

SWCTC Members Participate in Transportation Fly-In

Members of the Southwest Corridor Transportation Coalition visited directly with members of the Minnesota Congressional Delegation as part of the Transportation Alliance Washington Fly-In that took place in early June. The event afforded coalition members the opportunity to talk about the importance of upgrading highways 212 and 5 while joining with other transportation advocates to make the case for a new surface transportation authorization act.

Coalition members who attended – Carver County Commissioner Randy Maluchnik, Renville County Commissioner John Stahl, Chaska City Council member Greg Boe, Carver County Engineer Lyndon Robjent and Coalition members Kathryn Kelly and Darrell Sudheimer – requested additional federal support for preliminary work needed to make safety improvements to highways 5 and 212 as part of the FY2011 Transportation and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill.

TIGER II Grant Applications Submitted

The Southwest Corridor Transportation Coalition has also submitted a pre-application form for planning money made available as part of the TIGER II discretionary grant program. The federal government has made funding available on a competitive basis for both construction and planning of transportation projects.

Funding was requested to assist with planning for access improvements on US Highway 212 between Chaska and Cologne and safety improvements needed on Trunk Highway 5 between Chanhassen and Norwood Young America. The program provides \$35 million in DOT funding along with \$40 million in HUD funding for distribution around the country.

Congressman Kline Supports Inclusion of Highways 212 and 5 in Metro Long-Range Plans

The Metropolitan Council, together with the MnDOT Metro District is working to re-assess highway needs in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area in light of funding constraints. The Metro Highway System Investment Study currently being conducted will result in proposed amendments to the 2030 Transportation Policy Plan. The fiscally-constrained plan for the region does not envision widening either Highway 212 or Trunk Highway 5 between Chanhassen and Norwood Young America; however staff are considering projects that could be candidates for funding should unanticipated additional funding for construction become available.

Congressman Kline has sent a letter to MnDOT Commissioner Tom Sorel and Metropolitan Council Chairman Peter Bell requesting the inclusion of the Highway 212 and Highway 5 expansions as priority projects in the long-range plan. He noted that including these critical highway systems as priority projects will improve safety and ameliorate congestion around the metropolitan area.

Next SWCTC Membership Meeting August 20th

The next meeting of the Southwest Corridor Transportation Coalition will be held on Friday, August 20th from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. at the Chaska City Council Chambers.

Representatives from MnDOT will be on hand to provide an update on the status of work being conducted on Highways 212 and 5.