



**Agenda**  
**Gateway Corridor Commission**  
**April 9, 2015 - 3:30 PM**

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

**Notes:** *There will be a DEIS Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting preceding the Gateway Corridor Commission (GCC) Meeting at 1:30 pm. Both Meetings are open to the public*

<u>Item</u>	<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Action Requested</u>
1. Introductions		Information
2. Consent Items		Approval
a. Summary of March 12, 2014 Meeting*		
b. Checks and Claims*		
3. Communications Update	Washington County /	
a. Outreach Activities*	Jeff Dehler PR	Information
b. Public Relations Activities*		Information
c. Twitter Usage and Disclaimer Policy*		Approval
4. State and Federal Legislative Update*	Ramsey County	Information
5. Gateway DC Fly-in Options*	Washington County	Approval
6. DEIS Study Update*	Washington County	Information
a. Committee Updates		
b. HIA Update		
c. Next Steps		
7. Other		Information
a. Meeting Dates Summary*		
b. Social Media and Website Update*		
c. Media Articles*		
8. Adjourn		Approval

*\*Attachments*



**Gateway Corridor Commission  
Draft March 12, 2015 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
Mary Giuliani Stephens	Woodbury	X
Dan Kyllo	West Lakeland Township	X
Bill Finney	St Paul	X
Randy Nelson	Afton	
Mike Pearson	Lake Elmo	
Paul Reinke	Oakdale	X
Nora Slawik	Maplewood	X
Amy Williams	Lakeland	X
Victoria Reinhardt, Alternate	Ramsey County	X
Ted Bearth, Alternate	Washington County	
Richard Bend, Alternate	Afton	X
Bob Livingston, Alternate	Lakeland	X
Paul Rebholz, Alternate	Woodbury	
Justin Bloyer, Alternate	Lake Elmo	
Dave Schultz, Alternate	West Lakeland Township	

<b>Ex-Officio Members</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Present</b>
Scott Beauchamp	St Paul Chamber of Commerce	X
Ed Schukle	Landfall Village	X
Randy Kopesky	Lakeland Shores	
Bill Burns	Oakdale Area Chamber of Commerce	
Tim Ramberg	WI Gateway Coalition	
Doug Stang	3M	
Jason Lott	Woodbury Chamber of Commerce	
Lisa Palermo, Alternate	Woodbury Chamber of Commerce	X

<b>Others</b>	<b>Agency</b>
Kevin Roggenbuck	Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority
Andy Gitzlaff	Washington County
Jan Lucke	Washington County
Hally Turner	Washington County
Laura Kearns	Washington County

John Kaul	Washington County Lobbyist
Tim Cossalter	Senator Klobuchar's Office
Jeff Dehler	Dehler Public Relations
John Bradford	City of Woodbury
<b>Others</b>	<b>Agency</b>
Beth Bartz	SRF
Jessica Laws	Kimley Horn
John Bradford	City of Woodbury
Mary Douglas Marshal	HNTB
Ellen Biales	City of St. Paul
Steve Ebner	West Lakeland Township

The Gateway Corridor Commission convened at 3:33 p.m. by Chair Weik.

**Agenda Item #1. Introductions**

Introductions were made by those present.

**Agenda Item #2. Consent Items**

**Item 2a. Summary of February 12, 2015 Meeting:** Motion made by Council Member Reinke to approve the Summary of February 12, 2015 Meeting. Seconded by Mayor Williams. All in favor, **Approved**. Motion carried.

**Item 2b. Checks and Claims:** Motion was made by Commissioner Reinhardt to approve the checks and claims. Seconded by Mayor Williams. All in favor, **Approved**. Motion carried.

**Agenda Item #3. DIES Study update**

**Item 3a. Committee Updates:**

Mr. Gitzlaff gave a brief update on the information provided in the packet. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on February 18, 2015 and began reviewing the updated alignment concepts for the 3M area (McKnight to Century Ave.). After that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will start to focus on parts of the corridor farther to the East into Washington County. They will also be providing more information to the Commission to be able to make a decision on the where the alignment crosses into Lake Elmo from Woodbury.

Mayor Giuliani Stephens mentioned the traffic issues the Orange Line had in California and to be aware of traffic patterns of both vehicles and non-vehicles to minimize any accidents.

**Item 3b. Contract Amendment:**

Mr. Gitzlaff said Metropolitan Council adopted the 2040 TPP in January 2015 (that was mentioned at the last meeting). Prior to this time everything has been based off of 2030 population and employment projections. The FTA is now requiring all transit way projects to transition to 2040 population and employment projections. This change is in the middle of the DEIS and will require additional resources and time to complete. With the shift in the horizon year there is a need to extend the project schedule and prepare additional analysis. At the last meeting the Commission requested a detailed list of work tasks that have been revised or a reduced level of work than originally planned. Mr. Gitzlaff received a letter from Kimley Horn that provided the detailed information. This letter was provided in packet along with additional scope items and their estimated costs. Mr. Gitzlaff also went through the proposed contract amendment with Kimley Horn. The current contract is for a not to exceed amount of \$3 million. An additional \$92,845 for preparation for the HIA is also needed which will be paid in full by the grant from Pew. Additional details about the scope of work were included in the letter

from Kimley Horn.

**Item 3c. Next Steps**

Mr. Gitzlaff briefly covered the information that was provided within the packet of the tasks that will be completed over the next few months.

Commissioner Weik pointed out the station area plans will be within our scope of work but it is not included with in the tables.

Mr. Gitzlaff said the station area planning was included in the original contract so there are no additional resources for that.

Council Member Reinke said the original contingency for \$300,000 was consumed by unanticipated tasks. Can we assume within reason the contract amendment will absorb minor additions.

Mr. Gitzlaff said the contingency has been utilized for other tasks; within the amended contract for noise analysis there was a range included in the amount of \$100,000 - \$140,000. \$140,000 is the high end of the analysis. Staff is recommending that it stay at the high end for the very reason of any unforeseen tasks to provide a cushion going forward.

Mayor Richard Bend said the increase that staff is recommending exactly matches the increased amount stated in Kimley Horn's letter dated March 5, 2015. As well as correlating the amount of grant money that will be available. Has staff independently determined the scope outlined in the letter from Kimley Horn is a necessary increase in scope? Have there been examinations of the expected margins of the contract versus the amended contract.

Mr. Gitzlaff said the letter from Kimley Horn is months of negotiations to reach the amount stated. Staff has been working closely with their partners whom have a lot of experience on the impacts and the cost of them. The indication that we received from them is the cost that is being proposed is within reason with the tasks being completed.

Mr. Gitzlaff then answered Mayor Bend's second question saying the proposal doesn't change the rates of pay from the original contract. It is also set up on a not to exceed basis. Invoices will come through monthly and show the task that was worked on, the number of hours budgeted, the person who worked on the task and the hours worked. That is staff's opportunity to review it and to make sure that everything is on track.

Mr. Gitzlaff said this contract is not out of money, this is more of an anticipatory change.

Mayor Giuliani Stephens mentioned that Kimley Horn did an exceptional job detailing everything out that was requested of them. Commissioner Weik agreed.

Commissioner Weik said the Washington County Board of Commissioners had a board meeting on Tuesday March 10, 2015; there was a presentation update similar to what is being presented to the Commission today.

Mr. Gitzlaff said the next steps would be if the recommendation comes from the Commission to authorize the Washington county rail authority to execute the contract; it would then be put on the Washington County's rail authority's agenda for March 24, 2015.

Motion was made by Commissioner Reinhardt to approve the contract amendment. Seconded by Council Member Williams. All in favor, **APPROVED**. Motion Carried.

Bill Finney joined the meeting at 3:58PM

**Agenda Item #4. 2015 Strategic Communication Plan**

Mr. Dehler gave a power point presentation (this information was provided within the meeting packet) on the Strategic Communications plan from 2015 – 2018. Mr. Dehler said a public opinion survey will be conducted to gauge current levels of support, identify areas where further information is needed and to gather feedback. The Gateway Corridor will also be requesting \$3 million at the Minnesota Legislature. Grant requests will continue with CTIB, project development will begin to transition into the State. Mr. Dehler said there is a need for increased community relations. It is important that some of the ethnic communities in the East St. Paul area are addressed, the Hmong, Somali and Hispanic communities could all have possible liaisons so everyone within the Gateway Corridor are reached. Mr. Dehler continued; it is a good time to start to think about having a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) type of vehicle at events for people to see how different it is then a normal city bus. The Gateway Corridor Commission will provide local, state and federal representatives with information needed to support funding for the corridor. Mr. Dehler said that 2018 is the major funding request year, February – May, 2018 will be huge concentration on providing information to legislatures. Increased Government relations will be critical.

Commissioner Reinhardt asked if Mr. Dehler is involved in the lobbying aspects of the legislative activity. Mr. Dehler said no, he is not.

Mayor Giuliani Stephens said if there should be some type of strategy with East Metro Strong to be able to utilize all the resources the best way possible.

Mr. Dehler said there are a number of partner organizations that they will want to continually work with.

Commissioner Reinhardt said there is a portion of the corridor that overlaps with the Rush Line Corridor and to make sure that there is communication with them.

Council Member Reinke asked Mr. Dehler what is role is for our communication and is it advocacy or more neutral.

Mr. Dehler said if there were federal funds for communications work we would be required not to advocate for the corridor. He could only provide information. Federal funds are not being used at this time. Tax payer dollars are currently being used but he is trying to stay as neutral as he can. This is an exception for the Commission who can go directly to the legislature and tell them what they want.

Mr. Dehler asked the Commission what they are hearing from the constituents.

Council Member Reinke said he is being asked why there is so much money being requested for Gateway when the roads are in bad shape.

Commissioner Reinhardt said she generally hears that the corridor makes sense.

Mayor Giuliani Stephens said the chamber and business as a community have been supportive. There is a broader approach of making sure that transit is not the only thing being looked at. We want to make sure that the express busses are preserved. Other areas that need improvement (Hwy. 694 and Hwy 94 interchange) the safety issues continue to be promoted as well.

Mayor Williams said it would be helpful to always be able to compare the cost of roads. There are people who

think that there is less cost to repair or build new roads then to build transit.

Commissioner Weik said any expansion costs for highways would need to be estimated out past 2030. There is nothing currently in place to expand Highway 94 East of 3M within the next 15 years.

Mayor Giuliani Stephens said there may be concrete numbers for the managed lanes between St. Paul and Minneapolis. There have been some projections done on that project.

Council Member Finney said the younger generation seems to be more interested in mass transit and bicycle lanes then driving their own vehicle. People who are retired seem to be more concerned to the cost

Commissioner Weik said she has a lot of interaction with Woodbury chamber members. She thought that it was great that the chamber was a part of the public testimony at the Senate Committee hearing at Central Park.

Lisa Palermo said the Woodbury Chamber feels that they have a responsibility to the younger generation. What they want and would like to see for transportation in the future.

Commissioner Weik asked in future reading materials for the year 2017 it shows that where the corridor would be going out for municipal consent.

Mr. Dehler said there are a lot of details that will need to be completed that are not currently listed in the packet of information today.

Commissioner Weik asked Mr. Dehler when he hears about changes with other corridors does he look at it and think about what Gateway is doing and if there is any information put on social media or the Gateway website. Mr. Dehler said he tries to provide information to staff and commission members on those types of things prior to them being asked by constituents. They do their best to stay on top issues that come up locally and regionally.

Council Member Reinke said he is worried that the hard work of the commission is going to be trumped by FTA or MnDOT or Met Council.

Motion was made by Commissioner Reinhardt to approve the Strategic Communication Plan. Seconded by Mayor Williams. All in favor, **APPROVED**. Motion Carried.

#### **Agenda Item #5. Gateway Twitter Account**

Mr. Dehler said an account could benefit the communication efforts of the Commission. The number of people using Twitter has increased by more than 50 million in the past year. The network currently has over 270 million active users.

Council Member Finney asked who will be monitoring the account.

Mr. Dehler said the consultant team and staff will be monitoring the account.

Mr. Gitzlaff confirmed Mr. Dehler's comment.

Motion was made by Council Member Williams to approve the Gateway Twitter Account with the same procedures and policies currently in place for the Facebook account. Seconded by Council Member Finney. All

in favor, **APPROVED**. Motion Carried.

#### **Agenda Item #6 HIA update**

Ms. Turner said they are currently in the middle of the scoping process for the HIA, which mirrors the Environmental Impact Statement process. Staff is receiving feedback from the community on what the scope of work. There was a worksheet included in last month's packet; staff has received 109 responses back from that worksheet. There will be a workshop on Wednesday March 13, 2015 on the HIA for the Gateway Corridor; the agenda will be based off of the responses received from the worksheet. There is a meeting set for Monday March 16, 2015 with the African American Leadership Forum Health and Wellness group to work on getting diverse engagement around the HIA in general and getting Gateway's name out to the public.

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

##### **Item 7a. Outreach Activities:**

Mr. Gitzlaff said April 13 – 14<sup>th</sup> East Metro Strong is having a workshop with the City of Lake Elmo on Land Use. There will be two national experts attending the meeting. They are Dena Belzer with Strategic Economics; she is one of the leaders on TOD Development and financing and Roger Miller whom specializes in BRT. Staff has been working on capitalizing on their expertise while they are here. At the meeting on April 14<sup>th</sup> from 12:30 – 2:30 there will be a development forum. Mayor Giuliani Stephens was successful getting Gateway on the Regional Council of Mayors schedule for Monday April 13<sup>th</sup> to provide an overview on the corridor.

##### **Item 7b. Public Relations Activities**

Mr. Dehler said they have been diligently working on providing speaking points for the legislature.

#### **Agenda Item #8 State and Federal Legislative Update**

Mr. Roggenbuck gave a brief overview of the information provided in the packet

**State:** February's budget forecast; projects to have Minnesota's state budget to have a \$1.869 billion surplus for the fiscal year 2016 – 2017. This is \$832 million above the November forecast. Friday April 24<sup>th</sup> marks the third deadline which the finance committee's must act favorably on major appropriation and finance bills

**Federal:** The highway trust fund is set to expire on March 31, 2015. Reauthorization could be complicated with issues about tax reform.

Commissioner Weik said Senator Kent supported the Gateway bill in Senate and Representative Fenton was an author on the House side of Gateway.

Mayor Giuliani Stephens said the Governors Bill put an increase into sales tax in the control of Met Council; however the Senate bill would not. This is something that the commission needs to pay attention to and take a position on it.

#### **Agenda Item #9 Gateway DC Fly-in Options**

Mr. Gitzlaff said the 2015 Work Plan and Budget identifies going to Washington DC to meet with our congressional delegation and the US-DOT. Lockridge Grindal prepared a series of dates (included in the packet) of time they would suggest to fly out.

Mr. Gitzlaff said the request before the Commission is to gauge interest, potential dates and other parties that they would like to consider bringing with.

Mayor Giuliani Stephens said the last time they went out to Washington DC they had a specific ask; at the time they were having some rule changes. A question that she would like to ask Lockridge Grindal: is this right timing

to be going and will we be having an ask for some action even if it is not financial. There have been a lot of discussions about Federal Highway Administration in addition to the FTA. She doesn't see them on the list but thinks that there should be something worked out with them as well.

Mr. Gitzlaff said a couple key reasons to go to Washington DC are we are getting close to publishing an Environmental Impact Statement. There will be a lot of documents for the FTA and FHWA to review. This will be an opportunity to encourage them to move forward with their review, show them the progress made and to keep things on their radar.

**Agenda Item #10 Other**

Media articles are included in the packet to read at the Commissions leisure.

**The meeting adjourned at 5:05PM**





Agenda Item #2b

**DATE:** April 2, 2015  
**TO:** Gateway Corridor Commission  
**FROM:** Staff  
**RE:** Checks and Claims

<u>Communication Contract - (Jeff Dehler PR)</u> 2/1/2015 – 2/28/15	<u>Amount</u> \$14,356.35
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*Contract Utilization = 94%*

<u>DEIS Contract (Kimley Horn)</u> 1/1/15– 1/31/15 2/1/15 – 2/28/15	<u>Amount</u> \$123,335.04 \$108,711.14
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*Contract Utilization = 66%*

<b>Total</b>	<b>\$247,150.82</b>
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*Detailed invoices can be made available upon request.*

**Action Requested:**

Approval



*Agenda Item #3a*

**DATE:** April 1, 2015

**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 2014 and 2015.

### **Upcoming Outreach**

<b>Stakeholder</b>	<b>Status</b>
Lafayette Business Park Commuter Fair	April 23, 2015
Gateway Corridor Development Forum	April 14, 2015
East Metro Strong Lake Elmo Workshop	April 13-14, 2015
Saint Paul City Council Transitway Workshop	Date TBD

### **Previous Outreach**

<b>Stakeholder</b>	<b>Status</b>
Ramsey County Environmental Health Staff	Presentation, March 30, 2015
African American Leadership Forum	Meeting, March 16, 2015
HIA Workshop	Workshop, March 13, 2015
Senate Transportation Committee	Tour, March 5, 2015
Oakdale Chamber	Presentation, March 5, 2015
Ramsey Co/St. Paul Community Health	Presentation, March 4, 2015
Legislative Breakfast	February 27, 2015
St. Paul Station Planning Task Force	Meeting, February 17, 2015
St. Paul Historic Preservation committee	Presentation, February 12, 2015
Stillwater Lion's Club	Presentation, February 10, 2015
Oakdale City Council	Workshop, February 10, 2015
Governor Briefing	Meeting, February 9, 2015
Bus Tour with Chair Duinick	Tour, January 6, 2015
St. Paul Station Planning Task Force	Workshop, February 5, 2015
Community Advisory Committee	Meeting, January 29, 2015
Washington County Public Health Community Leadership	Presentation, January 21, 2015
St. Paul Station Planning Task Force	Meeting, January 6, 2015
Maplewood Planning Commission	Presentation, December 16, 2014



River Valley Action Forum	Presentation, December 9, 2014
ESABA Gala	Table – December 4, 2014
St. Paul Station Planning Task Force	Workshop, December 2, 2014
Legislative Strategy Meeting	November 13 and 21, 2014
Met Council – Committee of the Whole	Presentation, November 12, 2014
Maplewood Station Planning Meeting	November 7, 2014
Lake Elmo Station Planning Meeting	November 6, 2014
Dayton’s Bluff Community Meeting	November 6, 2014
Oakdale Station Planning Meeting	November 6, 2014
Partnership for Regional Opportunity-TOD Committee	Presentation, November 3, 2014
Woodbury Station Planning Meeting	October 31, 2014
District 4 Community Council New Moon Celebration	Flyers/booth – October 30, 2014
St. Paul Station Planning Meeting	October 27 and 30, 2014
Washington County Regional Rail Authority	October 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2014
Globe University – Welcome Day for Students	Booth – October 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2014
Woodbury City Council	September 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2014
Oakdale City Council	September 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2014
Maplewood City Council	September 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2014
Lake Elmo City Council	September 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2014
Washington County Regional Rail Authority	Public Hearing- September 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2014
Metro State University Fall Fest	Booth-September 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2014
Landfall City Council	September 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2014
Lake Elmo City Council	Workshop-September 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2014
Oakdale City Council	Workshop-September 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2014
Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority- Public Hearing	Presentation-September 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2014
Saint Paul Planning Commission	Update -September 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2014
Woodbury Rotary Club	Presentation – September 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2014
Bruce Vento Elementary-Back to School Night	Booth-August 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2014
City Walk Board (Woodbury)	Presentation-August 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2014
Metropolitan Council-Transportation Policy Plan Outreach	Booth-August 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2014
Oakdale City Council Workshop	Workshop – August 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2014
Maplewood City Council Workshop	Workshop – August 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2014
St. Paul Transportation Committee	Presentation – August 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2014
Metro State University-Welcome Day	Booth-August 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2014
Lake Elmo Property Owners along I-94	Presentation/discussion-August 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2014
Landfall City Council Workshop	Presentation-August 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2014
LPA Public Hearing	Public Hearing – August 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2014
National Night to Unite-several Woodbury neighborhoods	Booth-August 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2014
National Night to Unite- Dayton’s Bluff, Saint Paul	Booth-August 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2014
Primrose/City Walk Businesses (Woodbury)	Presentation-July 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2014
Community Thread-Stillwater	Update-July 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2014
St. Paul District 1 Community Council	Presentation – July 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2014



Woodbury Chamber Public Affairs Committee	Presentation – July 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2014
Wabasha Street Block Party	Booth – July 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2014
ESABA Bowling Tournament	Booth – July 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2014
Landfall Planning and Finance Committee	Presentation – July 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2014
Community Advisory Committee	Meeting – June 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2014
Orange Line Tour	Field Trip – June 25 - 27, 2014
Make it Happen on E. 7 <sup>th</sup> St. Night Out Business & Community Fair	Event Presence – June 20, 2014
FTA Tour and Workshop	Tour and Presentation – June 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2014
District 4 Community Council	Presentation – June 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2014
Green Line Opening	Booth at Depot/Wanderers – June 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2014
Community Advisory Committee	Meeting – June 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2014
Target Station Opening	Booth – May 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2014
National Train Day	Booth – May 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2014
Future of 4 <sup>th</sup> Event	Booth – May 8, 2014
St. Transportation Summit	Booth – May 6, 2014
Woodbury Expo	Booth – May 3, 2014
St. Paul Port Authority	Presentation – April 17, 2014
Corridor Cities and Market Analysis Consultant	Meetings - Week of April 14, 2014
Met Council Transportation Committee	Presentation - April 14, 2014
Globe University – Students	Presentations – April 9, 2014
Engage East Side – Gateway Event	Presentation/Panel – April 8, 2014
Globe University – Staff	Presentation – March 28, 2014
Gateway Day at the Capitol	One-on-ones - March 26, 2014
DEIS Scoping Open House, Conway Rec Center	Open House – March 25, 2014
DEIS Scoping Open House, Guardian Angels	Open House – March 24, 2014
District 1 Community Council Open House	Booth – March 22, 2014
Interagency Scoping Meeting	Meeting – March 20, 2014
River Valley Action	Presentation – March 18, 2014
FHWA	Meeting – March 13, 2014
Landfall HRA	Presentation – March 12, 2014
Environmental Quality Board	Meeting – March 12, 2014
Park and Rides	Flyer handout – March 12, 2014
Legislative Strategy	Meeting – February 28, 2014
Engage East Side – Gateway Event	Meeting – February 25, 2014
Washington County Board	Workshop – February 25, 2014
Gateway Legislative Kick-Off Breakfast	Meeting – February 20, 2014
Guardian Angels Finance Committee	Meeting – February 19, 2014
Legislative Strategy	Meeting – February 14, 2014
Policy Advisory Committee/Commission	Meeting – February 13, 2014
Woodbury Chamber	Presentation – February 12, 2014
FTA Call	Call – February 12, 2014
Community Advisory Committee	Meeting – February 10, 2014



D1/D2 Open House	Open House – February 6, 2014
St. Paul Area Chamber	Presentation – February 6, 2014
Harley Davidson	Meeting – February 3, 2014
Technical Advisory Committee	Meeting – January 29, 2014
Legislative Strategy	Meeting – January 3, 2014
Washington County Administrators	Presentation – January 22, 2014
St. Paul East Side Groups	Meeting – January 21, 2014
TAC Staff from Woodbury, Oakdale, and Lake Elmo	Meeting – January 9, 2014

**Action Requested:** Information



**DATE:** April 2, 2015

**TO:** Gateway Corridor Commission

**FROM:** Jeff Dehler Public Relations

**RE:** Gateway Corridor Communications and Public Relations Update

**Media and Community Relations**

Three e-newsletters were sent in March. The Senate hearing in Woodbury was featured March 4. The House committee was the focus March 24. The March 27 edition recapped legislative activities and provided an update for the Health Impact Assessment.

Here’s an example of how the e-news is performing. The March 4 legislative action e-news for the Woodbury hearing was opened by 322 people (4.5% higher than industry average of 32.5%). There were 29 unique clicks (43 clicks total). The click through rate is about the same as the industry average of 9.2%.

Link from E-News	Unique Clicks	Percentage of Total Clicks
Directions to the hearing location in Woodbury.	12	41%
Locate your legislator	9	31%
Transit study page at TheGatewayCorridor.com	6	21%
Website home page	5	17%
Gateway Facebook page	3	10%

**Business Outreach & Engagement**

A presentation was given to the Oakdale Area Chamber of Commerce March 5 by Commissioner Weik, Lyssa Leitner and Lindsey Wollschlager.

**Project Management**

A renewed contract kick-off meeting was held March 25 with members of the JDPR team and county staff from Ramsey and Washington counties. Social media and website work is ongoing.

**Development Forum**

The Development Forum will be held on Tuesday, April 14, 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Globe University in Woodbury. Commission participation at the Development forum is strongly encouraged. An invitation flier (attached) was designed and disseminated to key stakeholders including elected officials along the

corridor and agency and area chamber partners. Event partners are East Metro Strong and three chambers of commerce, Saint Paul Area, Woodbury Area and Oakdale Area.

**Strategic Counsel** – The team helped prepare staff and elected officials for the March Senate hearing in Woodbury and the associated tour of the corridor. Testimony and supporting communications material was prepared for the House Government Operations and Election Policy Committee meeting March 25. The team coordinated with ESABA and Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce on resolutions and letters of support passed by each organization related to Gateway legislation.

**Video** – Scripts for three videos have been drafted, reviewed by staff and edited. Three videos are proposed and aimed at these audiences: business community, policy makers and transit users. The videos are intended to be distributed on the internet and are scripted for less than two minutes which is optimal for the online environment. The videos are intended to increase awareness, educate audiences about bus rapid transit, and drive web site traffic. Individual Commission members may be contacted to review relevant portions of the scripts before production will begin. The Commission will have the opportunity to review the first draft of the videos and provide feedback before the videos are finalized and distributed.

**Twitter** – At its March meeting, the Commission authorized staff to begin using Twitter as another communications medium. The Communications team has drafted the attached usage and disclaimer based on the Commission’s policy for Facebook. Tweets will begin in the next few weeks.

**Survey** – The Morris Leatherman Company (formerly Decision Resources, Ltd.) will be the subcontractor responsible for implementing the public opinion survey approved as a part of the Commission’s 2015 budget. Morris Leatherman has nearly 50 years of combined experience in market and opinion research, including significant experience working with local governments and transportation issues. This statistically valid, scientific, random sample telephone survey will provide baseline data for the level of awareness in the community around transportation and transit needs. It will help the Commission understand what information needs to be provided to specific audiences within the corridor in order to fulfill its responsibility to keep the public informed about the Gateway Gold Line BRT project. The survey will further inform the recently adopted Strategic Communications Plan by suggesting specific tactics and messages that will become the Commission’s annual communications work plan.

The Commission will have an opportunity to help shape the survey instrument prior to its implementation. The proposed process is as follows: Draft questions, approval of questions by the Commission, field work, and draft survey report. Depending on the length of time required for approval of the questions, the report is anticipated to be completed sometime during the summer.

**Strategic Communications Plan** – The updated Gateway Corridor Strategic Communications Plan is attached. Hard copies of the plan will be available at the meeting.

**Next Steps** – Editorial visits are scheduled with Woodbury Bulletin and Stillwater Gazette. The Development Forum is April 14. The legislative session continues. Tweets and video production begins. Survey questions will be drafted.



# Optimizing the Development Response to the Gold Line

**TUES., APRIL 14**  
12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

**GLOBE UNIVERSITY**

White Bear Lake Conference Room  
8147 Globe Drive (2-story building) • Woodbury, MN

**Presented by:** The Gateway Corridor Commission, East Metro Strong, Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce, Oakdale Area Chamber of Commerce, and Woodbury Area Chamber of Commerce.

**No cost to attend. Lunch provided.**



**THE DISCUSSION:**

The Gold Line, a proposed bus rapid transit service between Union Depot in Saint Paul and Woodbury along Interstate 94 and Hudson Road, continues to gain momentum toward a 2022 opening. Now is the time to engage in conversations about:

- What role does the business community play in transit-oriented development?
- What do policy makers and community leaders need to do now to get ready?
- What can peer cities with successful transit programs teach us?

**Dena Belzer:** “What we know about development and BRT?”

**Roger Millar:** “What actions would help the Gold Line advance our community goals?”

Ms. Belzer is the president of Strategic Economics, a national leader in urban economics techniques that guide local public policy decisions.

Mr. Millar, PE, AICP, is the director of Smart Growth America’s Leadership Institute. Projects in which he played a leadership role, including the development of Portland, Oregon’s Pearl District, and the Roaring Fork Valley BRT system, are seen as national models.

**WHO SHOULD ATTEND:**

Business owners and managers, elected officials and policy makers, Realtors, urban planners, engineers, land developers, community advocates.

**Agenda:**

- 12:30 p.m. Registration and Lunch
- 1 p.m. Speakers. Followed by discussion on community objectives, facilitated by Will Schroerer, East Metro Strong

**HOW TO REGISTER FOR THE EVENT**

Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce is coordinating registrations. Space is limited. Sign up online today!

<http://web.saintpaulchamber.com/events/eventdetail.aspx?EventID=2451311>

Questions about the Gateway Corridor Development Forum may be directed to Andy Gitzlaff, 651-430-4330, or [andy.gitzlaff@co.washington.mn.us](mailto:andy.gitzlaff@co.washington.mn.us).

[www.TheGatewayCorridor.com](http://www.TheGatewayCorridor.com)

Find us on Facebook [www.Facebook.com/GatewayCorridor](http://www.Facebook.com/GatewayCorridor)





*Agenda Item #3c*

**DATE:** April 1, 2015  
**TO:** Gateway Corridor Commission  
**FROM:** Staff  
**RE:** Social Media – Twitter

In 2012, the Gateway Corridor Commission approved moving forward with the implementation of social media channels for broadening its outreach and communications capabilities. A Facebook page and YouTube channel were created.

At its March 2015 meeting, the Commission authorized staff to begin using Twitter as another communications medium and to develop a usage and disclaimer policy based on the Commission's policy for Facebook.

### **Twitter Usage and Disclaimer Policy**

#### **Content to be posted on Twitter**

Broader corridor-related items will include information that is directly AND indirectly related to the Gateway Corridor and will be tweeted and retweeted:

- Links to media articles that contain information about a new development near a potential Gateway station along with a description that discusses its relevance
- Information about transit improvements in the corridor such as Amtrak service at the Union Depot, bus route changes/additions along local routes, approval of new park and rides in the corridor
- Information about other transitway activities in the region

#### **Level of Interaction with the Public**

The value of social platforms, like Twitter, is they allow organizations to interact with and engage key audiences. Twitter will help further engagement already occurring on the Gateway website and Facebook page. The intent of adding Twitter is to generate comments, questions and conversations. To that end, the Gateway Twitter account will welcome posting of comments/information directed to the project.

In response, staff will:

- Answer questions if they are asked; however, not every comment will be responded to
- Correct information if a comment is posted and it contains incorrect information (ex: A comment is made about a station at an incorrect location, staff would respond with the correct station identification.)



- Post comments in response to public comments when appropriate (ex: A comment is made that someone attended an open house and enjoyed the presentation. Staff would respond with 'Thanks for attending! Let us know if you have any questions that didn't get answered.')

### **Disclaimer**

The Gateway Corridor Commission reserves the right, at our sole discretion, to change, modify, add, or delete tweets, photos, videos, or the entire site at any time, without notice or warning.

In general, it is the Commission's intent to allow comments to be posted on its social media pages. In the instances where comments are allowed, the commission will use the following guidelines when deciding to ask a Twitter user to edit/delete a post:

1. Obscenities
2. Comment demeaning other people
3. Comment that is libelous/slanderous
4. Inaccuracies
5. Comments not related to the specific content of the site
6. Comments on elections
7. Solicitations of commerce
8. Sexual content or links to sexual content
9. Identified as a SPAM message
10. Supports or opposes any political campaign, issue or ballot measure
11. Encourages illegal activity

It should be noted that:

- The Commission has the right to reproduce any pictures or videos posted to this site in any of its publications or websites or any other media outlets.
- The Commission has the right to quote any comments or suggestions left by users.
- The views, postings, positions, or opinions expressed on the site do not necessarily reflect those of the Commission.
- The Gateway Corridor Commission does not endorse any product, service, company or organization advertising on any of the websites with which it chooses to engage. The ads that appear on the websites are sold, posted and maintained by the individual corporations that host the pages.
- The Commission typically monitors its sites during regular business hours. Comments and questions will be answered in a timely manner, typically within 24 hours on a business day.

**Action Requested:** Approval of recommendations on use and the disclaimer for the Gateway Corridor Commission Twitter page.



*Agenda Item #4*

**DATE:** April 2, 2015  
**TO:** Gateway Corridor Commission  
**FROM:** Staff  
**RE:** State and Federal Legislative Update

State Update

The legislative session begins on Tuesday, January 6, 2015. Below are excerpts from a mid-session review of Minnesota's 2015 legislative session provided by LGN on March 27<sup>th</sup> 2015:

Today marks the start of the Minnesota legislature's annual Easter and Passover break. After this ten day respite, the House and Senate will officially reconvene at noon on Tuesday, April 7. Since the start of the legislative session on Tuesday, January 6, only four bills have been officially signed into law by Governor Dayton. Most of the work has been done in committee meetings thus far, but both bodies will begin to spend more time on the floor passing bills now that the first two committee deadlines have passed. This first year of the biennium session is always the longer session, and the main priority is creating and agreeing on a two year state budget. Below are summaries of some of the major issues under discussion at the state Capitol. Budget targets announced

Earlier today, the state Senate DFL Majority Caucus released their budget targets. (The House GOP Majority Caucus released their targets earlier this week.) As expected, the targets for each body are very different in their approach and signify the different priorities.

House Republicans are positioning their budget as spending just under \$40 billion, but if you factor in their \$2.2 billion tax cut or shift of transportation dollars out of the general fund and into a dedicated fund the number is just over \$42.5 billion—only \$150 million lower than the Senate's total \$42.732 billion proposal. Governor Dayton's budget proposal comes in at \$42.983 billion. Senate Majority Leader Tom Bakk (D-Cook) said earlier today that his caucus plans to approve all the various budget bills by the full Senate by May 1 to allow for ample time to negotiate in conference committee. House Republicans have not yet announced their timeline. Overall state budget

In the first year of the biennium the legislature is tasked with setting a two year state budget. The budget process began with the Office of Minnesota Management and Budget's November forecast, and the governor released his initial budget proposal at the end of January, which was updated with a supplemental budget proposal after MMB released its updated February budget forecast. That February forecast showed a projected surplus of \$1.869 billion for the next biennium due to higher tax revenues and lower state spending. The new forecast numbers brought an increase of \$832 million over the previous forecast. Governor Dayton has proposed



spending 80 percent of the surplus (\$1.5 billion) on initiatives focused on children and families. Next, with their budget targets now in place, House and Senate finance committees will have just less than three weeks after the break to put together and finalize their budget proposals before the third committee deadline on Friday, April 24.

### **Transportation**

As predicted, transportation funding has been a major focus of both the legislature and the governor's office. All parties agree on the general size and scope of the package, but disagree over funding mechanisms. Governor Dayton and Senate Democrats would like to invest \$6 billion over six years and pay for the package with an increase in the wholesale gas tax. House Republicans released a proposal on Monday, March 23 that would invest \$7 billion over ten years without raising taxes. Instead, their plan redirects the existing motor vehicle lease tax and rental vehicle sales tax into dedicated funds and increases trunk highway and general obligation bonds for roads and bridges. A compromise is likely to be made by the end of this session, and could combine portions of both proposals.

### **Capital investment (bonding) bill**

Traditionally, the first year of the biennium has been reserved for setting the state's budget for the next two years and the second year of the biennium has focused on crafting a significant capital investment bill, also known as a bonding bill. In recent years, the legislature has put together a smaller bonding bill in the first year of the biennium in addition to a larger bonding in the second year.

This year, Governor Dayton has proposed an \$850 million bonding bill (which is fairly large) and Senate Majority Leader Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook) has expressed interest in a "broad bonding bill" where the projects do not directly benefit one legislator's district but the state as a whole. However, Speaker of the House Kurt Daudt (R-Crown) has been adamant that his caucus will not be proposing a bonding bill this session, and put together an \$800 million bill during the next session in 2016. Capital investment bills are required to originate in the House, so it is highly unlikely a bonding bill will be passed this session.

### **End of session prediction**

The Minnesota legislature is constitutionally required to adjourn by midnight on Monday, May 18. It is not unusual for the House and Senate to be meeting up until midnight on the last day. While there were many promises of bipartisan cooperation and compromise at the start of session, as lawmakers have waded into the specifics of setting the state's two year budget there have been many partisan clashes. While the Lockridge Grindal Nauen state government relations team thinks it is highly unlikely there will be a government shutdown as there was during the 2011 legislative session, we do predict lawmakers will use all the time allotted to them in the constitution to prepare a state budget.

### Federal Update

Below is a recap of the Federal Updates prepared by LGN:

[Washington Update for Week of March 23rd](#)



On Wednesday, March 25, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the budget resolution for Fiscal Year 2016, with a vote of 228-199. With Congress entering a two week recess, the Senate spent their last hours in a marathon series of votes on their budget. The so-called "Vote-a-Rama" consisted of 15 hours of voting on a variety of amendments to the budget resolution. The Senate passed their resolution early in the morning on Friday, March 27 (for the first time since 2009), which will allow for a conference committee to be formed in April after the recess. In other news, the House passed a permanent fix to the Medicare Sustained Growth Rate (SGR) also known as the "Doc Fix." Sources indicate that the Senate plans to take up the bill upon returning from the two week recess.

In this Update:

[CBO Projections Adjusted to Reflect Slower Spending](#)

[House Passes \\$3.8 Trillion Budget After Disagreements over Defense Spending](#)

[Committee Leaders Introduced Bill to Reform Disaster Assistance Programs](#)

[Permanent 'Doc Fix' Passes House with Strong Bipartisan Majority](#)

[Secure Rural Schools Included in Doc Fix Legislation](#)

[Key Upcoming Dates](#)

[News Notes and Events](#)

[Minnesota Delegation Notes](#)

[Additional Media](#)

[Vote-a-rama leads to Passing of Senate Budget](#)

This Thursday, March 26, and well into Friday morning, Senate lawmakers participated in a "Vote-a-rama," which saw close to 800 amendments filed to the Senate budget resolution, with 49 being considered and 35 approved. In total, voting lasted 15 hours and ended at 3:30 a.m. on Friday morning by adopting a Fiscal Year 2016 budget resolution. The Resolution passed by a 52-46 vote, with only two Republican votes against the effort from Ted Cruz of Texas and Rand Paul of Kentucky.

While the budget resolution itself is non-binding, sources indicate the outcomes of these votes served to gauge support for initiatives and establish precedent for future appropriations requests. The last time Congress succeeded in passing a complete budget was in 2009. With both Houses of Congress set to form a conference committee after the recess, a fully-approved resolution would offer "reconciliation" instructions that would have a real effect on the appropriations process

[House Passes \\$3.8 Trillion Budget After Disagreements over Defense Spending](#)

Preceding the Senate's "Vote-a-rama", the House of Representatives voted 228-199 on



Wednesday, March 25, to approve a \$3.8 trillion budget for Fiscal Year 2016. Instrumental in the resolution's passing was an amendment that increased the limit on war spending to \$96 billion without offsetting the spending. The budget stays within mandatory spending caps of \$523 billion for defense and \$493.5 for non-defense spending. Sources indicate that the defense spending amendment was critical for securing the votes of a bloc of defense hawks. In order to avoid a stand-off, sources indicate that the House leadership used a parliamentary procedure called "Queen of the Hill." This allowed the House to vote on both the Budget Committee plan and a substitute plan from the House Armed Services Committee, with the one that received the most votes being adopted.

#### Committee Leaders Introduced Bill to Reform Disaster Assistance Programs

Late last week, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Leaders introduced bipartisan legislation to address the rising costs of disasters assistance and prevention in the United States. Their bill aims to reduce the costs of future damages and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) disaster assistance capabilities and programs. The "FEMA Disaster Assistance Reform Act of 2015" would provide FEMA with a more clear direction for programs that help save lives and property, as well as speed the recovery for those impacted by disasters. With 20 years since the last comprehensive policy review of disaster spending, Congress hopes this bill will support first-responders, save lives, and reimburse state and local governments for dealing with disasters.

#### Permanent 'Doc Fix' Passes House with Strong Bipartisan Majority

On Thursday, March 26, the House of Representatives found a substantial consensus to resolve a long-standing problem with Medicare's physician payment formula. The "Sustained Growth Rate" (SGR) formula has needed a total of 17 short-term extensions to maintain solvency, which have become known as "Doc Fixes." By voting 392-37, the House took a large step toward permanently resolving this issue with a strong bipartisan support. The deal was negotiated by Speaker John Boehner (R-OH-08) and Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA-12) and also contained a 2 year extension of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and Secure Rural Schools program. The Senate decided to wait to bring up the bill until after the two-week recess. The current payment patch will expire on March 31, which without Congressional action will lead to a 21% cut in physician reimbursement rates.

#### Secure Rural Schools Included in Doc Fix Legislation

The House overwhelmingly voted 392-37 to approve bipartisan legislation yesterday to resolve the "Doc Fix" and grant a two-year flat-rate extension to the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program: an initiative that helps fund schools in rural areas. The 113<sup>th</sup> Congress was unable to pass an extension of the program after its expiration on September 30, 2014, but its inclusion within the "Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015" has offered a chance for the SRS extension to become law. The SRS program helps provide financial assistance for schools, infrastructure, and law enforcement in rural areas of the country that lack the necessary tax base to fund these essential services due to the presence of national forests within their boundaries. The bill will now head to the Senate where sources indicate it will have to wait to face a vote for two weeks until Congress returns from recess.



## KEY UPCOMING DATES

May 31, 2015

Current surface transportation law Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (MAP-21) extension expires.

## SPECIAL NEWS, NOTES, AND EVENTS

National Police Week 2015

*Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup> - Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
Washington D.C.*

44th Annual Minnesota Transportation Alliance Washington Fly-in

*Tuesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> - Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
Washington D.C.*

N.O.I.S.E. 2015 Policy Summit & Community Involvement Workshop

*Wednesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>  
Nashville, Tennessee*

## MINNESOTA DELEGATION NOTES

Senator Amy Klobuchar, (D-MN), reintroduced the "Driver Privacy Act" which seeks to protect drivers' privacy by deeming the owner of a vehicle the sole owner of any information collected by an Event Data Recorder (EDR). Read more [here](#).

Senator Al Franken, (D-MN), successfully pressed for a change in the Veteran Affairs (VA) out-of-system eligibility requirements that will now allow roughly twice as many veterans to receive covered out-of-system care. Read more [here](#).

Congressman Tim Walz, (D-MN-01), joined a bipartisan group of Congressmen who support stripping the VA of its power to construct hospitals and to turn that responsibility over to the US Army Corps of Engineers. Read more [here](#).

Congressman John Kline, (R-MN-02), called for bipartisan Congressional support to increase funding for the Bureau of Indian Education Schools. Read more [here](#)

Congressman Erik Paulsen, (R-MN-03), introduced the "Family Health Care Flexibility Act" with Senator John Barrasso (R-WY) that would alter legislation concerning health savings accounts (HSAs) and flexible spending accounts (FSAs). Read more [here](#).

Congresswoman Betty McCollum, (D-MN-04), wrote a letter to the EPA Administrator and called upon Minnesotans to oppose changes to the state's water quality standards out of concern for wild rice production. Read more [here](#).





Congressman Keith Ellison, (D-MN-05), released a statement regarding his vote in favor of H.R. 2, a bill that aims to address the problems related to the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) for Medicare. Read more [here](#).

Congressman Tom Emmer, (R-MN-06), introduced his first pieces of legislation to Congress this past week: the "Keeping Our Promises to Veterans Act of 2015" and the "National Interchange/Intersection Safety Construction Program Act of 2015." Read more [here](#).

Congressman Collin Peterson, (D-MN-07), spoke at length on the House floor in support of the "Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Science Advisory Board Reform Act," a bill he introduced that seeks to improve transparency within the EPA. Read more [here](#).

Congressman Rick Nolan, (D-MN-08), applauded the recent change at the VA for eligibility requirements on veterans living in rural areas seeking healthcare. Read more [here](#).

**Action**  
Information



*Agenda Item #5*

**DATE:** April 2, 2015  
**TO:** Gateway Corridor Commission  
**FROM:** Staff  
**RE:** Gateway DC Fly-In Options

### **Background**

The Commission's 2015 Work Plan and Budget identifies going to Washington DC to meet with our congressional delegation and the US-DOT administration about the Gateway Corridor project as a priority for this year. The purpose of the trip is to increase awareness of the project, share recent milestones and show local support for the project. The Gateway DEIS will also be under active review by USDOT, giving the contingent an opportunity to connect with senior department staff on any policy items related to their review. The attached memo from LGN provides more details.

### **Itinerary**

The trip would be for two days / one night. Attendees arrive the night before and have an initial strategy meeting upon arrival. Hill and Administration meetings would take place on the second day and attendees could fly back that evening.

### **Contingent**

The County's lobbyist, LGN, recommends that a board group of stakeholders (elected officials, chamber and business reps, labor and other local and regional partners) attend. A doodle poll was sent out to gauge interest of Commission members and to review prospective dates. At the April meeting, the Commission should set the dates for the trip if there is a core group of members that can attend. The Commission should discuss other partners that should be invited to join the trip to round out the contingent.

### **Budget**

The Commission should also discuss the reimbursement policy for this trip. The approved 2015 work plan and budget includes \$5,000 for travel expenses related to the trip. If needed, contingency funds could be used to cover additional costs. Estimated costs per person would be approximately \$1,000 per person at the high or less depending on which dates are chosen and when travel arrangements are made. In the past, the Commission has offered a stipend to members and partners to cover a portion of the out of state travel costs (airfare, hotel, and lodging). The Commission should discuss whether stipends should be offered, the amount of the stipend and who it should be eligible for the stipend. The Commission could also wait until the May meeting to make a recommendation on stipend amount once there is a better idea on who will be attending and a firmer estimate of trip costs.

### **Action**

Set a budget for the trip and determine amount of stipends at either the April or May meeting.



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## MEMORANDUM

**TO: Gateway Corridor Commission**

**FR: Lockridge, Grindal, Nauen P.L.L.P. – Federal Relations Group**

**Dennis McGrann // Andy Burmeister**

**DT: March 4, 2015**

**RE: Gateway Corridor Commission Washington, D.C. Fly-In**

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The following has been prepared to provide you with additional information and recommendations related to a possible Gateway Corridor Commission Washington, D.C. fly-in in the coming months. In an effort to ensure that we are well-prepared for possible visits on Capitol Hill and with Administration officials, the following memorandum briefly highlights a general schedule, agenda, purpose, possible dates, and general message that could be utilized for a trip to Washington, D.C. This document will be updated periodically as items are discussed by the board and as items change on the ground. We greatly look forward to your potential visits and believe that the gathering of influential East Metro leaders in various sectors would help ensure that your message is heard and fully understood.

### **PURPOSE OF FLY-IN:**

Throughout the last several years the Commission has reached and surpassed significant milestones as it pertains to the development of the Gateway Corridor. Of importance and as you know, the federal government has already begun recognizing the merits of the project through the addition of the project to the “Federal Permitting Dashboard”. Further, it is nearing the point that the US-DOT will be reviewing the DEIS before signing off on its publication.

Given the size and scope of this project and the significant current and future federal involvement that will be needed to complete it, it is important to keep the your federal Congressional Delegation and key Department of Transportation officials aware of your progress, challenges, and successes so that when the time comes for major funding decisions to be made, they will be fully aware of the project and able to confidently put their support behind it. Having public officials, chamber representatives, business representatives, labor

representatives, and other local stakeholders, will underscore the local support and importance of this project.

**ATTENDEES DURING LAST FLY-IN:**

- Commissioner Lisa Weik – Washington County
- Commissioner Rafael Ortega – Ramsey County
- Council Member Paul Reinke – City of Oakdale
- Mayor Giuliani Stephens – City of Woodbury
- Mr. Zach Schwartz – St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce
- Mr. Greg Watson – Woodbury Chamber of Commerce
- Mr. Kyle Makarios – North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters
- Mr. Don Theisen – Washington County Public Works Director
- Mr. Tim Mayasich – Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority Director
- Mr. Andy Gitzlaff – Washington County Senior Planner

**RECOMMENDED DATES:**

As is traditional, we would recommend coming in the night before the meetings and holding an initial strategy meeting upon arrival. The following morning, we would recommend that a pre-meeting strategy session take place followed by Hill and Administration meetings. Attendees could stay another evening or plan on departing late in the day the second day to allow for enough time to complete desired meetings.

With this in mind we recommend the following dates in the fall to complete a fly-in trip to Washington DC:

- September 8-9
- September 9-10
- September 16-17
- October 6-7
- October 7-8
- October 20-21
- October 21-22
- ~~October 26-27~~ (conflict with Rail-Volution Conference)
- ~~October 27-28~~ (conflict with Rail-Volution Conference)
- November 2-3
- November 3-4
- November 16-17
- November 17-18

### **GENERAL SCHEDULE:**

Below is the expected schedule for that we would pursue on behalf of the Gateway Corridor Commission visit to Washington, DC. Please note – requests are typically made 3-4 weeks out. As meetings get confirmed we would update the Commission on the arrangements.

#### **Day 1:**

- Early Evening – Gateway Corridor Commission and Stakeholders Arrive
- Evening (Time permitting/Commission Preference) – Initial strategy meeting

#### **Day 2:**

- AM – Pre-meetings strategy session (Location TBD)
- AM – Meetings with the Offices of Senator Klobuchar, Senator Franken,
- PM – Mid-Meeting Strategy Session and Lunch (TBD)
- PM – Meetings with Congresswoman McCollum and the Federal Transit Administration/DOT
- PM – Meetings with other Members as appropriate, helpful, and time permitting
- PM – Post-meeting strategy and meeting recap session
- PM – Commission Members and Stakeholders Depart

### **BASIC MESSAGING:**

- Although the message will be refined in the weeks leading up to the fly-in and during our pre-meeting strategy sessions, the following provides a short glimpse of some key messages which will be important for the group to convey during the visits.
- We appreciate your support in helping to bring the Gateway Corridor this far and look forward to continuing to work with you as the process progresses.
- We have made significant process in the planning and development of this critical transit corridor and are looking forward to working with you and our local partners to continue that progress.
- We recently reached another significant milestone and wanted to take this opportunity to update you the Commission’s work to choose a mode for the transit corridor.
- In fact, we are extremely pleased by the Federal Government’s recognition of the merits of this project through its addition to the Federal Permitting Dashboard.
- Further we appreciate the work you are doing at this point in time to evaluate the DEIS for the Gateway Corridor Project.

- As you can see, we have significant local support from the Counties, Cities, Chambers of Commerce, Business, and the Labor Community.
- With this said, we work tirelessly every day to expand and strengthen this coalition of support.
- Once again, we appreciate your tireless efforts to advance transit and the Gateway Corridor here in Washington and look forward to another year of working closely with you to advance this critical Twin Cities transit project.

**CONCLUSION:**

We will continue to monitor federal transportation and transit policy legislation. Additionally, we will continue to provide up-to-date analysis throughout the process. As always, please do not hesitate to contact us at any time with questions, comments, or concerns.

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Arburmeister@locklaw.com  
Phone: (202) 544-9844  
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*Agenda Item #6*

**DATE:** April 2, 2015  
**TO:** Gateway Corridor Commission  
**FROM:** Staff  
**RE:** Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) Update

3a. Committee Updates

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on March 18, 2015. The TAC provided input on the project definition (alignment configuration and station orientation) for the segment of the corridor from Kellogg Blvd. to I-694 to be evaluated in the DEIS document. The TAC also discussed the approach to Segment D and E (Oakdale, Lake Elmo and Woodbury), the different options under consideration and how they will be evaluated. The TAC has also been providing input on the overall station area planning (SAP) and health impact assessment (HIA) process. Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) meets before the Commission meeting at 1:30 pm on April 9, 2015 and will discuss similar items as the TAC. A verbal recap of the PAC meeting will be provided at the Commission meeting. The Community Advisory Committee (CAC) is targeting late April or early May for their next meeting. Topics for discussion include the technical refinements to the project, the HIA, station planning work and engagement targeted to disadvantaged populations.

3b. HIA Update

The Gateway Corridor is in the beginning stages of a Health Impact Assessment (HIA). The HIA is supported by a grant from the Health Impact Project, a collaboration of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and The Pew Charitable Trusts, with funding from the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota Foundation. A fact sheet about the Gateway Corridor HIA is attached to this memo.

Staff has been working with the CAC, TAC, and Ramsey and Washington County public health groups to kick-off the HIA work. One of the first steps is to determine what health indicators are most important to the community. Once the main health indicators are established, the "assessment" work can begin. We sought feedback through an online worksheet on what is important to community members. The worksheet was accessed through the website and was distributed via Facebook, e-newsletter, and e-mailed to key stakeholders. Through the online worksheet and in-person meeting held with the Washington County Public Health Community Leadership Team and the Ramsey County/St. Paul Community Health Services Advisory Committee, 114 responses were received. The results of the engagement worksheet can be viewed on the Gateway Corridor website HIA page at <http://www.thegatewaycorridor.com/html/health-impact-assessment.php>

A workshop was held on March 13<sup>th</sup> that was led by our Technical Assistance Providers from the Oregon Public Health Institute. About thirty people attended with a mix of PAC, TAC, CAC and other stakeholders. The focus of the workshop was to discuss the intent of the HIA, inform participants about the worksheet outcomes to date, and to work through health pathways based on the worksheet results.



Information gathered from the worksheets and at the workshop will be compiled and a set of research questions will be established. The research questions will be what the HIA analysis is based on. The research questions will be brought to the Ramsey and Washington County health groups, TAC, PAC, and CAC for confirmation.

### 3c. DEIS Next Steps

DEIS document preparation will continue through July 2015. The Gateway Committee's will be meeting over the next few months to complete the following tasks:

- Finalize all station locations and the I-94 crossing location in Lake Elmo / Woodbury
- Address the use of the I-94 highway right-of-way
- Refine the Guideway design concept and service plan
- Analysis of community and environmental issues for all Build alternatives advancing for DEIS evaluation
- Ongoing station area planning, health impact statement preparation (HIA) and market analysis

### **Action**

Information



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## Gateway Corridor Environmental Impact Statement

### PROGRESS REPORT TO THE GATEWAY CORRIDOR COMMISSION APRIL 2015

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

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#### Key Work Activities/Progress during March through early April 2015

##### ■ Meetings

- *Project management team (PMT)* - Held meetings on March 11 and 25, 2015. Meetings focused on federal and state noise approach, refinement of the Trunk Highway (TH) 61 interchange modifications (required for the project), input provided through station area planning process (city coordination activities), parking utilization survey in St. Paul near Earl Street station, recommendation regarding St. Paul alignment concept to advance (Option E), and next steps with the D/E alignment and station decision making process.
- *Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)* – Held meeting on March 18, 2015. Meeting focused on coordination activity updates, project definition west of I-694, preliminary review of the TH 61 interchange area concepts, follow up on action items from 2/2015 PAC meeting, and general process overview for Segment D/E alignments and stations.
- *Gateway Corridor Commission (GCC)* – Attended meeting on March 12, 2015. Meeting focused on review of proposed Draft EIS contract amendment (scope and schedule).
- *Community Advisory Committee (CAC)* – The CAC did not meet during this time period.
- *Meeting with FTA*–Held FTA coordination call on March 25, 2015 to further discuss approach to noise analysis for the project (federal and state requirements).
- *Meeting with Minnesota Pollution Control Agency* –Held meeting with MPCA (March 10) staff to discuss state noise requirements for the Gateway Corridor project.
- *Meeting with St. Paul and Ramsey County*– Attended meeting on March 20, 2015 regarding proposed concepts for the Kellogg Avenue Bridge in St. Paul.
- *Station Area Planning Meetings* – Prepared for and attended meetings in Maplewood (March 10), Oakdale (March 17) and Woodbury (March 27) to review and discuss station area planning concepts in each city.
- *Meeting with Washington County Traffic Staff* – Prepared for and attended meeting on April 1, 2015 to discuss traffic and BRT configuration along the D alignment.
- *Meeting with Ramsey County Public Works* – Prepared for and attended meeting on April 2, 2015 to discuss with staff the proposed alignment and stations in Ramsey County.

##### ■ Other Project Activities

- Updated Locally Preferred Alternative Selection Summary Report to reflect adoption of the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan, which includes the Gold Line.
- Prepared right-of-way figures and summary tables that provide clarity on potential public right of way impacts in the St. Paul section of the corridor.
- Updated the St. Paul Alignment Concept Technical Memo to reflect PAC input at the February meeting and response to comments/questions raised by the PAC.

- Conducted initial parking assessment field work in the Earl Street/Hudson Road area of the Corridor (per request of PAC).
- Conducted field review to confirm existing driveway access locations along Hudson Road, east of TH 61.
- Conducted comparative evaluation and refined design concepts for the proposed D2 Alignment through Oakdale (4<sup>th</sup> Street alignment).
- Continued coordination with Metropolitan Council regarding updated TAZ data reflecting a horizon year of 2040. Based on updated information, continue to refine ridership forecasts for year 2040.
- Initiated work on the Sketch-Up visualization along 4<sup>th</sup> Street in Oakdale (concept level).
- Continued coordination with 3M regarding proposed alignment in 3M campus area and logistics to conduct traffic counts at defined locations on campus.
- Prepared Station Area Planning Memos for Maplewood, Oakdale and Woodbury in preparation for city specific discussions.
- Continued to advance design of Alignment B- Option E (St. Paul), focusing on the refinement of TH 61 interchange concepts and minimization of potential ROW impacts along Hudson Road and Mounds Boulevard.
- Conducted preliminary traffic analysis at the TH 61 interchange area.
- Prepared background information and recommended approach to address state noise requirements based on direction provided by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.
- Continued to advance capital cost estimates for refined dedicated BRT alternatives and managed lane BRT alternative
- Continued to advance travel time estimates for dedicated BRT and managed lane BRT alternatives
- Weekly coordination with KHA/SRF project team and Washington County. Respond to individual requests for project information, as needed.
- Updated project schedule.

### Upcoming Activities

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- Set up meeting with MnDOT and FHWA regarding TH 61 modifications required for Gateway Corridor project.
- Continue to conduct traffic analysis in corridor (reflecting 2040 forecast volumes)/conduct traffic counts in 3M area
- Finalize approach for noise analysis for project (federal and state)
- Finalize St. Paul Alignment Concept Memo in response to PAC comments.
- Continue to refine Alignments D and E (e.g. 4<sup>th</sup> Street design, crossing location from Lake Elmo to Woodbury, station locations)
- Continue coordination with MnDOT Cultural Resources Unit (CRU) on Section 106 process/activities.
- Continue to refine Dedicated BRT alignment and confirm footprint of analysis.
- Continue work on updating forecasts to 2040
- Continue to advance capital and operating cost estimates.

- Finalize visualization of Dedicated BRT Alignment (4<sup>th</sup> Street area in Oakdale)
- Finalize Annotated Outline based on final direction regarding noise analysis and FTA comments
- Continue to advance data collection in preparation of Draft EIS technical analysis
- Initiate preparation of Technical Reports, and update delivery schedule.
- Prepare for and attend upcoming meetings with PMT, TAC, PAC, GCC and FTA.
- Coordination activities with focused working groups, as needed.



Agenda Item #10

**DATE:** April 1, 2015  
**TO:** Gateway Corridor Commission  
**FROM:** Staff  
**RE:** Other Items

**Items 10a. Meeting Dates Summary**

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

Month	Meeting	Date	Planned Start Time
May	PAC	May 14	1:30 PM
May	Gateway Corridor Commission	May 14	3:30 PM
June	PAC	June 11	1:30 PM
June	Gateway Corridor Commission	June 11	3:30 PM

**Item 10b. Website and Social Media Updates**

Facebook

The Gateway Corridor Facebook page was launched on Monday, February 20, 2012. The page currently has 480 '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 40-1,276.

Website

For the month of February, there were 810 visits to the website.

**Item 10c. Media Articles**

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

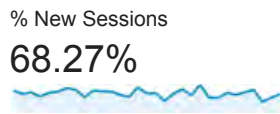
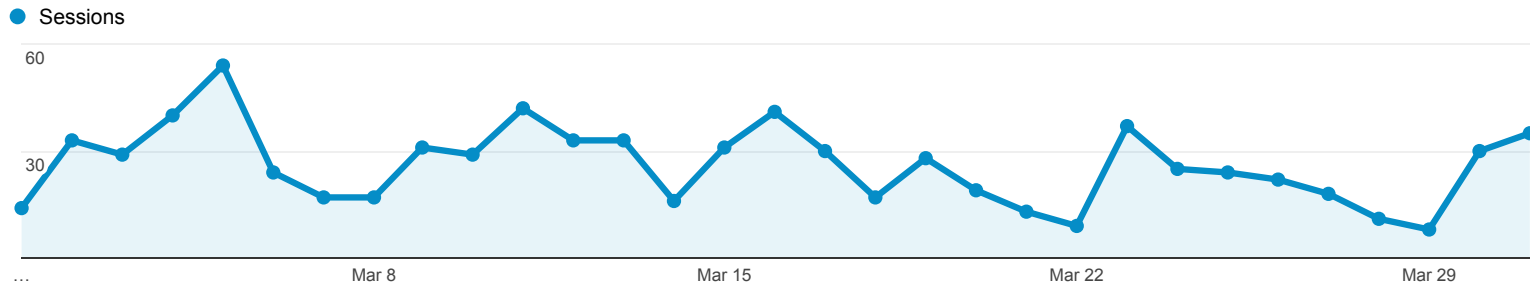
**Action Requested:** Information.

Mar 1, 2015 - Mar 31, 2015

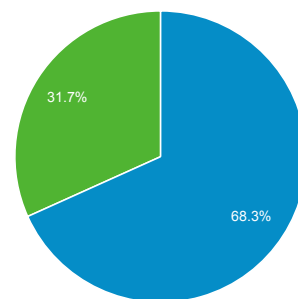
# Audience Overview

All Sessions  
100.00%

Overview



■ New Visitor ■ Returning Visitor



Language	Sessions	% Sessions
1. en-us	772	95.31%
2. pt-br	15	1.85%
3. es-es	3	0.37%
4. cs-cz	2	0.25%
5. en-au	2	0.25%
6. en-gb	2	0.25%
7. ar	1	0.12%
8. ar-ma	1	0.12%
9. de-de	1	0.12%
10. es	1	0.12%



## Former intern takes top job in Oakdale

Article by: Blair Emerson  
Star Tribune  
March 20, 2015 - 11:44 PM

Bart Fischer is going home.

More than a decade after he got his start in municipal government as a graduate school intern, the 40-year-old Fischer is returning to Oakdale, but this time in the top position: as city administrator.

He couldn't be more excited.

"I guess you might say it's a homecoming for me," he said recently about his new job, which he starts April 6.

"I kind of knew what the culture was going in, so I knew it was a good opportunity."

Fischer, currently the city administrator in Falcon Heights, was selected by the Oakdale City Council last month to replace Craig Waldron, who stepped down in August after 21 years. Fischer previously served as assistant administrator in the cities of Newport and Chaska.

While the move to a new office is still a few weeks away, Fischer, who has a background in economic development, is already contemplating how he plans to make a difference.

"A lot of it for me, especially starting out, [will be] building the relationships with the business community," he said. "Working with developers on some of the developments that are currently going on and just continuing to build the city."

His other priorities include advancing plans for revitalizing decaying neighborhoods and making Oakdale a more appealing destination for families.

Fischer also said he plans to work with city officials on development of the Gateway Corridor, or the Gold Line, a bus rapid-transit line aimed at relieving high-traffic areas along I-94. The project, currently in its planning stages, is expected to be completed by 2022.

Commercial redevelopment in the city of nearly 28,000 has been an issue that officials have been grappling with for some time, said Council Member Bill Rasmussen.

"We're just about filled up in town here; we don't have any more vacant land left," Rasmussen said. "We need to be very careful how we develop [land], because that's the end of it for us."

One of the city's goals is to find a new tenant to take over the site that a Kmart occupied on 10th Street North near I-694 before that store closed in the fall.

"It will be important that that site is redeveloped quickly so we can continue to have positive growth there," said Council Member Kristen Cici.



Fischer  
Feed Loader,

Cici said she would like to see Fischer and the city focus on drawing younger families to Oakdale. Slightly more than half of the city's residents are 35 or older.

Fischer said he wants to promote Oakdale as a "great place to live, work and play" by putting an emphasis on revitalizing the city's aging housing. He also wants to take time to evaluate the city's infrastructure.

"A large part of that is engaging residents so they take pride in their community and take pride in their property," he said. "If the road is all cracked up and beat up, do we need to go in and redo the road? Do we need to go in and improve some of the public spaces?"

The city intends to unveil a neighborhood revitalization plan this year, said Mayor Stan Karwoski. It could include a volunteer initiative or a loan program for residents to improve their houses.

"We don't have any major problems, but we have some difficulties," said Karwoski, a former council member who was elected mayor in November to replace Carmen Sarrack, who retired. "As a new mayor, I'm excited to make Oakdale better, so it's kind of a good fresh start for both of us to work together."

Blair Emerson is a University of Minnesota student reporter on assignment for the Star Tribune

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## **I-94 Gateway project study focuses on health implications of major transit corridor**

Posted on Mar 24, 2015 at 3:53 p.m.

I-94 Gateway project study focuses on health implications of major transit corridor

The Gateway Corridor project's online survey is believed to be the first study focused on health implications of a major transit corridor. The health impact assessment (HIA)

The Gateway Corridor is a proposed 12-mile dedicated bus rapid transit (BRT) line through Washington and Ramsey counties, generally parallel to Interstate 94. It will connect downtown St. Paul with Maplewood, Landfall, Oakdale, Lake Elmo and Woodbury. The connection provides a link to the Twin Cities region's transit system through the Union Depot.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Pew Charitable Trusts, with funding from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota Foundation, served as partners on the HIA. The study garnered a \$100,000 grant.

Respondents answers to the survey will ultimately affect land-use decisions around each of the proposed Gateway Corridor BRT stations, from a public health perspective. After the study is complete, public feedback will be used to select land-use and public-health goals for the corridor.



For more information about the Gateway Corridor project, contact Lyssa Leitner of Washington County at [gatewaycorridor@co.washington.mn.us](mailto:gatewaycorridor@co.washington.mn.us) (<mailto:gatewaycorridor@co.washington.mn.us>) or 651-430-4300.

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