

Highway 25 Coalition  
**Agenda**  
Thursday January 26, 2017  
7:30 AM

**BECKER CITY HALL**

1. **Call to order**
2. **Consideration of approval of meeting minutes from meeting held December 15, 2016**
3. **Update on BNSF grant award (\$25,000) submitted to Highway 25 Coalition Fiscal Agent (Big Lake Township). (See Dan Weber's notes page 2)**
4. **Discuss 2017 individual financial contribution by members in light of grant award.**
  - **2017 work plan/budget called for \$150,000 to fund study**
  - **Counties contribute \$75,000 , Cities/Townships contribute \$75,000 (City/Township share now split 7 ways)**
  - **Options**
    - A. **Reduce 2017 member contribution to \$125,000**
    - B. **Maintain member contribution at \$150,000.**
5. **Update on Highway 25 Corridor Study Request for Proposals. (Andrew Witter and Virgil Hawkins report)**
6. **Update on Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs) Program. (See Dan Weber's notes page 2)**
7. **Transportation and related Economic Development or Land Use Updates**
  - **Sherburne County**
  - **Big Lake**
  - **Big Lake Township (Fiscal Agent)**
  - **Becker**
  - **Becker Township**
  - **Wright County**
  - **Monticello**
8. **Legislative updates – State and Federal – open forum**
9. **Monticello Chamber of Commerce Hosting a Breakfast gathering with Rep Tom Emmer on February 24<sup>th</sup> at the Friendly Buffalo in Big Lake. (Details on second page)**
10. **Legislative Update (open forum)**
11. **Other**

## 12. Adjourn

### **Event Invitation-Deadline to register is Friday, February 17th** **Pancakes & Politics with Rep. Tom Emmer**

Join us for a warm breakfast and an update from Washington DC as we host Representative Tom Emmer. He will provide us with his perspective on the 115th Congress and how the new congress is working with the new administration. This informal Q&A session will include a full breakfast of pancakes, eggs and sausage

**Date:** February 24, 2017

**Time:** 08:30 AM - 09:30 AM CST

**Website:** <http://www.monticellocci.com>

**Location:** The Friendly Buffalo  
16722 198th Ave, Big Lake

**Email:** [info@monticellocci.com](mailto:info@monticellocci.com)

**Date/Time Details:** Friday, February 24, 2017  
8:30-9:30 am

**Fees/Admission:** \$20 per person

#3 Update Notes from Dan Webber – BNSF sent Sherburne County a check for \$25,000 to be used for the Corridor Study report. The money has been sent to the Big Lake Township who is the fiscal agent for the Coalition. BNSF has requested to be updated as the project progresses.

#6 Update Notes from Dan Webber– CEDS Update

Each of the four regional counties has either held or in in the processing of holding their first public meeting to discuss the CEDS plan. Sherburne’s was held January 9<sup>th</sup> and Wright County’s is being held at 9:00am today the 26<sup>th</sup>. Over 30 people were in attendance at the Sherburne County’s meeting. The meetings are being held to gather project ideas that will be included in the Certified Economic Development Strategy and the River Crossing project will definitely be included in the final report submitted to the Federal EDA.

**Highway 25 Coalition**  
Meeting Minutes – December 15, 2016  
7:30 AM  
Monticello City Hall

Members Present - **Big Lake Township** - Bob Hofer and Steve Pfliegaar (for Larry Alford); **Sherburne County** - Dan Weber, Steve Taylor, Ewald Petersen, Andrew Witter; **Wright County** – Mike Potter; **City of Becker** – Tracy Bertram, Rick Hendrickson, and Greg Pruszinske; **Becker Township** – Brian Kolbinger; and **City of Monticello** – Brian Stumpf, Angela Schumann, Jim Thares, and Jennifer Schreiber

Others Present – **MnDOT** – Claudia Dumont; **BNSF** – Justin Pearson; **Tom Emmer’s Office** – Stacy Morse; and **CEDS PROGRAM** – Jennifer Russell

1. *Call to order.*
2. *Welcome and introductions.*
3. *Consideration of approval of meeting minutes from meeting held October 27, 2016.*

Motion made by Bob Hofer and seconded by Ewald Petersen. Motion passed unanimously.

4. *Consideration of adopting amendment to the JPA enabling the addition of Becker and Becker Township.*

There was a brief discussion on the amendment to the Joint Powers Agreement and Brian Stumpf requested a motion. Motion made by Mike Potter and seconded by Bob Hofer to add the City of Becker and Becker Township by adopting the amendments to the Joint Powers Agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

5. *Consideration of submitting a Letter of Support of the Fallon Avenue I-94 Overpass project in Monticello.*

Chuck Rickart, WSB, distributed a letter of support for the Fallon Avenue I-94 Overpass project in Monticello. A brief discussion ensued. The history of the project was reviewed and the City of Monticello is looking for support from the group. There was the question of whether this project would provide any relief across the river. Mr. Rickart responded that the interchange itself wouldn’t provide much relief for across the river.

Motion was made by Mike Potter and seconded by Brian Kolbinger to approve the Letter of Support. Motion carried unanimously.

6. *Local Rail Update.*

Justin Pearson, BNSF – Economic Development Regional Manager – was present to provide information. Mr. Pearson noted that BNSF is interested in this area because of

the access to open space. More and more rail yards are being pushed out of urban areas because there isn't any room. There was a question on whether BNSF receives pushback on the yards. Mr. Pearson responded that there is always some pushback. He also touch on the topic of funding. He noted that BNSF doesn't directly have funding available for the study, however, he would be willing to help find funding sources that may help fund the area study.

**7. *Introduction of Jennifer Russell and associated review of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Program.***

Dan Weber introduced Jennifer Russell who is leading the CEDS plan for this area. Ms. Russell provided a brief overview of the program noting that it includes the counties of Stearns, Wright, Sherburne and Benton. Ms. Russell stated that this is the only area in the State that doesn't have a CEDS plan. The program topics include strategies/goals; economic competitiveness; foundation assets; and community capital. Transportation is also a component of the plan. Dan Weber commented that having a CEDS program can aid in getting Federal Funding.

**8. *Update on Highway 25 Corridor Study request for proposal process.***

Andrew Witter addressed the group on the development of Request for Proposals. Mr. Witter added that he has been working with Claudia Dumont and Virgil Hawkins in the development of a draft RFP. Mr. Witter looked to the group for input on objectives and deliverables that should be included in the RFP. There was discussion on which entity should publish the RFP and the schedule/timeline. After a brief conversation there was consensus of the group that all comments on the RFP should be submitted to Andrew Witter by December 23. There was continued discussion on the selection process.

Motion was made by Mike Potter and seconded by Ewald Petersen to authorize a consultant selection team of Claudia Dumont, Virgil Hawkins, and Andrew Witter. Motion carried unanimously.

**9. *Transportation and related Economic Development or Land Use Updates.***

**Sherburne County** – Steve Taylor noted that there was a shift in commissioners following the election and he foresees Economic Development and being an important component. Andrew Witter stated that the County is updating their Transportation Plan.

**City of Big Lake** - None.

**City of Becker** – Greg Pruszinske commented that he attended a meeting with DEED Commissioner Hardy. In his discussions with Commissioner Hardy he relayed information on the Highway 25 Coalition and the partnerships which are important for Economic Development.

**Becker Township** – None.

**Wright County** – It was noted that Wright County is updating their Transportation Plan.

**Monticello** – Brian Stumpf commented on three items: 1) The TH 25/7<sup>th</sup> Street Intersection project received favorable bids and will begin this spring; 2) There was a

public meeting held on moving the Post Office; and 3: The Cunningham Group was selected to do a Small Area Study of the downtown.

**10. Other.**

Stacy Morse, Tom Emmer's Office, was in attendance. Ms. Morse commented that the group may want to research the Transportation Block Grant Program as one area of funding.

**11. Adjourn.**

There being no further discussion meeting ended at 8:09 a.m.

## HIGHWAY 25 COALITION - MEMBER LIST (2017)

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*City of Becker  
12060 Sherburne Avenue  
Becker, MN 55308*

Tracy Bertram – Mayor  
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Rick Hendrickson – Council Member  
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Greg Pruszinske – City Administrator  
[gpruszinske@ci.becker.mn.us](mailto:gpruszinske@ci.becker.mn.us)

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*Becker Township  
PO Box 248  
12165 Hancock Street  
Becker, MN 55308*

Brian Kolbinger – Chair  
[bkolbinger@yahoo.com](mailto:bkolbinger@yahoo.com)

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*City of Big Lake  
160 Lake Street N.  
Big Lake, MN 55309*

Raeanne Danielowski  
[Cook113@aol.com](mailto:Cook113@aol.com)

Clay Wilfahrt – City Administrator  
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*Big Lake Township  
21960 County Rd. 5  
Big Lake, MN 55309*

Larry Alford – Vice Chariman  
[alfordsla@gmail.com](mailto:alfordsla@gmail.com)

Bob Hofer – Chairman  
[erbobcat@izoom.net](mailto:erbobcat@izoom.net)

*City of Monticello  
505 Walnut St.  
Monticello, MN 55362*

Jeff O'Neill – City Administrator  
[Jeff.oneill@ci.monticello.mn.us](mailto:Jeff.oneill@ci.monticello.mn.us)

Brian Stumpf - Mayor  
[Brian.stumpf@ci.monticello.mn.us](mailto:Brian.stumpf@ci.monticello.mn.us)

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*Sherburne County  
13880 Business Center Dr. NW  
Elk River, MN 55330*

Ewald Petersen  
[Ewald.petersen@co.sherburne.mn.us](mailto:Ewald.petersen@co.sherburne.mn.us)

Steve Taylor – County Administrator  
[Steve.taylor@co.sherburne.mn.us](mailto:Steve.taylor@co.sherburne.mn.us)

Dan Weber – Assistant County Administrator  
[Dan.weber@co.sherburne.mn.us](mailto:Dan.weber@co.sherburne.mn.us)

Andrew Witter – County Engineer  
[Andrew.Witter@co.sherburne.mn.us](mailto:Andrew.Witter@co.sherburne.mn.us)

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*Wright County  
10 2<sup>nd</sup> St. NW  
Buffalo, MN 55313*

Virgil Hawkins – County Engineer  
[Virgil.hawkins@co.wright.mn.us](mailto:Virgil.hawkins@co.wright.mn.us)

Mike Potter – County Commissioner  
[Michael.potter@co.wright.mn.us](mailto:Michael.potter@co.wright.mn.us)

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Others – Non Voting  
Jennifer Schreiber – Monticello City Clerk  
[Jennifer.schreiber@ci.monticello.mn.us](mailto:Jennifer.schreiber@ci.monticello.mn.us)

Claudia Dumont  
[Claudia.dumont@state.mn.us](mailto:Claudia.dumont@state.mn.us)