MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brad Anderson, Goodhue County
Bruce Anderson, Sherburne County
Ron Antony, Yellow Medicine County
Lon Aune, Marshall County
Jake Bauerly, Benton County
James Brady, Steele County
DeRon Brehmer, Lac qui Parle County
John Brunkhorst, McLeod County
Craig Buness, Polk County
Kevin Campbell, Clay County
Bruce Cochran, Mille Lacs County
Mary Beth Davidson, Hennepin County
Dave Enblom, Cass County
Roger Falk, Roseau County
Neal Folstad, Wilkin County
Derrick Goutermont, Lake County
Steven Gray, Dodge County
Donald Jensen, Pennington County
Wayne Johnson, Otter Tail County
Jack Kolars, Nicollet County
Bob Kopitzke, Stevens County
Jeff Marlowe, Renville County
Brian McBridge, Koochiching County
Jeff Mergen, Stearns County
Bob Moline, Murray County
Ken Moorman, Lake of the Woods County
JohnOkeson, Becker County
Dennis Potter, Brown County

Mike Potter, Wright County
Douglas Reese, Kandiyohi County
Mike Robinson, Chisago County
David Robley, Douglas County
Eric Rudningen, Swift County
Jim Salfar, Redwood County
Dan Schmidtke, Martin County
Scott Schulte, Anoka County
Christopher Shoff, Freeborn County
Mike Slavik, Dakota County
Edward Smith, Hubbard County
John Stahl, Renville County
Bill Stearns, Wadena County
Kevin Stevens, Cottonwood County
Ginny Storlie, Cook County
Vance Stuehrenberg, Blue Earth County
Keith Swanson, Grant County
Don Wachal, Jackson County
Gordy Wagner, Pope County
Rick West, Otter Tail County
Lance Wetzel, Le Sueur County
Matthew Widboom, Nobles County
Mike Wilson, Morrison County
Mike Wobbe, Wabasha County
Tom Workman, Carver County
Greg Young, Faribault County
Susan Zymslony, Carlton County

GUESTS

David Betts, Cook County
Chris Byrd, Benton County
James Eigenberg, Jackson County
Dave Enblom, Cass County
Doug Fischer, Anoka County
Brian Giese, Pope County
Ron Gregg, Fillmore County
Virgil Hawkins, Wright County
James Kochmann, Mahnomen County

Michael Plante, Wabasha County
Jerry Reinaritz, Mower County
Robby Robinson, Goodhue County
Rich Sanders, Polk County
Mark Sehr, Rock County
Jodi Teich, Stearns County
Ryan Thilges, Blue Earth County
Tracey Von Bargen, Grant County
I. Call Meeting to Order
Chair John Okeson called the Transportation and Infrastructure Policy Committee meeting to order at 8:05 AM and welcomed members and guests. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Wright County Commissioner Mike Potter made a motion to approve the September Transportation & Infrastructure Policy Committee minutes, seconded by Otter Tail County Commissioner Wayne Johnson. Motion carried.

II. Election Recap and 2017 Session Strategy
Brian McDaniel, AMC Contract Lobbyist with Franzen-Moore, gave an overview of the election results and what it means for transportation in Minnesota. Brian discussed upcoming challenges that counties might face with the new Legislature, and also how counties might benefit from the new structure. He also highlighted who the new transportation committee chairs will be in the House and Senate and how they might move the transportation funding idea forward. The committee asked questions of Brian and also had a conversation about whether or not there will be a special session before the year is out.

III. Speed Limit Statutory Change Proposal
As a follow-up to a panel at the September Policy Conference, there was a discussion regarding the Cass County proposal to support changing the definition of a rural residential district in state statute to include counties. As a reminder of the positions that were presented in September, Wayne Sandberg, MCEA Legislative Committee Chair, and Dave Enblom, Cass County Engineer, highlighted their respective positions. The committee then took up whether or not to support the Cass Co./Hubbard Co. proposal, support current statute, or stay neutral on the issue. Blue Earth Commissioner Vance Stuehrenberg made a motion for the committee to stay neutral on the issue, seconded by Pennington County Commissioner Don Jensen. Motion carried.

IV. Final Platform Review and Approval
Chair Okeson and Emily Pugh, AMC Policy Analyst, led the process for final platform review and approval. The Committee reviewed and took action on the following policies:

Broadband:
The Broadband Subcommittee brought forth the following platform change:

AMC supports permanent funding for the Office of Broadband Development within the Department of Employment and Economic Development.

Regulations:
Hennepin County Commissioner Peter McLaughlin submitted the following addition to conform to a NACo resolution:

AMC supports the NACo policy to remove air ambulances from the definition of “Air Carrier” in ADA or other policy to protect consumers from price-gouging and/or balance billing conducted by some air ambulance providers.

Weight Regulation/Road Infrastructure Preservation:
Chair Okeson suggested the following cleanup language to this portion of the platform:
AMC supports the ability for local law enforcement to conduct truck weight training courses so that county law enforcement can educate members of the public on truck weight regulations.

AMC supports the ability for local law enforcement to receive truck weight enforcement training by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, the Minnesota Department of Transportation, or any Minnesota State College that has a Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) approved training program which includes the physical weighing of trucks.

Anoka County Commissioner Scott Schulte made a motion to accept all three platform changes, seconded by Renville County Commissioner John Stahl. Motion carried.

V. Election of Committee Chair and Vice Chair
Blue Earth County Commissioner Vance Stuehrenberg nominated Wright County Commissioner Mike Potter for the position of Committee Chair. Seeing no other nominations, Blue Earth County Commissioner Vance Stuehrenberg made the motion to unanimously support Wright County Commissioner Mike Potter for Committee Chair, seconded by Chisago County Commissioner Mike Robinson. Motion carried.

For the position of Vice Chair, there were two nominations. Polk County Commissioner Craig Buness nominated Pope County Commissioner Gordy Wagner for the position of Vice Chair, seconded by Grant County Commissioner Keith Swanson. In addition, Murray County Commissioner Bob Moline nominated Blue Earth County Commissioner Vance Stuehrenberg for the position of Vice Chair, seconded by Jackson County Commissioner Don Wachal. Both nominees for the position of Vice Chair had a few minutes to state their case. The committee took a hand vote for each nominee. The final vote was 28-21 in favor of Blue Earth County Commissioner Vance Stuehrenberg.

The Transportation and Infrastructure Policy Committee elected Wright County Commissioner Mike Potter to be the next Chair, and Blue Earth County Commissioner Vance Stuehrenberg to be the next Vice Chair.

VI. Other Updates
Time permitting, the committee took various updates from a few members of the audience. Margaret Donahoe, Director of the Minnesota Transportation Alliance, gave an update on what Progress in Motion has been working on; Ramsey County Commissioner Jim McDonough provided an update on the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB); and Emily Pugh, AMC Policy Analyst, provided an update on the Local Road Wetland Replacement Program (LRWRP), specifically alerting the committee that the AMC Board made this a priority item for 2017.

Chair Okeson recognized all retiring commissioners that are members of the committee. The committee recognized Chair Okeson’s work over the last few years as Chair.

VII. Adjourn
Wright County Commissioner Mike Potter moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Blue Earth County Commissioner Vance Stuehrenberg. Motion carried. The Transportation and Infrastructure Policy Committee adjourned at 9:30 AM.