenda Item #4. Consent Items**

**Item 4a. Checks and claims:** Motion made by Johnston to approve checks and claims. Seconded by Reinhardt. **Approved.** Motion carried.

**Agenda Item #5. Gateway Corridor AA Update**

**Item 5a. Update on Study**

Schoenecker said the eight alternatives identified are now being looked at in greater detail for engineering and ridership analysis.

**Item 5b. Outreach Activities**

Schoenecker referred to the packet showing previous and future meetings regarding the AA. Meetings are continually being added in anticipation of the numbers from the AA in January. We will be going back to previous entities to present the information directly. If your community is interested in a presentation on the AA, contact Schoenecker to schedule one.

**Agenda Item #6. Final 2012 Work Plan and Budget**

Schoenecker referred to the memo in the packet detailing the activities that occurred in 2011 and the associated budget items. The activities for the AA were not included in that memo. We are anticipating approximately \$34,000 of the 2011 budget to be unused, and there was approximately \$16,000 in reserves at the end of 2010 creating a total of \$50,000 in reserves. Schoenecker discussed the four main items of the 2012 budget as outlined in the memo. Tunheim recommended three additional items for the Commission to consider, either now or sometime in the future:

- Corridor Advocacy Video                   \$16,000
- Corridor Launch Event – Media         \$ 3,000
- Corridor Launch Event – Business     \$ 6,000  
  \$25,000

Zeller asked if the 2012 budget includes the \$3 million for the DEIS. Schoenecker said yes. Zeller asked when we would know if the CTIB grant is granted and where the rest of the DEIS money would come

from. Weik said CTIB reviews the information in December, and Ramsey and Washington Counties are our funding partners.

Motion made by Zeller to approve the assignment of approximately \$50,000 to a reserve fund. Seconded by Johnston. **Approved.** Motion carried.

Reinhardt asked if approval of the Work Scope and Budget moves the communication contract forward as well. Schoenecker said no; we would need a separate action to enter into that contract.

Motion made by Reinhardt to approve the 2012 Work Scope and Budget. Seconded by Johnston. **Approved.** Motion carried.

Giuliani Stephens asked if the approval of an agreement with Tunheim Partners included the video or the launch items. Schoenecker said no, this is for their base scope of work.

Motion made by Weik to approve the WCRRA, acting as the Gateway Corridor's Fiscal Agent, to enter into an agreement with Tunheim Partners for communications consulting activities for the year 2012. Seconded by Rossbach. **Approved.** Motion carried.

### **Agenda Item #7 Communications**

#### **Item 7a. Google Analytics Update – October**

Schoenecker referred to the update in the packet. He anticipates it will remain fairly consistent until the AA presentations are made and the third round of open houses begins.

### **Agenda Item #8. Legislative Update**

#### **Item 8a. State**

John Kaul said there is talk about a short session, and the leadership seems serious about getting out in ten weeks. On the agenda would be an attempt to work on the homestead credit issue, which is a cost of about \$400 million. The bonding bill may or may not come into play. Weik said the Association of MN Counties just had their three-day conference and Representative Mike Beard did attend a portion of the Transportation Policy Hearing and concurred they are looking for a short session. They would basically have ten committee hearings to get things done. They would focus on regulatory reform, there would be a bonding bill of some kind, and they would try to determine how they could redo the Met Council. Kaul reiterated that the short sessions have tremendous compression and the bills need to be ready to go at the beginning of the session. Kaul commented that the State budget surplus is a good thing; however the long-term projections still show a serious problem going into the next biennium. He added that redistricting will make things chaotic; people won't know what their district is until February.

#### **Item 8b. Federal**

Rogers referred to the information in the packet and said the deficit super committee did not come up with a plan. Other items include appropriations that are trying to move forward in smaller bills, the Transportation Authorization will keep the existing funding level, jobs legislation, and payroll tax legislation. On the Senate side, the reauthorization of the transportation bill has a new acronym; Map21 or Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Map21 reauthorizes transportation at existing funding levels plus inflation for two years; it consolidates the Federal transportation programs from 90 down to 30, it eliminates earmarks and smaller MPO's, and gives State DOT more control over funding to local governments. Rogers will email more detailed information on activities at the Federal level to

Schoenecker to forward to Commission members.

Weik commented that Ramsey County has interesting news; part of the Head House of the Union Depot is open. Reinhart said the reconstruction of the Depot is very intricate and we are being very careful about keeping the historic value. Christos' Greek Restaurant has reopened and we have been able to expedite this so we are ready for Amtrak, Jefferson Lines, and Greyhound to come in. They have also put out RFPs for the bicycle facility and for a manager of the building. The building manager would have the expertise to manage this large facility, bring in retail, make sure we get the right mix of things in place for long-term sustainability, and make it the vibrant place we know it will be.

### **Agenda Item #9. Other**

#### **Item 9a. Meeting Dates Summary**

Schoenecker referred to the future TAC, PAC, and Gateway Corridor meetings listed in the packet. He highlighted the recommendation to change the date of the March Gateway Corridor meeting to align it better with PAC/TAC meetings and provide the information from the AA to the Commission in a timely manner. The PAC will not be meeting in December.

#### **Item 9b. 2012 Meeting Dates and Times**

Schoenecker said the meeting dates are on the second Thursday of every month at 3:30 with the exception of March. The March meeting would be either March 15 or March 22; however the Rush Line meeting is being held on March 15.

Motion made by Reinhardt to approve the 2012 meeting schedule. Seconded by Amundson. **Approved.** Motion carried.

Zeller stated he has conflicts in January, February, and March; therefore, he will ask his alternate to attend.

Weik asked if the PAC/TAC groups are related to the AA or if they continue through to the next steps. Schoenecker said it is flexible in who is participating; it will possibly change because the stakeholders could change.

Ramberg said the WI Gateway Corridor meeting for this Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled.

Schoenecker informed the Commission that the January meeting will be identified as the annual organizational meeting when elections of officers occur. He added that Doug Bondeson from the South Washington County Telecommunications Commission is here and is interested in interviewing a couple of Commissioners today.

Weik thanked the members of the Gateway Commission for their dedication and engagement in the Commission. It's been an exciting year and we've done a lot that we should be proud of, especially with the Alternative Analysis.

### **Agenda Item #10. Adjourn**

Motion made by Rossbach to adjourn. Seconded by Kylo. **Approved.** Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 3:42 p.m.



**DATE:** January 3, 2012  
**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:

**Gateway Corridor Commission – Advocacy Materials**

<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
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**Communications Contract (Tunheim Partners)**

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Amount</u>
11/30/11	\$356.95

Note: Percent of contract utilized = 100%

**Alternatives Analysis Contract (CH2M Hill)**

<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Amount</u>
10/1/11-11/25/11	\$141,700.44

Note: Percent of contract utilized = 65%

Detailed invoices can be made available upon request.

**Action Requested:** Approval of Claims and Checks



**DATE:** January 5, 2012

**TO:** Gateway Corridor Commission

**FROM:** Staff

**RE:** Update on the Gateway Corridor Alternatives Analysis (AA)

The Gateway AA study is almost 75% complete and the detailed analysis phase of the study has begun for the 8 alternatives that the Commission has previously agreed to carry forward.

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on December 14<sup>th</sup> and January 4<sup>th</sup>. The primary agenda items included a high-level review of the preliminary ridership and capital cost estimates for each of the alternatives as well as the evaluation criteria for the community and environmental impacts. The Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) will meet again on January 18<sup>th</sup> to review the same items after the technical input from the TAC has been addressed. Included below is a summary of the TAC/PAC meeting dates and the primary purpose for those meetings.

<b>Upcoming Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting Purpose</b>
<b>PAC</b>	January 18	Initial ridership Detailed capital costs
<b>TAC</b>	February 1	Detailed ridership
<b>PAC</b>	February 15	Operating and Maintenance costs Preliminary comparison of Alternatives
<b>Combined PAC/TAC</b>	March 7	Materials for last round of open houses Potential draft recommendation on LPA

At the next Commission meeting on February 9<sup>th</sup>, the project team will give a presentation on these items after the PAC has had a chance to review the preliminary findings. The third and final round of open houses is tentatively scheduled for the last week in March and first week in April. Commission members will be notified once meeting dates and locations are confirmed

**Action Requested:** Information



**DATE:** January 3, 2012  
**TO:** Gateway Corridor Commission  
**FROM:** Staff  
**RE:** Gateway Corridor Outreach Activities

As part of the Communications Contract, Tunheim Partners has been assisting in arranging outreach meetings to stakeholders along the corridor. These stakeholders range from local community city councils, council districts, business chambers, individual businesses, community groups and others. Included below is a summary the Commission’s outreach activities.

**Upcoming Outreach**

Stakeholder	Status
Oakdale City Council	Presentation – January 10
St Paul District Council 17 Development Review Cmte	Presentation – January 10
St. Paul Transportation Committee	Presentation – January 30
St. Paul District Council 4 Neighborhood Meeting	Presentation - February 2
St. Paul District Council 4 Board Meeting	Presentation – February 6
East Side Business Association	Presentation – February 8
St. Paul District Council 2 Board Meeting	Presentation – February 15
Woodbury City Council	Presentation – February 15
St. Paul District Council 1 Board Meeting	Presentation – February 27
St Paul Chamber Event at 3M	TBD
Developer’s Forum	TBD

**Previous Outreach**

Stakeholder	Status
Lake Elmo Rotary Club	Presentation – March 16
St Paul District Council 1	Annual Meeting Booth – March 28
Woodbury LIONS Club	Presentation – April 5
Woodbury Chamber of Commerce	Presentation – April 6
Rasmussen College	Presentation – May 2
River Falls Rotary Club	Presentation – May 3
Metro State University	Presentation – May 4
St Paul District Council 4	Presentation – May 16
St Paul Chamber – Transportation Committee	Presentation – May 19
St Paul District Council 1	Presentation – May 23
3M	Meeting – May 24



St Paul District Council 5	Presentation – June 7
St Paul District Councils – Joint Meeting of 1, 2, 4, 5, 17	Presentation – June 27
St Paul District Council 2	Presentation – July 20
St Paul Transportation Committee	Presentation – July 25
Dayton’s Bluff Business Association	Presentation – July 28
Woodbury Rotary	Presentation – August 4
East Side Area Business Association	Presentation – September 14
Woodbury Community Foundation	Presentation – September 27
Oakdale Business and Professional Assn	Presentation – October 6
UW River Falls Leadership Group	Presentation – October 13
Sunray Businesses and St Paul D1	Meeting – October 18
Landfall City Council	Presentation – October 25
Harley Davidson Dealership	Meeting – October 31
Engage East Side	Meeting – November 15

**Action Requested:** Information



**DATE:** January 3, 2012  
**TO:** Gateway Corridor Commission  
**FROM:** Staff  
**RE:** Communications via Website / Social Media / Videos

**Website**

The Gateway Corridor Commission developed its webpage in 2010 with the completion of the Strategic Communication Plan. The website contains information on the corridor in general, the alternatives analysis study, the Commission itself, any recent news articles that have posted on-line and the ability for people to sign up to receive updates from the Commission.

Since the start, the website has generated approximately 500 visits per month. Comparing the five-month timeframe from August-December 2010 to August-December 2011, the number of visits to the site is up 174% (1,249 vs. 2,170).

The website has been the primary communication tool with the general public on each of these items. For 2012, staff, in coordination with Tunheim, will continue to keep the website up to date with the most recent and accurate information so the public can stay informed. Some of the specific items that will occur on the website include:

- Developing a new page on the website that encourages supporters of the corridor to get involved (after the completion of the Alternatives Analysis).
- Editing the current website to include social media channels (see below), with a renewed focus on the preferred route and new developments in the corridor.
- Allowing Gateway Corridor staff to have the ability to update the website content with recent news and upcoming meetings.

The Gateway Corridor website will continue to be the primary source of information and communication tool for the general public. All print materials and social media channels will encourage the public to go to the website for more detailed information about the corridor.

**Social Media**

At its March and April 2011 meetings, the Commission discussed the creation of a Facebook page for the Gateway Corridor. Some of the questions that were raised included:

- What are the costs to create and maintain the Facebook page?
- Is the timing right time to develop a Facebook page?
- What is the value of the Facebook page?
- Are there enough resources to maintain the Facebook page?

At that time, the Commission decided it would wait a little longer on creating a Facebook page until the questions above had better answers and there was more concrete information coming out of the Alternatives Analysis study.



With the start of 2012 and almost a year since those initial discussions, staff has reexamined the creation of a Facebook page for the Commission and can provide more detailed answers to the questions above.

- What are the costs to create and maintain the Facebook page?  
The 2012 Communications contract with Tunheim included a budget of \$7,000 for website and social media work tasks. Tunheim's role would be to update the website to include a link to Facebook, assist in the updating/posting of information on Facebook and create and post ads to increase the potential for "Likes" on the Facebook page.

The major change from last time this was discussed to the current time is that Washington County approved the hiring of a two-year Special Project Position starting January 1, 2012. This person's primary responsibilities will be in assisting in the work activities of the Gateway Corridor. This new Special Project Position would be the primary manager/overseer of the Facebook page. Therefore, the majority of the work on the Facebook page will be completed by Gateway Corridor staff and not the consultant.

- Is the timing right time to develop a Facebook page?  
With the Alternatives Analysis (AA) identifying the eight alternatives to move into more detailed analysis, the consultant for the AA has been working on the ridership and costs for each alternative. Over the next several months, this information will be shared with the Technical and Policy Advisory Committees (TAC and PAC), the Gateway Corridor Commission members, as part of other various outreach presentations that have been or will be set up and then at the third round of public open houses.

Creation of a Facebook page at this time allows the Commission to proactively include information about the Facebook page in all of its presentations and materials that it produces prior to the open houses at the end of March and early April. Also as more details from the Alternatives Analysis become public, it is anticipated that there will additional media coverage and stories about the corridor and its activities. The Facebook page will allow the Commission to take advantage of that coverage.

- What is the value of the Facebook page?  
The value of a Facebook page lies in its ability to communicate in a different way and about different items. Unlike a website, a Facebook page actively sends information out to those that "Like" the page. It does not require those people to come to the page to seek information. It also would allow the Commission to highlight/promote other related activities/events/media stories that are going on in the corridor.
- Are there enough resources to maintain the Facebook page?  
As addressed above, the Special Project Position approved by Washington County will be able to commit the needed time and resources to keep the Facebook page up to date and active.

Staff will plan on moving forward with the creation of a Gateway Corridor Facebook unless the Commission decides differently.



### **Videos**

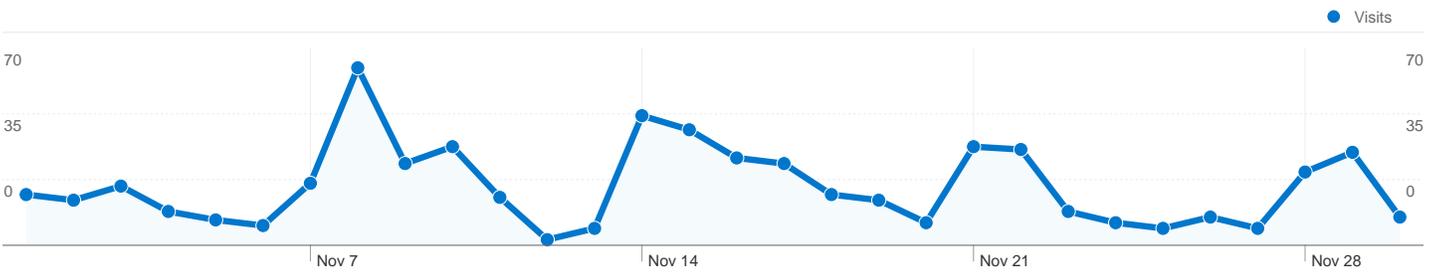
At its October, 2011 meeting, the Commission discussed options for touring/viewing the eight alternatives that have been moved forward for more detailed analysis. It was determined at that time to wait on doing a bus/van tour of the corridor, but there was support for completing a fly-thru video for each alternative.

Staff was able to utilize in-house GIS databases and technology to create fly-thru videos of:

- Alternatives 3/5 – BRT/LRT along I-94
- Alternatives 4/6 – BRT/LRT on local streets
- Alternative 7 – Commuter rail
- Alternative 8 – Managed lane in I-94

The fly-thru videos are pretty bare-boned. They provide the general alignment and station locations overlaid on aerial imagery. One or two of the videos will be shown at the meeting. Currently, the videos are posted on a private YouTube site. However, if the Commission feels that is important, the videos can be posted to a public site for anyone to view and links from the Gateway Corridor website could then be provided for easier access.

**Action Requested:** Information



## Site Usage

**626** Visits

**38.82%** Bounce Rate

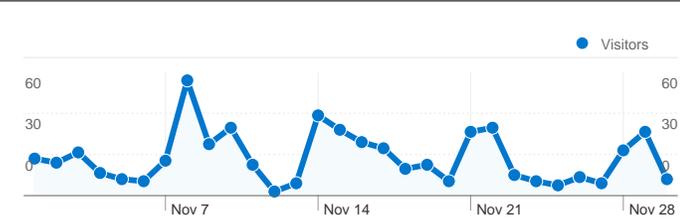
**2,069** Pageviews

**00:02:58** Avg. Time on Site

**3.31** Pages/Visit

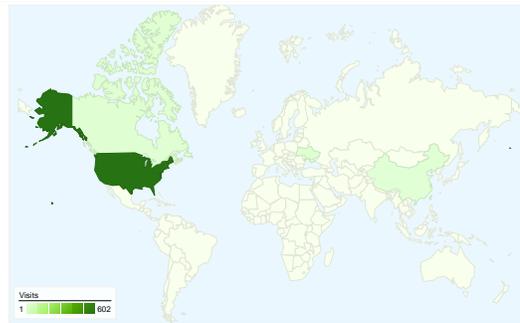
**61.02%** % New Visits

## Visitors Overview



**Visitors**  
**436**

## Map Overlay



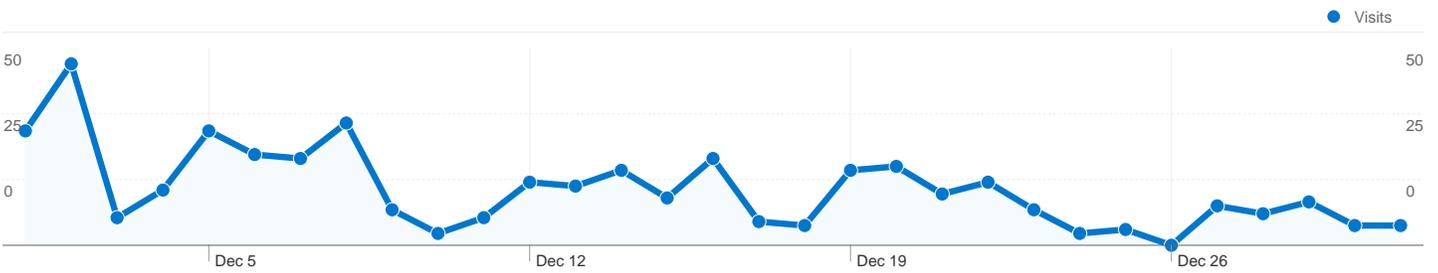
## Traffic Sources Overview



- **Referring Sites**  
264.00 (42.17%)
- **Direct Traffic**  
187.00 (29.87%)
- **Search Engines**  
175.00 (27.96%)

## Content Overview

Pages	Pageviews	% Pageviews
/	731	35.33%
/html/transit-study-gateway-	579	27.98%
/html/recent-news.php	184	8.89%
/html/about-gateway-	156	7.54%
/html/updates.php	129	6.23%



## Site Usage

**438** Visits

**34.47%** Bounce Rate

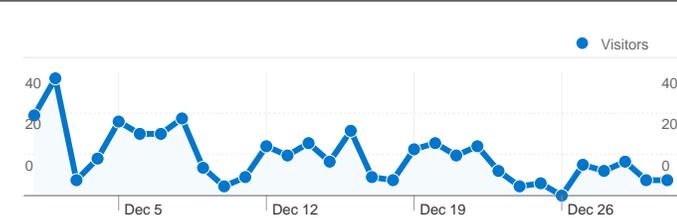
**1,285** Pageviews

**00:02:14** Avg. Time on Site

**2.93** Pages/Visit

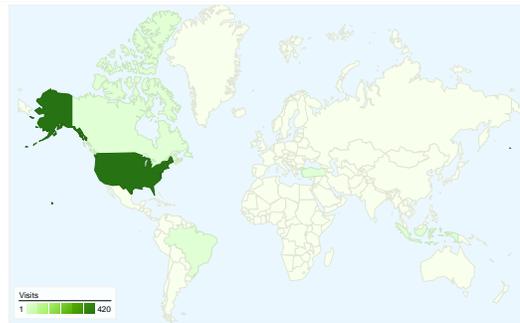
**66.21%** % New Visits

## Visitors Overview



**Visitors**  
**339**

## Map Overlay



## Traffic Sources Overview

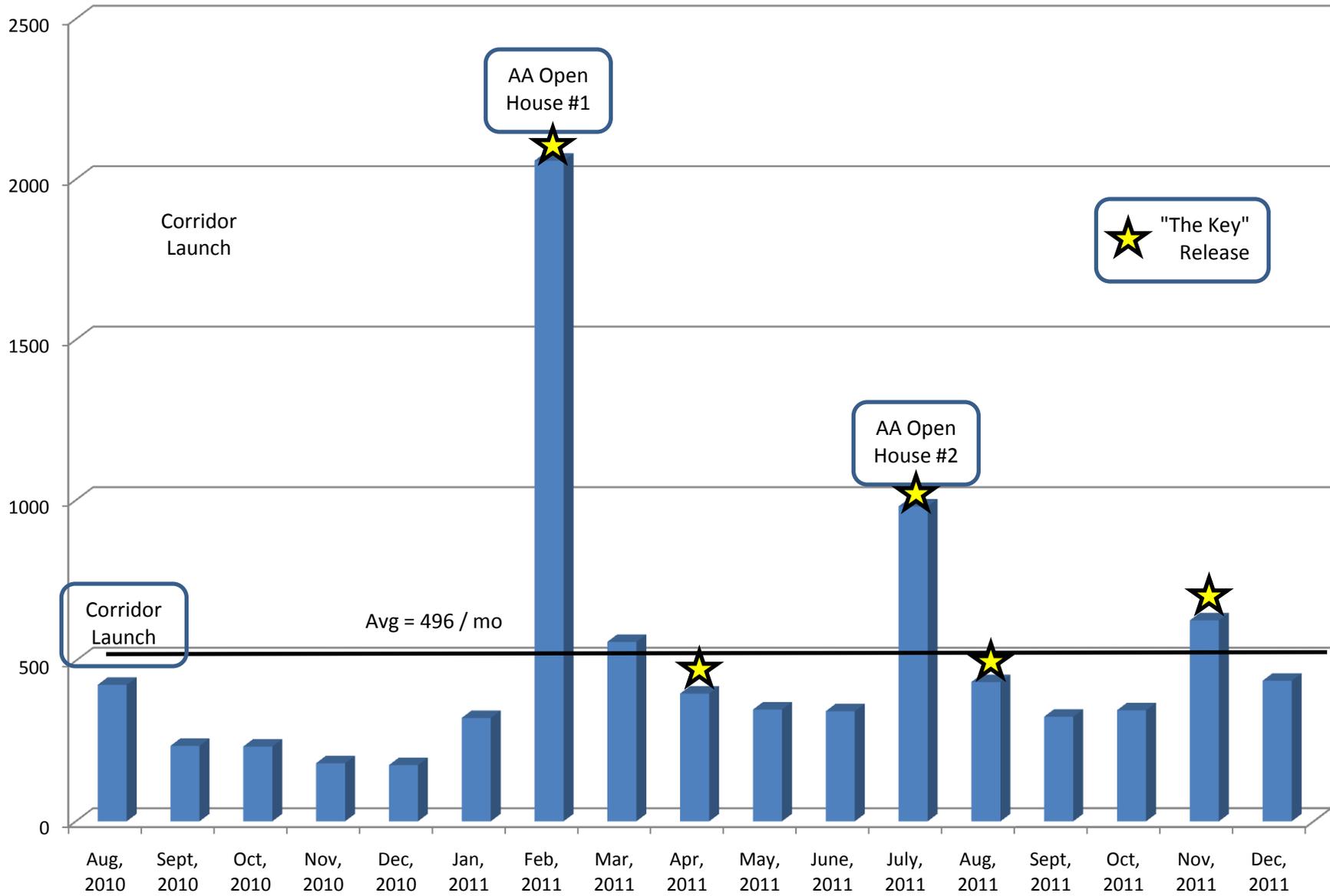


- **Referring Sites**  
177.00 (40.41%)
- **Search Engines**  
142.00 (32.42%)
- **Direct Traffic**  
119.00 (27.17%)

## Content Overview

Pages	Pageviews	% Pageviews
/	487	37.90%
/html/transit-study-gateway-	277	21.56%
/html/about-gateway-	134	10.43%
/html/commission-	109	8.48%
/html/recent-news.php	86	6.69%

# Gateway Corridor Website Visits



**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE WASHINGTON COUNTY REQUEST  
FOR \$1,000,000 IN STATE BOND FUNDS TO THE GATEWAY  
CORRIDOR COMMISSION**

**WHEREAS**, the Gateway Corridor Commission (Commission) was established in March of 2009 to address transportation needs in the I-94 Corridor; and

**WHEREAS**, the I-94 Corridor is the principal east/west route for traffic through Ramsey, Washington, and St. Croix Counties connecting St. Paul to the eastern metropolitan area; and

**WHEREAS**, the I-94 Corridor is experiencing robust employment and population growth; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2030 Transportation Policy Plan has been approved by the Metropolitan Council and identifies the I-94 Corridor as a Transitway Corridor in need of additional analysis; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission has started the development and completion of an Alternatives Analysis to determine the transit needs in the corridor and the study is expected to be completed by spring 2012; and

**WHEREAS**, the next step in the transitway development process will be to begin the environmental analysis and preliminary engineering for the locally preferred alternative identified in the Alternatives Analysis.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Commission hereby supports Washington County's request for the State of Minnesota to provide \$1,000,000 in state bond funds to the Gateway Commission for preliminary engineering work in the Gateway Corridor.

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Approved by Commission

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true and correct copy of the Resolution presented to and adopted by the Gateway Corridor Commission at a duly authorized meeting thereof held on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2012 as shown by the minutes of said meeting in my possession.

	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
<b>ORTEGA</b>				
<b>WEIK</b>				
<b>LANTRY</b>				
<b>ROSSBACH</b>				
<b>REINKE</b>				
<b>GIULIANI STEPHENS</b>				
<b>JOHNSTON</b>				
<b>KYLLO</b>				
<b>NELSON</b>				
<b>ZELLER</b>				



*Agenda Item #8a*

**DATE:** January 3, 2012  
**TO:** Gateway Corridor Commission  
**FROM:** Staff  
**RE:** 2012 Legislative Spokesperson(s)

The 2012 legislative session starts on January 24 and is anticipated to end on April 30. Bills are due to the Speaker's office no later than 5:00 PM on January 12 for the first reading on January 24.

When the legislative session and committee hearings begin, a representative (or representatives) from the commission may need to be present to work with the legislative author and present the information about our request at the hearings.

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.

**Action Requested:** Assignment of the legislative spokesperson(s) for the 2012 legislative session.



*Agenda Item #8b*

**DATE:** November 29, 2011  
**TO:** Gateway Corridor Commission  
**FROM:** Staff  
**RE:** Federal Update

Include below is the latest federal update from Lockridge Grindal Nauen and other sources.

**Action Requested:** Information

With the first session of the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress having concluded, we wanted to provide you with a brief outlook as the second legislative session of this Congress begins. In short, leading up the November elections, there appears to be several legislative items on the agenda which will likely be taken up by Congress. However, it remains to be seen how much of this agenda will be completed amongst what could be a contentious general election.

Congressional insiders have suggested that the majority's focus in the House of Representatives will continue to be spending cuts and deficit reduction. It is expected that much of the legislation will be moved forward through smaller legislative measures.

**LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR:**

As you may recall, the House spent more time away from Washington in 2011 than they did in 2010. Continuing with this trend, the House Leadership recently announced a 2012 legislative calendar which increases amount of days that the Chamber will be away from Washington over the previous year. The Senate, however, will maintain a legislative and recess calendar similar to the last several years. The limited number of legislative work days in the House and the varying schedules between both Chambers will likely impact the amount of legislation passed during the second session of the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress.

The House legislative calendar can be found [here](#).

The Senate legislative calendar can be found [here](#).

**NOVEMBER ELECTIONS:**

With the control of Congress and the White House up for grabs, election year politics will likely play a major role in shaping the year's legislative agenda. Although ten months away from Election Day, parties on both sides of the aisle have suggested that it may be difficult to work with the other side as November draws near. The coming weeks and months will provide additional clues as to how and whether the House and Senate Members will be able to work together prior to the November elections.



**DEFICIT REDUCTION/SEQUESTRATION:**

The inability of the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction (JSCDR) to come up with a plan to reduce the budget deficit by at least \$1.2 trillion over the next decade will have a significant impact on the agenda over the next year and beyond. Since the Committee failed to put forward a plan that could be passed by Congress, a process to automatically reduce spending (sequestration) will be triggered on January 2, 2013. This would result in across-the-board cuts to federal programs (with the exception of a few “exempt” programs). Over the upcoming year, we expect various Members of Congress to highlight federal programs of importance to them and we expect them to seek ways to stave off cuts to those programs. This issue will be discussed on a regular basis over the next year with various angles of activity.

**TRANSPORTATION:**

Congress adjourned in 2011 without passing a bill to reauthorize highway, transit, and rail programs. Instead, they left surface transportation programs functioning under another short-term extension which is set to expire in March of this year. Much of the delay revolves around finding a revenue source which could account for a Highway Trust Fund shortfall which has been caused by lower consumption of gasoline.

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee approved a two-year, \$85.3 billion bill last November which would maintain the spending status quo. The Senate Finance Committee needs to find \$12 billion in deficit-neutral offsets. Other committees with jurisdiction over parts of the bill — including Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs, and Commerce, Science and Transportation — also have yet to act. The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has indicated their desire to proceed with at least a five-year bill that also would maintain current spending levels. To date, the committee has yet to release its surface transportation draft.

We expect the House panel to introduce its draft surface transportation bill early this year. Leadership in the House and Senate have indicated their desire to move a bill forward in February/March with the goal of passing a bill prior to the end of this Congress.

**FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION:**

Last year, a comprehensive reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration passed in each chamber, but the legislation remained stalled. The most recent short-term extension for the FAA (PL 112-30) is set to expire at the end of January.

With this said, only a handful of obstacles to completing a multi-year authorization of aviation programs remain. Both chambers’ bills would reauthorize FAA programs, including funding to develop a satellite-based air traffic control system known as NextGen. The House bill would authorize \$59.7 billion for aviation programs through fiscal 2014, while the Senate passed a two-year, \$35 billion authorization.

In addition to differences over the length of the authorization, remaining hurdles include disagreements over the number of long-distance flights in and out of Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, funding levels for a program that subsidizes passenger flights to underserved rural airports, the regulation of overseas aircraft repair stations and restrictions on air cargo haulers carrying lithium



batteries. But the biggest remaining difference is language in the House bill that would rescind a National Mediation Board ruling that makes it easier for airline and railroad workers to unionize.

That impasse led to a lapse in authorization last summer that shut down non-essential FAA operations for two weeks, leading to about 3,500 FAA employees being furloughed and hundreds of airport construction workers sidelined.

House and Senate negotiators appeared to be making progress in December, when House and Senate staff negotiators were instructed to work out agreements on the outstanding issues.

We expect these negotiations to proceed in the coming year with a solution likely in the first couple of months or before the November elections.

#### **FISCAL YEAR 2013 APPROPRIATIONS:**

House and Senate appropriators have suggested that it is their desire to avoid a scenario which would require them to pass an Omnibus Appropriations bill after the start of the fiscal year in October and that they hope to complete all of their 12 annual appropriations measures by this time.

As you may know, the appropriations process usually begins when the House and Senate return from their holiday recess and prior to the release of the President's annual budget request which lays out the Administration's spending priorities. The budget is traditionally released during the month of February. At that time the Senate and House Budget Committees begin their examination of this budget by holding hearings on the merits of what is being requested. This process allows the Committees to receive input prior to putting together their own budget blueprint and will continue until the process is complete.

#### **CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING:**

Over the last several years, Congress has shied away from directing spending to locally identified projects in their districts. Although timing remains unclear, we believe there will be changes made to the process which will enable the return of this practice. This would enable the forward the funding of locally identified projects through the annual appropriations process which is outlined above.

#### **FINANCIAL OVERHAUL:**

Although the House will likely consider legislation which would repeal portions of the Dodd-Frank financial overhaul legislation, larger efforts will likely be postponed until after the November 2012 election.

#### **COMMITTEE AGENDAS:**

Some of the House Committee Chairman have begun to outline their legislative themes. **House Ways and Means Committee** aides have suggested their desire to focus on an overhaul of tax policy and on job creation. Of particular note, reduced income tax rates from the Bush Administration are set to expire at the end of 2012. It is expected that this issue may be at the forefront of discussions.

The House **Energy and Commerce Committee** has indicated that they have plans to legislate changes in the way the Food and Drug Administration regulate food and pharmaceuticals as well as the upcoming expiration of user fees for medical devices. They will also focus on energy development.



Agenda Item #9a

**DATE:** January 4, 2012  
**TO:** Gateway Corridor Commission  
**FROM:** Staff  
**RE:** Summary of Meetings

Included below is a summary of the Commission and AA Study meetings through April 2012.

Month	Meeting	Date	Planned Start Time
<b>December</b>	Gateway Commission	December 8	3:30 PM
	AA TAC	December 14	1:30 PM
<b>January</b>	AA TAC	January 4	1:30 PM
	Gateway Commission	January 12	3:30 PM
	AA PAC	January 18	3:00 PM
<b>February</b>	AA TAC	February 1	1:30 PM
	Gateway Commission	February 9	3:30 PM
	AA PAC	February 15	3:00 PM
<b>March</b>	Joint PAC/TAC	March 7	3:00 PM
	Gateway Commission	March 15	3:30 PM
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Round of Open Houses	End of March	TBD
<b>April</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Round of Open Houses	Early April	TBD
	Gateway Commission	April 12	3:30 PM

**Action Requested:** Information