



## **Membership MEETING**

**Friday, Sept. 14, 2018**

**Glencoe City Center**

**7:30 AM - 9:00 AM**

### **Meeting Notes**

Randy Maluchnik, SWCTC President, called the meeting to order and asked for self introductions.

Lyndon Robjent, Carver County Engineers, discussed the county's application for a Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development or BUILD grant from the federal government. The county submitted two applications – one for Carver to Cologne and one for Cologne to Norwood Young America. The previous application for a grant through the Infrastructure For Rebuilding America (INFRA) program was not successful. The county is seeking an additional \$12 million in order have sufficient funds for construction of the 2-4 lane project on Highway 212 between Carver and Cologne. Letters of support for the application are important and many SWCTC members have supplied letters which will be sent as part of the application. The total cost of the phase I project is \$46 million and there is currently a \$12 million gap in identified funding.

The county is also seeking a \$25 million grant for the segment of Highway 212 between Cologne and Norwood Young America. MnDOT is planning a major rehabilitation project on Highway 212 in 2020 in this area and additional funding could allow for the project to be re-scoped to an expansion project. Preliminary design is moving ahead for this segment and is expected to be done by June of next year. Funding that was provided through the state freight program (\$15 million) will sunset in 2022.

In 2017, Carver County passed a local option sales tax of ½ cent for transportation purposes. The county has committed \$6 million in local sales tax funding for the 212 project and MnDOT has programmed some money for preservation work in the corridor.

The county is looking at safety issues along the Highway 212 corridor near Bongards where a fatality recently occurred.

The Highway 23 Coalition provided an update on work that is planned to expand highway 23 to four lanes.

There is a northern two-lane gap from Richmond to Paynesville and a southern gap from Paynesville to New London. The legislature provided funding through the Corridors of Commerce program to expand the highway in these gap areas. Funding to construct the northern gap will be available in 2022 and funding for the southern gap will be available in 2024.

The next stage will be detailed design work, right-of-way acquisition and utility relocation. There is currently an RFP issued for design work.

Margaret Donahoe, MN Transportation Alliance, provided an update on federal legislative action. Coalition members attended the Alliance Fly-In in May and had an opportunity to talk directly with Congressional members and staff about the importance of area transportation projects. Currently, Congress is working on the FFY2019 Transportation and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill. The expectation is that the legislation will be passed by the end of the current fiscal year (September 30<sup>th</sup>).

At the state level, prospects for additional transportation funding hinge on the outcome of the elections in November. Advocates will continue to push for the complete dedication of the sales tax on auto parts to the Highway Trust Fund.

Rep. Glenn Gruenhagen discussed the results of the 2018 Legislative Session and his concerns about government reform efforts. He noted that the upcoming election will be a very important one.