MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brad Anderson, Goodhue County  
Lon Aune, Marshall County  
DeRon Brehmer, Lac qui Parle County  
Kevin Campbell, Clay County  
Bruce Cochran, Mille Lacs County  
Bob Deschampe, Cook County  
Don Diedrich, Polk County  
Keith Englund, Douglas County  
Roger Falk, Roseau County  
Jake Gillen, Rice County  
Dennis Potter, Brown County  
Mike Potter, Wright County  
Bob Deschampe, Cook County  
Keith Englund, Douglas County  
Roger Falk, Roseau County  
Jake Gillen, Rice County  
Roger Imdieke, Kandiyohi County  
Don Jensen, Pennington County  
Jack Kolars, Nicollet County  
Bob Kopitzke, Stevens County  
Jeff Mergen, Stearns County  
John Okeson, Becker County  
Dennis Potter, Brown County  
Mike Potter, Wright County  
Bill Pratt, Aitkin County  
Scott Schulte, Anoka County  
Mike Robinson, Chisago County  
Christopher Shoff, Freeborn County  
Mike Slavik, Dakota County  
Edward Smith, Hubbard County  
Bill Stearns, Wadena County  
Vance Stuehrenberg, Blue Earth County  
Joe Tachen, Meeker County  
Gordy Wagner, Pope County  
Mike Wilson, Morrison County  
Mike Wobbe, Wabasha County  
Pommy Zmyslony, Carlton County  

GUESTS

Brian Giese, Pope County  
Dennis Groebner, Redwood County  
Lisa Herges, Renville County  
Jim McDonough, Ramsey County  
Tracey Von Bargen, Grant County

I. Call Joint Meeting to Order
Chairs Barry Nelson and Mike Potter called the Joint Committee on Environment & Natural Resources and Transportation & Infrastructure meeting to order at 1:35 PM and welcomed members and guests. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

II. Update on Roadside Ditch Mowing
Nancy Daubenberger, MnDOT Assistant Commissioner, provided an update to committee members on MnDOT policies and procedures for mowing and haying in state highway right-of-way areas. She also gave an update on the recently formed MnDOT Mowing and Haying in the State Right of Way Stakeholder Group.
III. State Assumption of Section 404 Permit Program and Local Road Wetland Replacement Program Updates
Les Lemm, BWSR Wetlands Section Manager, provided an overview of the 2016 report examining state assumption of the federal section 404 permit program, as well as an update on the current status of seeking state assumption. He also provided the committees with an update on the status of the Local Road Wetland Replacement Program and wetland credits available in bank service areas throughout the state.

IV. Update on Volkswagen Settlement
Rocky Sisk, MPCA, provided an overview of the Volkswagen Settlement and described how the state of Minnesota and its residents could be eligible for funding to replace large diesel vehicles and equipment (including counties and other local units of government).

V. Adjourn Joint Committee
The Joint Committee adjourned at 2:55 PM.

VI. Call to Order
Chair Mike Potter called the Transportation & Infrastructure Policy Committee meeting to order at 3:05 PM.

VII. Broadband Subcommittee Update
Broadband Subcommittee Chair Rich Sve gave a brief update on the topics discussed during the subcommittee meeting that morning. The subcommittee heard a presentation from Jane Leonard, with the Office of Broadband Development, and also discussed potential broadband platform and priority items. Chair Sve presented the broadband priority item to the committee for further discussion on Friday.

VIII. State Aid Update
Ted Schoenecker, MnDOT State Aid, provided an overview of what passed during the 2017 Legislative Session, highlighting the increase in revenue to the HUTDF as well as the record amount of bonding dollars put into transportation related programs (Local Road Improvement Program, Local Bridge Replacement Program) in the bonding bill. He also discussed proposed changes to the Flexible Highway Account that weren’t adopted.

IX. Transportation Funding on the Ballot in 2018?
Margaret Donahoe, Transportation Alliance, discussed the potential of a constitutional amendment on the ballot in 2018, which would seek to dedicate the entire amount of revenue from the sales tax on auto parts to transportation. Margaret discussed why next year may or may not provide the right climate for a constitutional amendment, and compared it to the 2006 constitutional amendment dedicating MVST revenue to transportation.

X. Adjourn for the Day
There was a motion and a second to adjourn the meeting for the day. The Transportation and Infrastructure Policy Committee adjourned at 4:00 PM.
XI. **Call Meeting to Order**
Chair Mike Potter called the Transportation and Infrastructure Policy Committee to order at 9:00 AM. The committee recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Becker County Commissioner John Okeson moved to approve the February Transportation & Infrastructure Policy Committee minutes, seconded by Pope County Commissioner Gordy Wagner. Motion carried.

XII. **AMC’s Transportation Message – Planning for 2018 and Beyond**
Emily Murray and Peter Glessing, Lockridge Grindal Nauen, outlined the goals for the morning’s small group discussion. Peter went over the AMC transportation message from the past two years and asked members to discuss what the plan/message should be going forward for 2018 and beyond. What tools do members need in order to adequately communicate our message?

XIII. **Small Group Discussion**
Committee members met in small groups to answer the questions posed above. One member from each group presented to the full committee. Consensus was to focus on thanking legislators for what passed last year, and educating them on why continued transportation funding is necessary.

XIV. **MCEA Legislative Committee Update**
Brian Giese, MCEA Legislative Committee Co-Chair, gave a short presentation to the committee focusing on highlights from the last legislative session as well as some anticipated issues for the next session – including a bonding bill, potential constitutional amendment relating to the auto parts sales tax revenue, truck weights, and ditch mowing.

XV. **2018 Platform & Priorities Discussion**
Emily Murray discussed the platform review process and the committee discussed potential platform items to be discussed further and voted on at the Annual Meeting in December. One item that was discussed was to add the word “constitutionally” before dedicated in reference to the sales tax revenue from auto parts. The suggested platform change would read as follows:

*AMC supports that sales tax revenue from auto parts be constitutionally dedicated to the Highway User Tax Distribution Fund and that the void created in the General Fund be filled with funds from the projected state surplus.*

The committee discussed priorities for 2018 and identified the following three items:

1. **AMC supports continued comprehensive transportation funding that includes new revenue for roads, bridges, and transit.**

   Motion to support the first priority item made by Anoka County Commissioner Scott Schulte, second by Lac qui Parle County Commissioner DeRon Brehmer. Motion carried.

2. **AMC supports the build-out of broadband infrastructure in Minnesota, including legislation that would provide continued funding for the Border to Border Broadband Development Grant Program.**
Motion to support the second priority item made by Blue Earth County Commissioner Vance Stuehrenberg, second by Anoka County Commissioner Scott Schulte. Motion carried.

3. **AMC supports general obligation bonding authority for funding the Local Road Improvement Program, the Local Bridge Replacement Program, and the Local Road Wetland Replacement Program, outside of dedicated dollars for specific projects.**

Motion to support the third priority item made by Anoka County Commissioner Scott Schulte, second by Blue Earth County Commissioner Vance Stuehrenberg. Motion carried.

XVI. **Adjourn**
Blue Earth County Commissioner Vance Stuehrenberg moved to adjourn the committee meeting, seconded by Anoka County Commissioner Scott Schulte. The Transportation & Infrastructure Policy Committee adjourned at 11:00 AM.