



## Agenda

### Gateway Corridor Commission

October 10, 2013 - 3:30 PM

Woodbury City Hall, Birch Room

8301 Valley Creek Road

Woodbury, MN 55125

*Note: The DEIS Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting will take place prior to the Commission meeting at 2:00. Members of the public are encouraged to attend the PAC meeting as well.*

<u>Item</u>	<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Action Requested</u>
1. Introductions		Information
2. Consent Items*		Approval
a. Summary of September 12, 2013 Meeting		
b. Checks and Claims		
3. Lakeland Shores Ex-officio Membership Request	Washington County	Approval
4. DEIS Study*	Washington County	Approval
a. Monthly Update		
b. Action on PAC Recommendation based on B1 vs. B2 comparative analysis findings		
5. Draft 2014 Workplan and Budget*	Washington County	Information
6. Communications Update*	Washington County	Information
a. Outreach Activities		
b. Public Relations Activities		
7. Legislative Update*	Ramsey County	Information
a. State		
b. Federal		
8. Other*	Washington County	Information
a. Meeting Dates Summary		
b. Social Media and Website Update		
c. Media Articles		
9. Adjourn		Approval

*\*Attachments*

For questions regarding this material, please contact Andy Gitzlaff, Washington County at (651) 430-4338 or at [andy.gitzlaff@co.washington.mn.us](mailto:andy.gitzlaff@co.washington.mn.us).

**Gateway Corridor Commission**  
**Draft Meeting Summary**  
**September 12, 2013**  
**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
Mike Pearson	Lake Elmo	
Randy Nelson	Afton	X
Dan Kyllo	West Lakeland Township	X
Bob Livingston	Lakeland	
Victoria Reinhardt, Alternate	Ramsey County	
Ted Bearth, Alternate	Washington County	
Paul Rebholz, Alternate	Woodbury	
Brett Emmons, Alternate	Lake Elmo	
Pat Snyder, Alternate	Afton	
Dave Schultz, Alternate	West Lakeland Township	X
Amy Williams, Alternate	Lakeland	

Ex-Officio Members	Agency	Present
Mike Amundson	Baytown Township	
Greg Watson	Woodbury Chamber of Commerce	
Richard McNamara	Oakdale Business and Professional Association	
Doug Stang	3M	
Tim Ramberg	WI Gateway Coalition	
James McClean	St Paul Chamber of Commerce	X

Others	Agency
Mike Rogers	Ramsey County
Andy Gitzlaff	Washington County
Lyssa Leitner	Washington County
Josie Warren	Washington County
Harley Will	Washington County
John Kaul	Washington County Lobbyist
Chris Knopik	Clifton Larson Allen
Jeff Dehler	Jeff Dehler PR
Susan Kent	MN State Senator/District 53

JoAnn Ward	State Representative 53A
Josh Straka	US Representative McCollum's Office
Matt Creaston	Office of Senator Al Franken
Bob Tatreau	Woodbury

The Gateway Corridor Commission convened at 3:44 p.m. by Chair Weik.

### **Agenda Item #1. Introductions**

Introductions were made by those present.

### **Agenda Item #2. Consent Items**

**Item 2a. Summary of July 11, 2013 Meeting:** Motion made by Rossbach to approve the July 11, 2013 meeting summary. Seconded by Giuliani Stephens. **Approved.** Motion carried.

**Item 2b. Summary of August 8, 2013 Meeting:** Motion made by Rossbach to approve the August 8, 2013 meeting summary with the corrections. Seconded by Kyllo. **Approved.** Motion carried.

**Item 2c. Checks and Claims:** Motion made by Rossbach to approve the checks and claims. Seconded by Ortega. **Approved.** Motion carried.

### **Agenda Item #3. Resolution Supporting Gateway Bonding Request**

Gitzlaff discussed the resolution as outlined in the packet. He requested the individual cities along the corridor also pass their own resolutions of support and forward those resolutions to county staff. If things go according to schedule during the DEIS, the LPA could preliminarily be identified in the January 2014 timeframe.

Nelson asked if it might be appropriate to have the sixth whereas state 'preliminarily examined the modes' verses 'examined the modes' since different alignments have been discussed. Gitzlaff read the sixth whereas. Giuliani Stephens stated she has no objection; by definition, the AA doesn't conclude the modes and the DEIS carries all those things in for further analysis. Weik agreed stating technically the AA was finalized; however, part of the DEIS is to go back and take another look at everything that has been done so far. Gitzlaff read the sixth whereas with the requested change.

Motion made by Ortega to approve the Resolution Supporting Washington County State Bond Fund Request for Gateway Corridor and changing the sixth whereas to state, 'WHEREAS, The Commission has finalized an Alternatives Analysis (AA) that preliminarily examined mode, ridership, alignment, and costs for a future transitway generally following the I-94 corridor; and'. Seconded by Rossbach. Roll call vote: Commission members Ortega, Weik, Rossbach, Giuliani Stephens, Kyllo, and Nelson in favor. None opposed. Commission members Lantry, Reinke, Pearson, and Livingston were absent. **Approved.** Motion carried.

Weik commented that we do appreciate two members of our legislative body for this area, Senator Susan Kent and State Representative JoAnn Ward, and recognize Senator Susan Kent for her leadership role with the Senate's Transportation Committee.

#### **Agenda Item #4. Commission Audit Results**

Gitzlaff explained that the Gateway Corridor Commission's finances have hit the threshold where an audit is required for its budget. He introduced Chris Knopik from Clifton Larson Allen. Knopik distributed printed copies of a PowerPoint presentation on the Gateway Corridor Commission audit as outlined in the packet. He stated he is the audit manager for the Commission and for Washington County. He also distributed copies of the required communications and Independent Auditors Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting.

Knopik discussed the details of the audit stating it was very clean for a first-time audit and he expects future audits will likely go quicker and smoother. He noted everyone was great to work with.

Giuliani Stephens asked if the Commission would be doing yearly audits moving forward. Knopik answered yes; as long as the funding consistently remains above the state auditor threshold of \$290,000. Knopik said Commission members are welcome to contact him with questions. Gitzlaff clarified the presentation is also included in the packet so the public can review it.

#### **Agenda Item #5. DEIS Study**

##### **Item 5a. Monthly Update**

Gitzlaff stated there will be a PAC meeting next month and it will have more meaty topics. He said there has been a second TAC meeting and the TAC will be looking at the B1 and B2 alignment options and their feasibility. The expectation for the next PAC meeting is for a recommendation from the TAC regarding alignments before we go into scoping. Gitzlaff said staff and the project team has been meeting with each city along the alignment to go over some of the technical items.

Gitzlaff said the CAC had its first meeting with 20 of the 22 members attending. The next CAC meeting is scheduled Monday, September 30, 2013 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the Conway Rec Center in St. Paul. Weik clarified the meeting is both community and citizens. Giuliani Stephens commented that they already have their meeting minutes posted on the gateway corridor website and they will select their Chair at the next meeting. She added that she really likes the updates to the web page.

##### **Item 5b. Cultural Resources Contract**

Gitzlaff stated part of the DEIS requires compliance with all aspects of the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA). He explained the process as outlined in the packet. Gitzlaff said there isn't a funding source to pay MnDOT for the review; therefore, we need to enter into a contract for a work scope over the next two years. Since MnDOT cannot subcontract with a private agency, the contract would be with

Washington County through the Regional Rail Authority. Gitzlaff said this review hasn't been budgeted, however, we do have a carryover fund balance estimated at \$100,000 which could provide sufficient resources to pay for the contract.

Gitzlaff suggested the Commission include in their motion a formal request to the FTA to delegate the Cultural Resource Review authority to MnDOT.

Giuliani Stephens asked if all the projects previously done were done by the FTA and not state agencies. Gitzlaff said not in our region; we would be entering uncharted territories if we do not have the authority delegated. Giuliani Stephens asked if we know how this was paid for with the other projects and if it was similar to the request being made to the Commission. Gitzlaff stated his recollection for Bottineau and Southwest is that they were contracts with Hennepin County; however, he was not sure what their funding mechanisms for the study were. In this case, we have both Washington and Ramsey Counties, and Washington County is the fiscal agency.

Motion made by Ortega to approve the \$25,000 of the Commission's fund balance for Washington County to enter into a contract with MnDOT to complete Section 106 work for the DEIS and to request FTA to delegate the Cultural Resource Review authority to MnDOT. Seconded by Rossbach. **Approved.** Motion carried.

### **Agenda Item #6. Communications Update**

#### **Item 6a. Outreach Activities**

Leitner highlighted two meetings they recently had with business partners on the corridor; one with Jesse Gomez at Metro State and one with Doug Stang at 3M. She said Gomez is very receptive and excited about this project and the linkages between transportation, degree completion, and job development. The meeting with Doug Stang and 3M was a fact finding mission; we wanted to clarify what the PAC and the Commission are and basically what we ask in a partnership with 3M. We will be setting up a meeting with our engineers and their facilities to figure out the alignment through the 3M campus. Stang would also like to start the process of meeting with their 'higher-ups' to help them understand what the corridor is and if 3M would be able to put their name on a list of supporters.

Leitner distributed copies of a flyer describing the different transit activities on the east side and stated it is also posted on the web site. The flyer is a tool describing the different corridors and transit modes. Gitzlaff stated there is a FAQ section on the web site that continually is being update.

#### **Item 6b. Public Relations Activities**

Jeff Dehler said the packet lists recent and upcoming events and that they have updated the web site. He distributed a refined list of key messages with messages specific to business, non-commuters, and general inquires. He encouraged the Commission members to use these points when discussing the corridor. Dehler presented three draft videos directed to the different transit users and asked the

Commission for feedback on the messages and if they effectively communicate what the Commission wants to communicate.

The first video shown was designed for business. Giuliani Stephens commented she likes that the corridor is referred to as rapid transit not bus rapid transit. She added that there was an old yellow bus sign in the video that didn't seem to be as modern as we're trying to make this system appear, and the noise of the wind was distracting. Dehler said there were some BRT vehicles filmed in Los Angeles to show the system with a fixed guideway. Weik commented that she didn't like the sweet voice of the narrator; it was very distracting, and needs to be more business-like. Giuliani Stephens agreed stating it was a little too much, particularly when referencing businesses.

Commission members Ortega and Kyllo left at 4:40 p.m.

The second video shown was designed for non-commuters. Dehler commented that the narrator was the same female as the first video and asked if the Commission prefer a male voice for the business video narration. Giuliani Stephens said it's not a matter of gender, but a matter of the inflection and tone of the voice. John Kaul commented that it should be a male or female voice that sounds like a captain of industry. Weik and Giuliani Stephens agreed. Leitner said the words 'St. Paul' should be added to District One and the word 'Council' may be misspelled. Rogers said when the full perspective of the map appeared, it was a flash and then it was gone. Dehler explained that will be a cleanup detail. He added that the flash of the map highlights the other transit ways that exist or are planned and shows how they connect to the Union Depot.

The third video shown was designed as an overview. Dehler said he likes the idea of changing the voiceover because it doesn't sound professional. Giuliani Stephens said the video states eleven stations and suggested caution stating the number of stations unless we know that for certain. She also suggested removing 'on Hudson Road' because the options are along I-94; the video could say 'generally along I-94'. Gitzlaff said we also need to figure out how to explain the future connection to Hudson. Giuliani Stephens referred to the woman in the video who spoke of the Green Line in Minneapolis and asked if this is the time to put in messaging on how Gateway will finish the Green Line. Dehler said if we change modes of transportation at Union Depot it may not be a continuation of the Green Line. Giuliani Stephens stated other transportation methods were mentioned but she would like to see that worked in more. She asked if the first person interviewed actually said he had to be on a bus four hours. Dehler answered yes; some transit-dependent people do unbelievable things to get to a job. With frequent service and longer hours of operation, it opens up people's opportunities.

McClean stated it would be good to include the woman who talked about the investment in the Green Line in the video directed towards businesses. He added that mentioning the Riverview Corridor may confuse people since it's in the far planning stages.

Weik commented that the text for Allison Bell was a white font against a light wall and

hard to see. She said with regard to the map with animation showing all the lines going into the Union Depot, all the boxes stop at Union Depot implying that it all ends there. It should show animation going to Minneapolis or to the Red Line or Northstar Line. Leitner suggested animation showing other lines coming into union depot as well. Weik agreed. Representative Ward commented that it is important to show this is part of a transportation network.

Kaul commented that it's important to sell this as a system. There are some good animations out there that show images of where it can take you, like the ballpark, verses showing the interstate. He added that the chart in the video shows 300,000 and the narrator says 30,000 new jobs; it's a distraction. Dehler said the will be adding two bullet points to that chart; 90,000 new people and 30,000 new jobs.

Nelson commented that the first video talked about and showed congestion, yet it didn't look that bad; it wasn't stacked up like it can be. Weik agreed.

Commission member Nelson left at 5:07 p.m.

Gitzlaff asked Dehler to explain how the videos will be used. Dehler said they will be developing a publicity plan for people to view videos. Most people view videos on the internet; these videos are short and intended to catch people's attention and direct them to the website for more information. The goal is also to send a link of the business version of the video to business partners and also direct them to the links for the other videos and the web site. The non-commuter video would be shared more generally with the Gateway Corridor email list and with community groups that are not business oriented. We would also ask cities to share the link in their newsletters.

Gitzlaff said we will take the comments given tonight, make a finished product and send them out to the Commission members prior to going live. Dehler said we will do everything we can do to improve the videos within the budget parameters.

Dehler discussed other items distributed; the folder provides information to find supporters and to get feedback. By the end of March, we hope to find a large number of businesses, community leaders, and people who are supportive and we'll recognize those people on the web site.

Giuliani Stephens asked if it would be helpful to provide some of these packets to the City of Woodbury so they can be given directly to businesses. Dehler said yes, and he'd like to know who they've talked to so we can follow up. He added that the information will also be available on the web site to download.

Weik asked if there are their plans to have the CAC watch the videos. Dehler said yes; one of the next agenda's will include watching the videos and receiving the folder information.

Senator Kent asked for a one-sheet flyer to give to contacts for a call of action. Dehler said that will be included in the packet; we want to learn what we can do to support your efforts, determine strategies, and work together with communications.

### **Agenda Item #7. Legislative Update**

#### **Item 7a. State**

Rogers said there was a special session for disaster relief and the main activity was passing a resolution of support for the bonding bill.

#### **Item 7b. Federal**

Rogers said Congress is back in session and will recess again on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. They may cancel that recess to figure out what to do with the budget that expires on the September 30<sup>th</sup>. He added that neither the House nor Senate took action on fiscal 2014's Transportation Appropriation Authorization bills; there was no vote in the House, and it was voted down in the Senate. Rogers said the FTA has published some guidance for MAP 21 and the New Starts and Small Starts ranking process, but it didn't cover any of the new criteria. Regarding TIGER awards, Minnesota received two grants; one for rural road improvements and one for the Duluth port. He added that neither of the metro projects received TIGER funds.

Kaul said there is a chance that we will have horrifically tight deadlines; therefore, cities and counties that want to pass a bill this session need to have clear objectives and get them out early. Senator Kent said there is a lot of work being done with MAP 21.

### **Agenda Item #8. Other**

#### **Item 8a. Meeting Dates Summary**

Information on previous and upcoming meeting dates is included in the packet. The PAC meeting will be held prior to the next Gateway Corridor Commission meeting.

#### **Item 8b. Social Media and Website Update**

An update is printed in the packet for Commission member's information.

#### **Item 8c. Media Articles**

Recent media articles are printed in the packet for Commission member's information.

### **Agenda Item #9. Adjourn**

Weik called the meeting adjourned at 5:27 p.m. She thanked everyone for staying.



*Agenda Item #2b*

**DATE:** October 4, 2013  
**TO:** Gateway Corridor Commission  
**FROM:** Staff  
**RE:** Checks and Claims

**Item 2c. Checks and Claims**

<u>Communication Contract (Jeff Dehler PR)</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<u>Dates</u>	
July, 2013 Invoice	\$3,204.55
<i>Contract Utilization = 65%</i>	
<u>Gateway Corridor Commission Audit Fiscal Years (2010, 2011, 2012)</u>	\$2,650
<i>Final Invoice Contract 100% Utilized</i>	
<u>Total</u>	<b>\$21,541.70</b>

*Detailed invoices can be made available upon request.*

**Action Requested:** Approval



*Agenda Item #3*

**DATE:** October 4, 2013  
**TO:** Gateway Corridor Commission  
**FROM:** Staff  
**RE:** Commission Ex-Officio Membership

According to the Commission bylaws, the Commission may, by majority vote, accept as ex-officio, non-voting members. The Commission has invited and accepted ex-officio members in the past in order to ensure that all the diverse prospective along the corridor are represented and to strengthen partnerships. Current ex-officio members include the following:

- 3M
- Baytown Township
- Oakdale Business and Professional Association
- Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce
- Wisconsin Gateway Corridor Coalition
- Woodbury Chamber of Commerce

The Commission has received the attached resolution from the City of Lakeland Shores requesting ex-officio membership on the Commission. The City of Lakeland Shores is a river community sitting just south of Interstate 94 within the broader Gateway Corridor area. Adding the City of Lakeland Shores would help to strengthen the diversity of perspectives on the Commission.

This would also be a good time for the Commission to consider other cities, business groups or organization that it may wish to add as ex-officio members. Staff suggests that the Commission consider the following two additions in particular:

**City of Landfall Village** – eligible during the open enrollment period to join the JPA but did not join, ex-officio membership would be an opportunity for the City to have a seat at the table which will be very important because the Gateway alignment goes through the community and a station stop has been identified.

**East Side Area Business Association (ESABA)** – this business association represents a diverse group of businesses, cultural groups and community organizations on the east side of St Paul. The organization has grown from a being more localized to representing a broader geographic area including the Gateway Corridor. ESABA also has a seat on the PAC as a key stakeholder.

Staff recommends that the Commission approve accepting the City of Lakeland Shores as an ex-officio member and discuss others that could be invited to join including the City of Landfall Village and ESABA.

**Action Requested:** Approval

Mayor Kopesky moved the following:

CITY OF LAKELAND SHORES  
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA  
RESOLUTION 2013-09-4

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING EX-OFFICIO MEMBERSHIP ON THE GATEWAY CORRIDOR COMMISSION**

**WHEREAS**, The City Council requests ex-officio membership on the Gateway Corridor Commission;

**WHEREAS**, The City Council may appointment a representative and alternate representative to attend without voting rights the Gateway Corridor Commission meetings.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City Council of the City of Lakeland Shores requests ex-officio membership on the Gateway Corridor Commission.

The Motion for the adoption of the foregoing Resolution was duly seconded by

Council Member Schroeder. The following vote was taken:

Council Member Zhi aye

Council Member Zanmiller aye

Council Member Schroeder aye

Council Member Kemling aye

Mayor Kopesky aye

**WHEREUPON**, said Resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

I certify that the City of Lakeland Shores adopted the above Resolution on this 5<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2013.

Randy Kopesky  
Randy Kopesky, Mayor

Penelope Johnson  
Penelope Johnson, City Clerk



*Agenda Item #4*

**DATE:** October 4, 2013  
**TO:** Gateway Corridor Commission  
**FROM:** Staff  
**RE:** Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) Study Update

### **Committee Updates**

#### Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

The TAC had their third meeting on September 25, 2013. The purpose of the meeting was to review the results of the B1 (Hudson Road) and the B2 (7th Street/White Bear Avenue) alignment comparative analysis. The TAC noted that potential ridership benefits of B2 did not justify the costs and impacts of this alignment option and recommended that B2 should not be advanced for further evaluation in the Draft EIS; thereby affirming the decision made during the AA. The TAC also reviewed the impacts of different alignment options for the D1 (alignment through Oakdale than Woodbury) and D2 alternative (alignment through Oakdale, then Lake Elmo). A similar comparative analysis will be prepared for D1 and D2 as the project moves into the scoping phase.

#### Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

The CAC had their second meeting on September 30, 2013 which also centered on the B1 and B2 comparative analysis findings. There was general agreement from the committee that the B2 alignment should not be carried forward for further analysis for similar reasons that as those noted by the TAC

The CAC also elected their leadership at the meeting. The Chair is Michael Meyer, who works in downtown St Paul in the hospitality industry, and the Vice-Chair is former MnDOT Commissioner Tom Sorel. Both are big picture thinkers and have very strong leadership qualities. The CAC Chair will also be attending the PAC meetings to provide a recap of CAC discussions.

#### Policy Advisory Committee (PAC)

The PAC will be meeting prior to the Commission meeting and will be given a similar presentation as the TAC and the CAC received. A formal public comment period has also been added to their standing agenda. They will be asked to act on the recommendation from the TAC regarding the B2 alignment.

Any PAC recommendation will be forwarded to the Commission for approval consideration at the Commission meeting directly afterwards. Staff will also give an abbreviated recap of the PAC meeting for Commission and audience members who may have not been there for the PAC meeting.

The attached memo from the consultant provides more details on the work performed in September.



**Schedule / Next Steps**

The initiation of the scoping phase will occur in November with the official scoping meetings pushed back to January and February of 2014 to avoid the upcoming holiday season.

**Action Requested:**

Approval of PAC Recommendation

## Gateway Corridor Environmental Impact Statement

PROGRESS REPORT TO THE GATEWAY CORRIDOR COMMISSION – OCTOBER 2013

SUBMITTED BY JEANNE WITZIG, KIMLEY-HORN AND ASSOCIATES, INC.

### Key Work Activities/Progress During September 2013

- **Meetings**
  - *Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Call:* Held EIS call with FTA on September 25. FTA participation at both the Regional (Chicago) and Washington DC level. Provided FTA with a summary update of project coordination activities, and status of Section 106 process (local actions). Discussed potential Cooperating and Participating Agencies, schedule/tracking of FTA actions and the committee activities regarding the comparative evaluation of the B1/B2 alignments.
  - *Project management team (PMT).* Held meetings on September 11 and October 2, 2013. Key items addressed at the meetings included review of the comparative evaluation for Alignments B1 (Mounds Blvd/Hudson Road/I-94) and B2 (Mounds Blvd/E. 7<sup>th</sup> Street/White Bear Ave), alignment/typical section review throughout the Gateway Corridor and preparation for upcoming TAC, CAC and FTA meetings.
  - *Meetings with Lake Elmo, Oakdale, Maplewood, and Woodbury* – Held individual meetings with city staff during September, 2013 to review their issues and questions raised as part of the TAC “homework assignment”. Areas discussed included design assumptions, traffic, pedestrian facilities, planned projects in study area, station area planning process/schedule, accessibility of proposed stations.
- **Technical Advisory Committee:**
  - Held a meeting on September 25, 2013 at Woodbury City hall. Meeting focused on reviewing overall BRT and LRT design elements and the findings from the Alignment B1 and B2 draft comparative evaluation. The TAC reached consensus that the Gateway Corridor Scoping Booklet should reflect the recommendation that Alignment B2 should not be advanced for further study; thereby affirming the decision reached during the Alternatives Analysis process.
- **Community Advisory Committee (CAC)**
  - Held CAC meeting on September 30, 2013 at Conway Recreation Center. Chair and Vice Chair were elected at this meeting. Meeting focused on review of findings from the comparative evaluation of Alignments B1 and B2, reviewing the TAC recommendation and the CAC providing comments regarding both alignment options. Well attended by CAC members and engaged discussion at meeting.
- Completed Station Area Planning Process and Products Memo

- Submitted letter to each city requesting development information for ridership analysis.
- Prepared typical sections for Alignment Options B1 and B2, D1 and D2 Alignment Options and selected points throughout the other sections of the Gateway Corridor.
- Conducted preliminary traffic analysis at selected intersection. Conducted traffic counts to supplement existing data.
- Drafted letter to FTA requesting delegation of Section 106 authority to MnDOT for cultural resource work on the Gateway Corridor.

### Upcoming EIS Activities

- Prepare for upcoming meeting with MnDOT and Met Council (October 11)
- Prepare for upcoming TAC, CAC and FTA meetings.
- Continue work on Notice of Intent and Scoping Booklet
- Complete DRAFT Purpose and Need Statement and review with PMT, TAC, CAC and PAC
- Respond to forthcoming FTA comments on Scoping Documents.
- Finalize Cooperating and Participating Agency invitation list, and submit letters of invitation.
- Initiate official Section 106 (cultural resource) activities.
- Develop Draft Comparative Evaluations for Alignment D1 versus D2 and LRT versus BRT
- Continue to advance and refine concept alignments/typical sections
- Continue to conduct scoping level ridership evaluation
- Continue to conduct scoping level traffic analysis



*Agenda Item #5*

**DATE:** October 4, 2012  
**TO:** Gateway Corridor Commission  
**FROM:** Staff  
**RE:** Draft 2014 Workplan and Budget

Attached is the draft 2014 work plan and budget for the Commission. The key items in the workplan are also listed below:

- Oversee and guide the work of the DEIS consultant in the preparation of environmental document, public outreach and the advancement of an LPA decision.
- Oversee and guide the work of the Commission's communication consultant in the execution of the Commission's strategic communication plan.
- Support Washington County's request for \$5,000,000 in state bond funding for project development in the 2014 State Legislative Session.
- Develop a legislative coordination strategy to inform local, state and federal elected officials of the need for transitway improvements in the Gateway Corridor.
- Continue to actively engage the business community, community advocacy groups, and the various other stakeholders in the corridor.
- Travel to Washington DC to meet with the Corridor's congressional delegation and their staff and to meet with representatives from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) National Headquarters.
- Travel to a peer region to experience another transit system/line with similar characteristics as what is being proposed in the Gateway Corridor and identify strategies lessons learned that could be applied to our region.

This year's budget includes an increase in funds for travel reimbursement, additional communication efforts to supplement the DEIS work and a larger contingency for unexpected costs that may come out of the DEIS. The total proposed budget is \$150,000 which is a \$50,000 increase over last year. The funding contribution would be split 50/50 between Washington and Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authorities.

Staff will provide an overview of the draft work plan and budget at the meeting.

**Action Requested:** Discussion

# **Gateway Corridor Commission**

## **2014 Draft Work Plan and Budget**

### **1. Collaboration / Partnerships**

The Gateway Corridor Commission “the Commission” will work with corridor municipalities, the Metropolitan Council, Metro Transit, the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB), the Minnesota Department of Transportation, Federal Agencies and the University of Minnesota to promote the advancement of the Gateway Corridor. To accomplish this, the Commission will do the following:

1. Offer guidance, monitor progress and prepare formal comments on studies that are being conducted or that could have an impact on the activities in the Gateway corridor. In 2014 one of the notable studies will be the update to the Metropolitan Council’s Transportation Policy Plan.
2. Work with state and local agencies to identify regional priorities for the corridor.
3. Coordinate activities with the University of Minnesota through their Humphrey School of Public Affairs, the Center for Transportation Services (CTS) and the Transitways Impacts Research Program (TIRP).

### **2. Public Involvement**

The Commission’s public involvement activities will be developed to increase the awareness of the corridor, the Commission, the importance of investing in transit in the corridor and the need for regional equity. These activities will supplement the outreach work being performed by the DEIS consultant. Specific activities will include:

1. Utilize and implement recommendations from the Strategic Communication Plan.
2. Develop and grow a supporter base email distribution list.
3. Present to civic and community groups, businesses and chambers of commerce, and local agencies throughout the Corridor.
4. Distribute materials including press releases, newsletters, fact sheets, and other public information items.
5. Identify media recognition opportunities of Commission meetings and events though print, radio, and public access television.
6. Maintain / update the project website as new information about or affecting the corridor becomes available.

### **3. Advocacy and Outreach**

The Commission will advocate for improved transit to serve the Corridor and the Twin Cities region. In addition to advocacy, the Commission will reach out to other interested parties who are also working towards improvements in the Gateway Corridor. Commission activities include:

1. Advocacy
  - a. Travel to Washington DC to meet with the Corridor’s congressional delegation and their staff and to meet with representatives from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) National Headquarters.

- b. Develop a legislative coordination strategy to inform local, state and federal elected officials of the need for transitway improvements in the Gateway Corridor.
  - c. Promote increased transit funding to improve and expand the existing transit service in the Corridor.
  - d. Establish positions and specific requests on legislative initiatives that affect the Gateway Corridor.
  - e. Travel to a peer region to experience another transit system/line with similar characteristics as what is being proposed in the Gateway Corridor and identify strategies lessons learned that could be applied to our region.
2. Outreach
  - a. Identify and establish communication and action plan with the business community along the corridor.
  - b. Engage the various and diverse community and business groups along the corridor.
  - c. Coordinate with the western Wisconsin communities, Wisconsin DOT, and Wisconsin legislature on issues that impact the corridor in both states.
  - d. Coordinate initiatives with other joint powers coalitions, the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) and other regional planning groups.

To aid in advocacy and outreach activities, the Commission will continue to utilize the services of a communication consultant in 2014. Some of the key items that the communications consultant will assist with would include:

- Strategic messaging and material development
- Assist in broadening social media reach and activities
- Website architecture and maintenance
- Media relations strategies and engagement
- Community engagement with a primary focus on the business community
- Legislative Coordination
- Updating of the Commission's strategic communication plan as necessary
- Supplement the outreach work being performed by the DEIS consultant specifically at key milestones including the LPA decision

#### **4. Draft Environment Impact Statement (DEIS)**

The Commission began the DEIS for the corridor in May 2013. The study is expected to be completed by mid-2015. The purpose of the DEIS is to conduct a full and open evaluation of environmental issues and alternatives, and to inform decision-makers and the public of reasonable alternatives that could avoid or minimize adverse impacts and enhance the quality of the environment. The Commission will utilize the data, environmental analysis and public involvement outreach from the scoping phase of the study to lead to an informed decision on the LPA for the corridor in 2014.

## **5. Management, Policy, and Administrative Activities**

Commission activities will include, but not be limited to the following:

1. Prepare and adopt the 2014 Work Plan and Budget
2. Prepare the annual financial report
3. Contract with an independent auditor to perform the annual audit
4. Review insurance needs and procure appropriate insurance
5. Provide Commission and staff administration
6. Manage Commission expenses
7. Manage the consultants selected for any of the various work tasks undertaken by the commission

### **Commission Priorities for 2014**

- Oversee and guide the work of the DEIS consultant in the preparation of environmental document, public outreach and the advancement of an LPA decision
- Oversee and guide the work of the Commission's communication consultant in the execution of the Commission's strategic communication plan
- Support Washington County's request for \$5,000,000 in state bond funding for project development in the 2014 State Legislative Session.
- Develop a legislative coordination strategy to inform local, state and federal elected officials of the need for transitway improvements in the Gateway Corridor.
- Continue to actively engage the business community, community advocacy groups, and the various other stakeholders in the corridor.
- Travel to Washington DC to meet with the Corridor's congressional delegation and their staff and to meet with representatives from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) National Headquarters.
- Travel to a peer region to experience another transit system/line with similar characteristics as what is being proposed in the Gateway Corridor and identify strategies lessons learned that could be applied to our region.

## Gateway Corridor Commission 2014 Expenditures

<b>Expenditure Category</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Public Involvement	
Communications Consultant Contract - Public relations, material development, website maintenance, etc.	\$ 110,000
Advocacy and Outreach	
Federal and State Advocacy/Lobbying <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ -
Public Information Materials / Events / Advertising	\$ 5,000
Travel to Washington DC <sup>(2)</sup>	\$ 2,500
Travel to Another City to Learn about Transit <sup>(2)</sup>	\$ 2,500
Data Collection and Summary	\$ -
Management / Administration	
Supplies / Materials / Printing / Memberships	\$ 5,000
Insurance / Audit	\$ 5,000
Website Hosting	\$ -
Studies / Capital Projects	\$ -
Contingency	\$ 20,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 150,000</b>

(1) Ramsey and Washington County currently have existing contracts with federal and state lobbyists for the Gateway corridor and other transit priorities. These services would be provided through existing contracts.

(2) The Commission will decide whether to reimburse Gateway Corridor Commission members for a portion of the out of state travel costs (airfare, hotel, lodging) on a case by case basis.

## Gateway Corridor Commission 2014 Revenues

<b>Revenues</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Federal Appropriations	\$ -
State Appropriations	\$ -
Regional Railroad Authorities <sup>(1)</sup>	
Ramsey County	
- Commission Operations	\$ 75,000
Washington County	
- Commission Operations	\$ 75,000
Other	
Counties Transit Improvement Board	\$ -
Local Communities	\$ -
Private Contributions	\$ -
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 150,000</b>

(1) Per the JPA, the financial contribution is split 50/50 between Ramsey and Washington County Regional Railroad Authorities.



*Agenda Item #6a*

**DATE:** October 3, 2013  
**TO:** Gateway Corridor Commission  
**FROM:** Staff  
**RE:** Gateway Corridor Outreach Activities

The Gateway project team has been 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 of the Commission's outreach activities in 2012 and ongoing in 2013.

### **Upcoming Outreach**

Stakeholder	Status
Landfall staff	Meeting – TBD
East Side Partners	Meeting – October 8, 2013
East Side Area Business Association	Presentation – October 10, 2013
MnDOT/Met Council/County Staff	Meeting – October 11, 2013
Lake Elmo	Presentation – October 15, 2013
Technical Advisory Committee	Meeting – October 16, 2013
FTA	Tour – October 18, 2013
St. Paul District 1 Community Council	Presentation – October 28, 2013
Engage East Side Open House	Open House – October 29, 2013
MnDOT, Met Council, County leadership	Meeting – November 1, 2013
Fostering an East Side Transit Conversation	Town Hall – November 7, 2013

### **Previous Outreach**

Stakeholder	Status
Policy Advisory Committee	Meeting – October 10, 2013
Community Advisory Committee	Meeting – September 30, 2013
Technical Advisory Committee	Meeting – September 25, 2013
FTA	Coordination Call #2 – September 25, 2013
Fostering an East Side Transit Conversation – Engage ES	Presentation – September 25, 2013
St. Paul Transportation Committee	Meeting – September 22, 2013
Woodbury staff	Meeting – September 12, 2013
Oakdale staff	Meeting – September 12, 2013
Maplewood staff	Meeting – September 11, 2013
Lake Elmo staff	Meeting – September 10, 2013



3M	Meeting – September 4, 2013
Metro State	Meeting – August 29, 2013
St. Paul staff	Meeting – August 29, 2013
Community Advisory Committee	Meeting – August 26, 2013
Technical Advisory Committee	Meeting – August 21, 2013
FTA	Coordination Call – August 15, 2013
East Side Groups Update	Meeting – August 13, 2013
Policy Advisory Committee	Meeting – August 8, 2013
Hot Dogs and Transit – Engage East Side	Booth – August 3, 2013
Technical Advisory Committee	Meeting – July 24, 2013
Hot Dogs and Transit – Engage East Side	Booth – July 13, 2013
Development Forum	June 24, 2013
Alliance for Metropolitan Stability	Staff level meeting – June 7, 2013
Engage East Side Resident Network staff	Discussion on CAC – May 31, 2013
Start of DEIS	
Woodbury Chamber – Eggs and Issues	Presentation – April 12, 2013
District 1 Community Council	Booth at open house – March 25, 2013
Woodbury Lions Club	Presentation – March 5, 2013
Maplewood Lions Club	Presentation – January 28, 2013
Cottage Grove City Council	Presentation – January 16, 2013
Maplewood Planning Commission	Presentation – January 15, 2013
District 4 Community Council	Staff Meeting – January 9, 2013
East Side Gateway Forum	Presentation – December 18, 2012
Union Depot Grand Opening	Handouts at CTIB booth – December 8, 2012
Met Council Transportation Committee	Presentation – November 26, 2012
St. Paul Transportation Committee	Presentation – November 5, 2012
APA-MN State Conference	Presentation – September 26, 2012
Woodbury Community Foundation	Presentation – September 25, 2012
Woodbury City Council Workshop	Presentation – September 19, 2012
District 5 Land Use Committee	Presentation – September 11, 2012
St. Paul East Side Community Groups	Meeting – August 28, 2012
APA-MN Brownbag	Presentation – July 18, 2012
Washington County Workforce Investment Board	Presentation – May 16, 2012
St. Paul District Council 2 Annual Meeting	Booth – April 25, 2012
White Bear Avenue Business Association	Presentation – April 17, 2012
Woodbury Expo	Booth – April 14, 2012
Woodbury Chamber – Eggs and Issues	Presentation – April 13, 2012
King of King's Church	Presentation – April 10, 2012
Met Council Transportation Committee	Presentation – April 9, 2012
3 <sup>rd</sup> Round of Open Houses – Woodbury, City Hall	Presentation – April 5, 2012
Met Council Transportation Accessibility Advisory Council	Presentation – April 4, 2012
3 <sup>rd</sup> Round of Open Houses – Hudson, St Croix Gov Center	Presentation – April 4, 2012
3 <sup>rd</sup> Round of Open Houses – Eau Claire, CVTC	Presentation – March 29, 2012



3 <sup>rd</sup> Round of Open Houses – St Paul, Harding HS	Presentation – March 27, 2012
Lower St Croix Valley Alliance	Presentation – March 26, 2012
Woodbury Chamber – Government Affairs Committee	Meeting – March 23, 2012
Washington County Regional Rail Workshop	Presentation – March 20, 2012
Engage East Side	Meeting – March 2, 2012
Stillwater LIONS Club	Presentation – February 28, 2012
St. Paul District Council 1 Board Meeting	Presentation – February 27, 2012
St. Paul District Council 2 Board Meeting	Presentation – February 15, 2012
St. Paul District Council 5 Board Meeting	Presentation – February 8, 2012
East Side Business Association	Presentation – February 8, 2012
St. Paul District Council 4 Board Meeting	Presentation – February 6, 2012
St. Paul Chamber Event at Globe University	Presentation – February 3, 2012
St. Paul Transportation Committee	Presentation – January 30, 2012
St. Paul District Council 17 Development Review Cmte	Presentation – January 10, 2012
Oakdale City Council	Presentation – January 10, 2012

**Action Requested:** Information



*Agenda Item #6b*

**DATE:** October 4, 2013  
**TO:** Gateway Corridor Commission  
**FROM:** Jeff Dehler Public Relations  
**RE:** Gateway Corridor Communications and Public Relations Update

### **Summary of Activities**

The Communications and Public Relations team continued video production work, held and scheduled business outreach meetings and provided articles to Lake Elmo and St. Paul District 1 Council newsletters in September.

### **Video Production**

Based on feedback from the commission meeting edits are in process for the videos.

### **Community Engagement/Business Outreach**

Two meetings were held: Woodbury YMCA and Summit Orthopedics in Woodbury. These were suggestions from Barbara Tuccitto Warren, president of the Woodbury Chamber of Commerce.

### **Next steps**

In September we will distribute the new videos; revise and reproduce the Business Action Kit; continue scheduling and holding meetings with businesses and organizations; update the home page and Corridor sections of the website; and, as always, we will coordinate with staff and the DEIS consultant as necessary.

### **Action Requested** Information



*Agenda Item #7*

**DATE:** August 1, 2013  
**TO:** Gateway Corridor Commission  
**FROM:** Staff  
**RE:** State and Federal Legislative Update

**Item 7a. State Update**

There are no updates to provide at this time

**Item 7b. Federal Update**

Below is the federal legislative update prepared by Lockridge, Grindal and Nauen (LGN) for CTIB for the week of September 30th. The majority of the update revolves around the effects of the government shutdown. FTA staff from the Washington DC and Region 5 Offices, who the project team communicates with on a regular basis, have been furloughed. If there is a prolonged shutdown it could delay the review of our DEIS project documentation by FTA.

**Weekly Update for Week of September 30<sup>th</sup>**

Already shaken by a shooting near the front lawn of the Capitol building on Thursday, Congress is facing the prospect of another tense weekend session during which Senate Majority Leaders will continue pressuring the House to pass a stopgap spending bill without any controversial policy riders. Meanwhile, the House is preparing eleven more piecemeal spending bills to reopen parts of the government and pressure the Senate to negotiate. Some bills are expected to be on the House floor as soon as Friday afternoon. Senate Majority Members oppose the spending bills and the White House has threatened vetoes of such measures, arguing that instead of individual spending bills the entire government needs to be reopened.

In this Update

[\*\*Senate and House Face Weekend Sessions as Shutdown Continues\*\*](#)

[\*\*Government Shutdown Forecast\*\*](#)

[\*\*Department of Agriculture Hindered by Farm Bill Expiration and Federal Shutdown\*\*](#)

[\*\*Slow Progress on Farm Bill Conference Committee\*\*](#)

[\*\*Treasury Warns of Disaster if Congress Allows Default\*\*](#)

[\*\*Key Upcoming Dates\*\*](#)

[\*\*Special News, Notes and Events\*\*](#)



### [Minnesota Delegation Notes](#)

### [Additional Media](#)

#### Senate and House Face Weekend Sessions as Shutdown Continues

With no end yet in sight for the partial government shutdown, the Senate is scheduled to be in session this weekend as part of an effort to continue pressuring the House to pass a stopgap spending bill without any controversial policy riders. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid told reporters on Friday he expected to be in Washington all weekend, unless Congress could come to a compromise by the end of the day Friday.

According to House leadership aides, the House is also expected to remain in town for session this weekend as they continue to take up piecemeal funding proposals as part of their attempt to open up portions of the federal government. The Senate Majority and House Majority remain at odds over including extraneous provisions in the continuing resolution, such as language that would either defund or delay parts of the health care reform law. Majority leaders in both the House and Senate have said they believe the longer the shutdown lasts, the more it benefits their caucus.

The House will continue its strategy of passing piecemeal appropriations bills as part of their effort to keep parts of the government open and pressure Senate Majority Leaders to negotiate. House Rules Committee members met Thursday evening to consider rules for ten more targeted continuing resolutions and also a bill that would compensate federal employees for the pay they lose while furloughed during the shutdown. Those stopgap spending measures would provide funding for the Women, Infants and Children program, nuclear weapon and non-proliferation activities, the Food and Drug Administration, intelligence operations, border security and customs enforcement, American Indian programs, National Weather Service, impact education aid, Head Start and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Senate Majority Members repeated their objection to the House bills, noting that it was an idea first floated by Senator [Ted Cruz](#) of Texas and other Minority senators determined to kill the healthcare law at any cost, and that it would set a bad precedent to negotiate concessions on a stopgap spending bill before Congress deals with debt ceiling increase and then a full-year fiscal 2014 budget solution.

#### Government Shutdown Forecast

- Unfortunately, lawmakers have experienced relatively little public pressure for a solution to the shutdown, which has only encouraged hardliners to stand their ground and avoid negotiations. The stock market remained relatively unaffected with Dow Jones gaining 62 points on Tuesday and losing 58 points on Wednesday. Public opinion polls since the shutdown began on Tuesday are mixed (and limited) and have yet to affect lawmakers behavior. While media reports pertaining to the shutdown have not been positive, negative press has focused primarily on national park closures and the pain of a relatively limited number of furloughed federal employees - not enough to move the needle with lawmakers.



While it is still early in the process and the situation is fluid, the shutdown appears headed for a longer duration than initially predicted. The latest theory gaining currency in Congress is that it will take a potential default on the nation's debt in a few weeks to bring the crisis to a head. The question remains whether the connection to the debt ceiling will make it easier or more difficult to find a resolution.

#### **Department of Agriculture Hindered by Farm Bill Expiration and Federal Shutdown**

The US Department of Agriculture suffered double blows on Tuesday with the end of fiscal 2013 funding and the expiration of a one-year farm bill extension. In a press conference late this week, Department Secretary Tom Vilsack proceeded to outline work that his agencies have done and will continue to do to aid agriculture and to meet other obligations in conservation, nutrition, research and other areas. Progress in those areas will be slowed by the partial government shutdown now that the Agriculture Department and other agencies are sending "non-essential" workers home after the House and Senate could not resolve their differences on a short-term government funding bill.

Vilsack called on businesses that are members of the produce industry to be "citizen patriots," who press Congress to reach agreement on a temporary funding bill for the federal government, to negotiate a five-year farm bill and to pass an immigration bill that gives farmers and the livestock industry a stable workforce of legal immigrants and temporary guest workers. Secretary Vilsack said his audience needed to tell lawmakers it is "time has come for this silliness, this nonsense of not talking to one another and not compromising and not getting it done is over. You can't plant, you can't invest, you can't expand unless you have certainty that you will have a workforce and that you know what the programs are."

He noted that trade promotion programs that aid U.S. exporters in foreign markets ended at midnight with the expiration of an extension of the 2008 farm bill. He said assistance programs for beginning farmers and ranchers also ended. Vilsack said these and other programs provide business and work opportunities that can help slow or reverse population losses in rural areas.

The Secretary differed with Senate Agriculture Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., on how quickly the effects of a lapsed farm bill would be felt. Vilsack said the uncertainty over a future farm bill will lead people to "pull back. You don't expand. You don't invest. That's the extraordinary frustration with this."

Stabenow had stated that effects of the legislation's expiration would not be widely felt until January 1<sup>st</sup>, when Depression-era subsidy rates for dairy would take effect and eventually be reflected in milk prices of more than \$7 per gallon. However, she reaffirmed her opposition to another extension. "We are not going to pass another extension that does not do the job. There is no excuse not to have a farm bill," Stabenow said, adding that the House and Senate should be able to proceed to a conference on their respective farm bills.

#### **Slow Progress on a Farm Bill Conference Committee**

In the face of stalled negotiations and continued uncertainty in regards to a federal budget, lawmakers are working to move toward a farm bill conference. Ranking House Agriculture Committee Member **Collin Peterson (D-MN)** said Monday that it's likely to be the end of October before all the conferees get named. Because the House adopted a rule on September 28<sup>th</sup> that married its agriculture-only farm bill and a nutrition title, the Senate had to reappoint the twelve conferees it named before the August



recess.

The Senate reappointed those conferees Tuesday afternoon, putting the pressure on the House to name negotiators. In a brief interview Monday afternoon, Senate Agriculture Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow, (D-Mich.) said that movement on a farm bill conference committee might be slowed by the ongoing disagreement between the Senate and the House over a short-term funding bill.

The Senate's Democratic conferees are Stabenow, Patrick J. Leahy of Vermont, Tom Harkin of Iowa, Max Baucus of Montana, Sherrod Brown of Ohio, **Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota** and Michael Bennet of Colorado. The Republicans are ranking member Thad Cochran of Mississippi, Pat Roberts of Kansas, Saxby Chambliss of Georgia, John Boozman of Arkansas and John Hoeven of North Dakota.

### **Treasury Warns of Disaster if Congress Allows Default**

The Treasury Department warned of catastrophe that could plunge the nation into the worst recession since the Great Depression if Congress fails to raise the debt ceiling by October 17<sup>th</sup>. "A default would be unprecedented and has the potential to be catastrophic: credit markets could freeze, the value of the dollar could plummet, and U.S. interest rates could skyrocket, potentially resulting in a financial crisis and recession that could echo the events of 2008 or worse," the Treasury said in a recent press release.

Warning against a recession that would be worse than anything the country has seen since the Great Depression, the Treasury said taking the country to brinkmanship even without default could cause interest rates to spike and a huge loss in household wealth. Secretary Lew told Members of Congress that postponing a debt ceiling increase is exactly what the country's economy does not need, comparing it to a self-inflicted wound harming families and businesses.

The Treasury also warned that the government shutdown would exacerbate the economic hit from a default. President [Barack Obama](#), however, has repeatedly said that he will not negotiate a deal to raise the debt ceiling, insisting that Republicans not hold the debt hostage to other demands.

### **KEY UPCOMING DATES**

#### **October 17, 2013**

Predicted deadline announced by the Treasury Department for when the United States will reach the debt ceiling and potentially default on its obligations without Congressional action.

### **SPECIAL NEWS, NOTES AND EVENTS**

#### **LGN Hosts Special Minnesota Celebration for Congresswoman Betty McCollum**

*Washington, DC*

On Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, the Lockridge Grindal Nauen Federal Relations team hosted a special reception for **Congresswoman Betty McCollum** from Minnesota's Fourth District at the home of Dennis McGrann on Capitol Hill. Dozens of attendees gathered to honor and thank the Congresswoman for her tremendous work in Congress. Guests enjoyed treats from across the Congresswoman's district including Summit and Lift Bridge beer and Salted Nut Rolls, which have been manufactured in St. Paul for nearly eighty years.



**Minnesota State Society Congressional Staff Appreciation Reception**

*Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-8:00PM EST*

Porter Gordon Silver Communications

11 D Street SE

Washington, D.C. 20003

**Minnesota State Society Forum "Coffee and Conversation" with Congressman John Kline**

*October, 2013*

Capitol Hill

Washington, D.C. 20003

**MINNESOTA DELEGATION NOTES:**

**Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Senator Al Franken** and other Minnesota lawmakers announced they will be donating their salaries to charity - or asking not to get paid - during the shutdown. Read more [here](#).

**Senator Al Franken's (D-MN)** bill to keep medicine safe for Minnesotans gained critical momentum with news that the legislation is now being backed by a strong, bipartisan coalition in the House of Representatives. The bill would clarify the oversight responsibilities of the Food and Drug Administration over large-volume sterile facilities and hold these facilities to higher quality standards. Read more [here](#).

**Congressman Tim Walz (D-MN-01)** urged members to reopen the federal government and decried House Majority efforts to pass a stand-alone funding cut of over \$6 billion to the Department of Veterans Affairs. Read more [here](#).

**Congressman John Kline (R-MN-02)** urged Congress to support legislation to keep the government running while delaying the health care reform individual mandate for one year and eliminating the exemption for members of Congress, the President, and Administration appointees. Read more [here](#).

**Congressman Erik Paulsen (R-MN-03)** made a statement saying he is willing to break with House Majority leadership in order to end the shutdown. Read more [here](#).

**Congresswoman Betty McCollum (D-MN-04)** signed on as a cosponsor to the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act(H.R. 15), a comprehensive immigration reform bill introduced by Rep. Joe Garcia (D-FL), to enact needed reforms and include a pathway to citizenship for foreign nationals to become U.S. citizens. Read more [here](#).

**Congressman Keith Ellison (D-MN-05)** will speak at a rally in Washington organized by federal-worker unions to protest the relative lack of progress by political leaders to end the government shutdown. Read more [here](#).

**Congressman Collin Peterson (D-MN-07)**, Ranking Member of the House Agriculture Committee, stated the food-stamp program needs to be analyzed and updated at the federal level to reflect inflation, and that waivers for states should be eliminated so that the program would be the same nationwide. Read more [here](#).

**Congressman Rick Nolan (D-MN-08)** introduced legislation that would block members of Congress from



receiving pay during a government shutdown. Read more [here](#).

## ADDITIONAL NEWS

### Lawmakers Seek to Ensure Back Pay for Furloughed Federal Workers

By David Harrison, CQ Roll Call

Lawmakers whose districts include many federal employees are pushing to ensure that furloughed government workers receive back pay for the duration of the shutdown. The move is a pre-emptive attempt to forestall any argument over back pay as a standoff in Congress extended a government shutdown for a second day.

On Wednesday, a bipartisan group of 41 House members send a letter to colleagues urging them to sign onto a bill ([HR 3223](#)) to require back pay for furloughed workers. The bill has 50 co-sponsors, including four Republicans. "Federal workers should not be held responsible for Congress' inability to pass a budget," the letter said. "Government employees have already shouldered a great deal of the burden of past deficit reduction measures and have already lived through the pain of sequestration."

The last time the federal government shut down, in 1995 and 1996, furloughed workers - about a third of the civilian workforce - eventually were given retroactive pay. That shutdown ultimately cost slightly more than \$2 billion in today's dollars.

Government employees, including some 650,000 civilian employees of the Department of Defense have already taken furlough days this year because of the sequestration cuts. More unpaid leave is likely in the next few months when another round of cuts takes effect.

In August, President [Barack Obama](#) announced a 1 percent pay increase for federal employees, saying that workers "have already made significant sacrifices" following three straight years of pay freezes.

On Wednesday, Sen. [Benjamin L. Cardin](#), D-Md., said he expected any resolution to the impasse would include retroactive pay. "I have talked to Republicans. There is great sympathy for this," he said. "We are optimistic that this will be included in the resolution." Cardin has introduced a Senate bill ([S 1567](#)), similar to the House bill. His measure has picked up 14 cosponsors, none of whom are Republicans. Cardin said he has been warning federal workers, a huge number of whom live in his state, that the shutdown could drag on until Oct. 17, the deadline to raise the debt ceiling.

Several lawmakers have asked not to be paid until the government reopens. Under the 27th Amendment to the Constitution, however, they are guaranteed to receive that money before the end of the 113th Congress. Federal workers, on the other hand, need a congressional resolution before they can get paid.

Several Republicans in recent days have said they expected workers to be made whole. Rep. [Jason Chaffetz](#), R-Utah, said on CBS that he would forfeit his own pay in solidarity with federal workers. "Under



the Constitution, I will eventually get paid and I hope all the federals get their back pay," he said.

Rep. Blake Fahrenthold, R-Texas, said he expected federal workers to be made whole. "Historically we've done that," he said. "This is not their fault." "I have little doubt that they'll get paid. No guarantee but little doubt," he said. "If I were a furloughed employee, I would be mindful of what I spend but I also wouldn't be panicked."

Rep. [John Fleming](#), R-La., said he would also support giving back pay to federal workers.

To help federal employees cope with the shutdown, credit unions have announced they will offer interest-free loans, payment-skipping programs and financial counseling to those affected.

#### **Action**

Information



*Agenda Item #7*

**DATE:** October 3, 2013  
**TO:** Gateway Corridor Commission  
**FROM:** Staff  
**RE:** Other Items

**Items 7a. Meeting Dates Summary**

Included below is a summary of the upcoming Commission and DEIS Study meetings.

Month	Meeting	Date	Planned Start Time
September	TAC	October 16	2:00 PM
October	Gateway Corridor Commission	November 14	3:30 PM

**Item 7b. Website and Social Media Updates**

Facebook

The Gateway Corridor Facebook page was launched on Monday, February 20, 2012. The page currently has 315 ‘Likes’. There have not been any instances where comments have had to be removed during this reporting period.

YouTube

The four YouTube videos of the various alignments are still posted. The “views” of these videos ranges from 120-300.

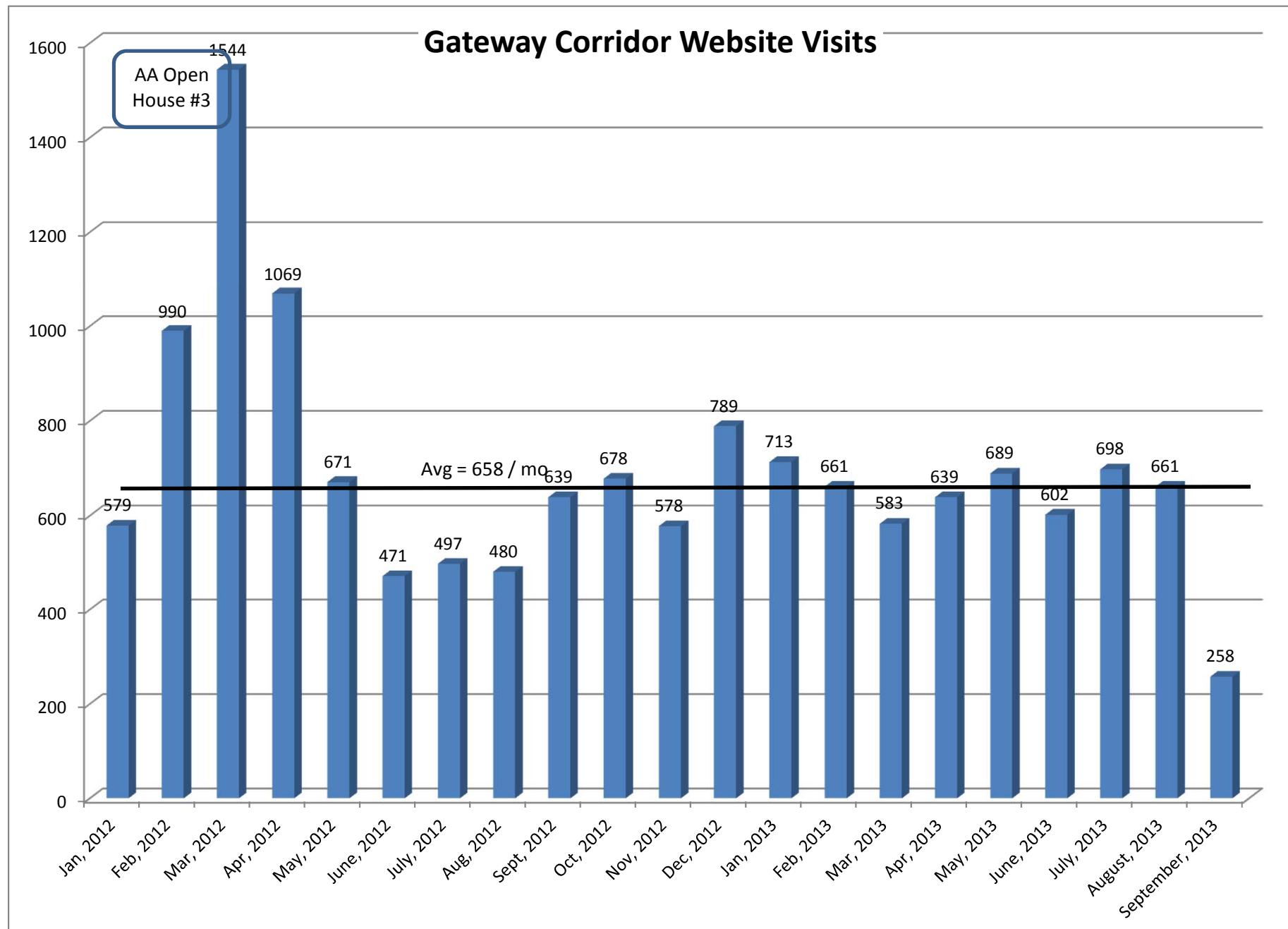
Website

For the month of July, there were 528. The website is averaging 669 visits per month. Attached is a summary of the visits per month for 2012 and 2013.

**Item 7c. Media Articles**

Attached are media articles about the Gateway Corridor from the last month.

**Action Requested:** Information.



<http://www.thegatewaycorridor.com> - <http://www.thegatewaycorridor.com>

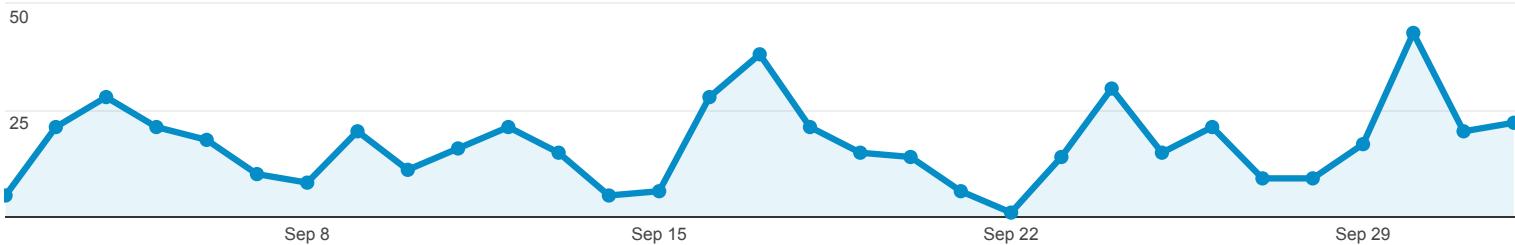
## Audience Overview

Sep 2, 2013 - Oct 2, 2013

All Visits  
100.00%

Overview

Visits



392 people visited this site

Visits

528

Pages / Visit

3.25

% New Visits

61.74%

Unique Visitors

392

Avg. Visit Duration

00:02:57

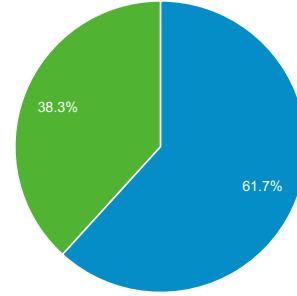
Pageviews

1,715

Bounce Rate

34.85%

New Visitor Returning Visitor



### Language

Language	Visits	% Visits
1. en-us	518	98.11%
2. en	2	0.38%
3. c	1	0.19%
4. de-de	1	0.19%
5. en-gb	1	0.19%
6. es-es	1	0.19%
7. it-it	1	0.19%
8. ja-jp	1	0.19%
9. ru	1	0.19%
10. zh-cn	1	0.19%

[view full report](#)

## For Woodbury State Farm site, hotel, grocery, offices planned

By Bob Shaw [bshaw@pioneerpress.com](mailto:bshaw@pioneerpress.com) TwinCities.com-Pioneer Press

Posted:

TwinCities.com

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Plans for a 100-acre office park -- with a vacated State Farm building at the center -- were unveiled Thursday in Woodbury.

Elion, a Miami-based real estate investment company, announced plans to build a hotel, grocery store, office buildings and restaurants around the sprawling State Farm building at Radio Drive and Interstate 94.

The site has been vacant for seven years, so the plans to develop it delighted city officials.

"It's very encouraging, very exciting," said planning and economic development director Janelle Schmitz. "After all the other development around here, this is the frosting on the cake."

If completed, the project's economic impact on Woodbury would be large.

Elion partner Juan DeAngulo declined to give a cost estimate for the project, but a smaller redevelopment plan two years ago was estimated to be a \$100 million project.

DeAngulo said businesses in the State Farm building alone could require 2,000 workers. And that doesn't include jobs generated by businesses in the new buildings:

- A 100,000-square-foot medical office building.
- A 180-room hotel, connected by a skywalk to the medical building.
- Two office buildings of about 30,000 square feet apiece, for businesses complementing those in the main State Farm building.
- A grocery store, not to exceed 40,000 square feet, at Radio Drive and Hudson Road.
- Four restaurants, including three "fast-casual" restaurants comparable to Chipotle's.

The high-visibility site has been a headache for city officials since State Farm moved out in 2006.

The 400,000-square-foot building has proven difficult to sell because it was built for a single large-scale occupant and couldn't easily be subdivided.

Previous plans have fallen through. A developer in 2011 proposed rehabbing the building and adding senior citizens housing and a Costco store nearby.

City officials objected, saying they wanted more office space -- and not more big-box retail stores. The land is zoned as a place to work, and the city was reluctant to change the zoning to permit the Costco store.

But the new plan won't have that problem.

Woodbury's Schmitz said the project would be allowed if the land were rezoned as "gateway."

That zoning calls for 70 percent of a site to be developed and 30 percent to be open space. Gateway zoning does allow some retail space for buildings up to 40,000 square feet -- not enough for big-box stores.

City administrator Clint Gridley said a request for gateway zoning would be far more likely to get support from the city council.

Elion does not yet own the property but has a contract with State Farm to buy it -- just as the previous developer had.

But Mayor Mary Giuliani Stephens was more optimistic about this plan. "We want to bring higher-wage jobs to Woodbury," she said. "We are very encouraged by this."

Elion's DeAngulo said the project would be successful, partly because the real estate market has rebounded.

"The timing is right," he said, "to bring life to this property."

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# Woodbury Bulletin

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## Investment group looks to inject new life into old State Farm site

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The former State Farm property will have medical offices, small retail shops, a 150-room hotel, walkable trails and a high-end grocery store, according to ambitious plans revealed Thursday by the investment group Elion.

Juan DeAngulo, partner and chief operating officer for Elion, said the campus, now dubbed "Woodbury Corporate Center" will no longer be an isolated, stand-alone building that requires a large corporation to fill all 450,000 square feet.

"It has soul and heart to it," he said of the concept plan, noting that walkable trails and amenities will be attractive to companies seeking places with accompanying shops and restaurants for their employees. "It's all about creating connectivity across the site."

DeAngulo said Elion is under contract with State Farm, but will not close on the property until it gets official approval from the city of Woodbury.

So far city officials have welcomed the designs and Elion's vision for the site that falls somewhere in the middle of a large isolated corporation and big box retail.

"The retail is designed to fit in the corporate campus," Woodbury Community Development Director Dwight Picha said. "It's not the big box concept."

Washington County Board Chairwoman Lisa Weik said the former State Farm property, which sat empty for eight years, is the biggest topic of discussion outside of county policy.

"The community is very interested to know how many jobs this could bring," she said Thursday.

Woodbury lost 1,500 jobs when State Farm moved out of the city in 2005. Specific details on how many jobs will be recovered as part of this plan, or specific names of businesses coming in, have not yet been announced.

Weik said the plans complement the county's vision for improved transit along Interstate 94, or the "Gateway Corridor," currently under study for a possible bus rapid transit or a light rail line along Hudson Road.

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Included in the Woodbury Corporate Center designs is a “Main Street” idea bringing “life to the building,” where small shops located within the campus would give employees opportunities to walk to places like lunch, the gym or everyday services, DeAngulo said.

“The designs that you’re looking at reflect input from all the groups,” he said. “We agree with the city that a big box would create some challenges.”

Adding a hotel to the site would benefit employees and visitors of the two office buildings as well as nearby Cabela’s currently under construction, DeAngulo added.

Architect Dean Dovolis said the plan for the site will be to divide it up into the following: two office buildings at 50,000 square feet each, a 150 room hotel, a high-end grocery store at 40,000 square feet, plus all the adjoining retail.

The company plans to continue working with the city before requesting the necessary permits to move forward and close on the property in the first quarter of 2014.

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