



July 2, 2014

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington DC, 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the Gateway Corridor Commission (MN), and all of County, City and business partners, I would like to sincerely thank you and your administration for working to advance transit projects which seek to increase mobility and advance economic growth. Of specific note, we are extremely honored that you have chosen the Gateway Corridor transit project to be included as a part of your comprehensive plan to accelerate and expand permitting reform and look forward to working with your Administration to advance this important transit project.

As you may know, the Gateway Corridor stretches from downtown St. Paul to Wisconsin border, parallel to Interstate 94. It is the doorway to and from Minnesota and Wisconsin's diverse communities. Not only does the Gateway Corridor represent the front step to urban, suburban and rural areas, it also is an entry point to corporate campuses including 3M's global headquarters with 16,500 employees, educational institutions, commercial centers, and recreational destinations

Today, more than 64,600 people live within one mile of the Gateway Corridor. By 2030, that population is expected to grow by nearly 40% and add more than 61,500 jobs. The corridor's transportation network as it currently stands will be inadequate to handle this growth. A more sustainable, multimodal transportation network is needed to provide viable travel options for users. The Gateway Corridor Commission is also working in close collaboration with East Metro Strong, a coalition of businesses and governments working to help bring more and better transit investments like the Gateway Corridor to the east metro of the Twin Cities.

Once again, thank you for your leadership in reforming the federal permitting process and your support of the Gateway Corridor transportation project. We look forward to working with you and your staff as this project moves forward. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of assistance to you or your staff on this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa Weik".

Lisa Weik
Chair, Gateway Corridor Commission

C: The Honorable Anthony Foxx - Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
The Honorable Peter Rogoff - Administrator, Federal Transit Administration
The Honorable Victor Mendez –Administrator, Federal Highway Administration