



Membership MEETING

Friday, January 18, 2019

Chaska City Council Chambers

7:30 AM - 9:00 AM

Meeting Notes

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

Nick Thompson, Director of Transportation Services for the Metropolitan Council discussed the Council's latest round of projects funded through the Regional Solicitation. He explained that the Council passed a program of projects for \$198 million in federal funds which included \$7 million for improvements to Highway 212 for the Phase I project between Carver and Cologne. The Phase I segment now has all but \$5 million of the funding needed for expansion identified.

Lyndon Robjent, Carver County Engineer, provided an update on work related to Highway 212. He discussed the county's application for a Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development or BUILD grant from the federal government. Highway 212 was not included in the latest round of funding. The county plans to re-apply for a grant through the Infrastructure For Rebuilding America (INFRA) program for Phase II from Cologne to Norwood Young America. Expansion of that segment of roadway needs an additional \$38 million. There may be a plan to work on the intersection at Bongards separately that could involve an overpass.

Legislation allocating \$38 million in trunk highway bonds for the Phase II segment will be introduced by Senator Jensen.

For the Phase I segment, the county is completing the plans and will start to acquire right-of-way with the goal of a bid letting in the fall of 2021. One more public meeting is needed to go over the updates in the design. That meeting will happen sometime in the next few months.

Transportation Day at the Capitol will be held on February 7th. Members of the Coalition were encouraged to attend to promote funding for Coalition priorities.

The House Transportation Committee is planning several field hearings outside of St. Paul. One of those hearings will be in Savage. The Coalition will line up supporters to testify at that hearing regarding funding needs on Highway 212.

Carver County Commissioner Jim Ische and Engineer Lyndon Robjert will be traveling to Washington, D.C. to visit with the Minnesota delegation.

David Sturrock with the Marshall Area Transportation Group discussed the importance of Highway 212 and the connection with Highway 23.

Additional work will be done to study projects on TH5 including roads around the MN Landscape Arboretum. Public outreach is being planned to solicit input on potential projects.

Margaret Donahoe, MN Transportation Alliance, provided an update on federal legislative action. Currently, Congress is working on the FFY2019 Transportation and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill which has been delayed as Congress and the administration deal with a federal government shutdown.

At the state level, there is more hope for increased transportation funding with a new governor who campaigned on the idea of increasing the state fuel tax and with a DFL majority in the House to support the new governor. The question will be whether the House and Senate can agree on a plan to forward to the governor. The Senate continues to support the idea of using general fund dollars for road and bridge needs while the House wants to rely more on increasing constitutionally-dedicated revenue sources.

The 2019 Washington, D.C. Fly-In has been scheduled for June 18-20, 2019. Coalition members are encouraged to attend and talk with the Minnesota delegation. Minnesota has five new members of Congress.