

Agenda
Highway 25 Coalition
Thursday, September 29 2016
7:30 AM
Monticello City Hall

1. Call to order

2. Welcome and introductions

- State Representatives Jim Newberger, Marion O’Neill, and Nick Zerwas
- State Senators Mary Kiffmeyer and Bruce Anderson
- City of Becker and Becker Township officials.

3. Consideration of approval of meeting minutes from meeting held August 26, 2016 (see attached)

4. Consideration of acknowledging request from the City of Becker to join the coalition and consideration of drafting of amendments to JPA as required for accepting a new member(s).

The City of Becker submitted the attached letter and associated resolution requesting membership. Based on previous discussions, the group is likely to be interested in accepting the City of Becker and, potentially, Becker Township.

The possibility of two new members on the Sherburne County side of the river will shift the voting power of the organization. In order to maintain the current voting balance for each side of the river, the language in the JPA will need to be adjusted. If the coalition accepts the new members, the JPA will be adjusted accordingly and the amendments will need to be adopted by each member entity.

5. Brian Stumpf - Introduction to information on Coalition

- Jeff O’Neill – Background on formation of the organization
- Coalition was established to address a need resulting from ongoing degradation of capacity of Highway 25 between Hwy 10 and I-94.
 - River Crossing/Monticello Congestion.
 - Train traffic conflicts intensified.
 - Located within a state/national growth corridor.
 - Large land areas subject to inevitable development and traffic generation.
 - In sum, facilities needed short and long term to develop capacity in the corridor.
- Members have been meeting on an informal basis since 2007
- In 2016 a formal relationship was established via a joint powers agreement
 - Activities funded via an annual appropriation from members

- Annual work plan
- Funding formula in place (provide each visitor with a copy of the JPA)
- Steve Taylor - Highway 25 Coalition goals as identified in the document
 - Examine impacts of continued growth
 - Conduct traffic studies defining and identifying priority improvements
 - Prepare collaborative project design and delivery recommendations
 - Study various risks associated with improvement alternatives and determine timing of improvement construction
 - Identify and apply for funding activities via grant programs
 - **Develop a unified effort in obtaining funding supporting planning and project funding.**
 - Partner with MNDOT on regional transportation decisions and involvement in regional policy decisions and discussions.
 - Incorporate public input in the planning efforts.

6. Individual testimony on the importance of a free flowing corridor between Highway 10 and I-94. Economic development, public safety, community interaction, etc.

- City of Big Lake
- Big Lake Township
- City of Becker
- Sherburne County
- MnDOT
- City of Monticello
- Wright County

7. Questions, comments, discussion and wrap-up

8. Adjourn

Meeting Minutes
Highway 25 Coalition
August 26th 2016 7:30 AM Monticello City Hall

Members Present: Big Lake Township - Bob Hofer, Larry Alfords, Sherburne County - Dan Webber, Steve Taylor, Ewald Petersen, Andrew Witter, Wright County – Mike Potter, Virgil Hawkins, City of Big Lake – Rae Anne Danielowski, City of Monticello – Brian Stumpf, Jeff O’Neill, Jennifer Schreiber

Also Present: MNDOT – Claudia Dumont, City of Becker – Greg Greg Pruszinske, Marie Pflipsen

1. Call to order

Brian Stumpf called the meeting to order at 7:30 AM

2. Introductions

Welcome to Andrew Witter, Sherburne County Engineer. This is his first time attending having recently been appointed Sherburne County Engineer.

Greg Purszinkse and Marie Pflipsen were present to express City of Becker’s interest in joining the Coalition. They asked for information on the process for becoming a member. After discussion it was determined the City of Becker should pass a resolution expressing interest in joining the Coalition for subsequent consideration by the Coalition at an upcoming meeting.

3. Consideration of approval of meeting minutes of meeting held July 29, 2016

After discussion, motion by Larry Alfords and seconded by Rae Ann Danielowski to approve the July 29, 2016 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Status of development of the traffic study request for proposal.

Virgil Hawkins reported he and Andrew Witter will be getting together fairly soon to begin preparation of a preliminary scope of service for future review by the Coalition.

5. Dan Webber will provide an update on application for grant funds from BNSF to assist in funding transportation study.

Dan Webber reported that he has submitted a request to BNSF for assistance in funding a portion of the cost of the upcoming traffic study.

6. Review information packet from David Turch and Associates pertaining to government relations support for the Highway 25 Coalition.

Steve Taylor made reference to the information packet provided by David Turch and Associates which outlines a proposal for providing consultant and lobbying service for the Coalition. Taylor noted that Turch and Associates believes in the importance of creating, forming and establishing long term relationships with representatives and highway funding decision makers at the Federal and State level. He noted that Turch and Associates believes it takes some time to nurture the relationship.

The group discussed bringing in a lobbyist at this point, prior to completion of studies and associated recommendations. The benefit of bringing in a lobbyist early was noted, but it was the consensus of the group to wait until Coalition planning initiatives are further along. In addition, it was the consensus of the group that the timing for hiring a lobbyist should relate to the pace in which the study and associated recommendations are available.

Claudia Dumont noted that in advance of hiring a consultant, staff and MNDOT resources can be effective in raising the awareness of the purpose and activity of the organization. Greg Purszinkse suggested the group consider sending representatives to Washington, D.C. to visit our congressional delegation at some point in the future.

7. Consideration of inviting our respective state legislators to the next meeting for the purpose of introducing them to the need, structure and purpose of the group.

After discussion, motion by Mike Potter and seconded by Rae Ann Danielowski to utilize the next regular meeting as an opportunity to describe the purpose and goals of the Coalition to our area state representatives in an informal breakfast setting. Motion carried unanimously.

Dan Webber noted he will put together a pamphlet communicating the vision, purpose and work plan of the Coalition. Jeff O'Neill stated that he would organize the breakfast.

8. Monticello/Wright County - Highway 25/7th Street will be rebid for spring 2017 construction.

An update was provided by Brian Stumpf

9. Sherburne County transportation topics of interest.

No news on development of the intermodal hub in Big Lake City/Township

Greg Pruszinske reviewed the importance of good transportation to I-94 for Becker given plans for early decommissioning of coal plants.

10. I-94 Coalition information and update – other legislative updates

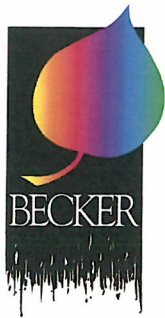
Claudia Dumont noted plans are complete and the project is shovel ready for construction next spring. Project timing depends on construction funding.

11. Report on conflicts with Claudia Dumont's schedule.

Claudia Dumont mentioned to me that she is unable to attend Coalition meetings on a regular basis due to a conflict with other meeting commitments. However, she is very interested in staying apprised of the group's activities and respectfully requests the group consider adjusting the regular meeting date.

12. Adjourn

There being no further discussion, meeting adjourned.



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CITY OF BECKER

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September 20, 2016

Highway 25 Corridor Coalition
Jeff O'Neill
City Administrator
505 Walnut Street
Monticello, MN 55362

Dear Highway 25 Corridor Coalition Members,

Improved transportation systems help bolster economic development, especially when implemented on a regional level. As a neighboring community and City, we recognize the need for improvements along the Highway 25 corridor. With business expansion on the horizon for multiple area cities, the pressure to build an additional Mississippi River crossing is growing. We, the City of Becker, understand the Coalition is working on the development of a traffic study request for proposals with the goal of starting the study in 2017.

On behalf of the Becker City Council and community, please accept this letter as an indication of our interest in formally joining the Highway 25 Corridor Coalition. This request includes Becker being accepted as a member of the Highway 25 Corridor Coalition Joint Powers Agreement.

We support the traffic study and hope to be a contributor in the corridor improvement conversations.

Respectfully,

Greg Pruszinske
City Administrator

CC: Becker City Council

RESOLUTION 16-61

**A RESOLUTION DIRECTING STAFF TO REQUEST MEMBERSHIP IN THE
HIGHWAY 25 COALITION**

WHEREAS, Sherburne and Wright Counties; the cities of Big Lake and Monticello; and Big Lake Township have formed a coalition to lobby for a bridge crossing over the Mississippi River; and

WHEREAS, a river crossing will bolster economic development on both sides of the river; and

WHEREAS, a river crossing will be a key component to the area's transition from coal reliance; and

WHEREAS, a river crossing will relieve some of the traffic congestion, and

WHEREAS, the city of Becker supports a river crossing; and

WHEREAS, the Becker City Council desires to be part of the Highway 25 Coalition and the Joint Powers Agreement.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Becker City Council hereby authorizes the city administrator to request membership in the Highway 25 Coalition.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Becker City Council authorizes staff pursue entering the Joint Powers Agreement.

Rick Hendrickson Yes

Tracy Bertram Yes

Todd Hanrahan Yes

Lori Keller Yes

Jerome Kleis Yes

Adopted this 20th day of September 2016.



Mayor Jerome Kleis

Attest:



Julie Blesi, City Clerk

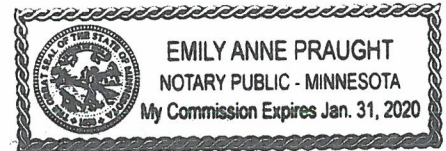
Drafted by:
Greg Pruszinske, City Administrator
P.O. Box 250
Becker, MN 55308

STATE OF MINNESOTA }
COUNTY OF SHERBURNE } SS.

The foregoing instrument was drafted by Greg Pruszinske this 20th day of September, 2016 By the City of Becker.

Em Praught

Signature of person taking acknowledgement



State Highway 25 between I-94 and State Highway 10 has become a vital local transportation artery supporting economic and social well-being to the region. However, transportation pressure has grown sharply recently, and anticipated continued growth will cause additional reduced capacity.

The Highway 25 Coalition was initiated to develop a unified effort among local and state interests for the purposes of joint planning and securing the funding for necessary regional transportation improvements.

HIGHWAY 25 COALITION GOALS

- Examine the impacts of continued growth in Member jurisdictions on traffic patterns.
- Conduct traffic studies defining and identifying priority improvements.
- Prepare collaborative project design and delivery recommendations.
- Study various transportation risks associated with improvement alternatives and associated timing of the construction of improvements.
- Identify and application for funding of activities via grant programs.
- Develop a unified effort among local and state interests in obtaining funding of improvements to include: (i) providing input and leadership within each Member community on matters pertaining to Corridor improvement planning and implementation; and (ii) advocacy at the State and Federal level.
- Partner with MNDOT on regional transportation decisions and involvement in regional policy decisions and discussions.
- Incorporate public input in planning efforts.
- Related and ancillary activities or common issues associated with the Highway 25 corridor.

