Transportation & Infrastructure Policy Committee  
*Arrowwood Resort – Alexandria, MN*  
September 13-14, 2018

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

- Brad Anderson, Goodhue County
- Lon Aune, Marshall County
- Jake Bauerly, Benton County
- DeRon Brehmer, Lac qui Parle County
- Kevin Campbell, Clay County
- Robert Deschampes, Cook County
- Thomas Egan, Dakota County
- Roger Falk, Roseau County
- Derrick Goutermont, Lake County
- Christopher Hollingsworth, Pipestone County
- Roger Imdieke, Kandiyohi County
- Dona Jensen, Pennington County
- Jack Kolars, Nicollet County
- Bob Kopitzke, Stevens County
- Dan Kuhns, Waseca County
- Gerald Magnus, Murray County
- Mike Potter, Wright County
- Bill Pratt, Aitkin County
- Jerry Rapp, Douglas County
- Charles Sanow, Lyon County
- Scott Schulte, Anoka County
- Chris Shoff, Freeborn County
- Edward Smith, Hubbard County
- John Stahl, Renville County
- Bill Stearns, Wadena County
- Vance Stuehrenberg, Blue Earth County
- Bob Van Hee, Redwood County
- Gordy Wagner, Pope County
- Mike Wilson, Morrison County
- Susan Zmyslony, Carlton County

**GUESTS**

- Barb Becker, Todd County
- Bruce Kooiman, Pipestone County
- Jim McDonough, Ramsey County
- Charlie Meyer, Douglas County
- Kathy Quick, University of Minnesota
- Nick Riley, Ramsey County
- Dave Robley, Douglas County
- Cody Rogahn, Pope County
- Tracey Von Bargen, Grant County
- Holly Wilson, Mille Lacs County

I. **Call Meeting to Order**

Chair Mike Potter called the Transportation and Infrastructure Policy Committee to order at 1:05 PM. The committee recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Anoka County Commissioner Scott Schulte moved to approve the March Transportation & Infrastructure Policy Committee minutes, second by Pope County Commissioner Gordy Wagner. Motion carried.
II. MN Rural Broadband Coalition – Planning for the 2019 Session
Vince Robinson discussed the history of the MN Rural Broadband Coalition and its current membership. Vince also provided an overview of what happened during the 2018 legislative session relating to broadband funding, specifically for the Border-to-Border Broadband Grant Program. Finally, he discussed the recent recommendations from the coalition to the Governor’s Broadband Task Force.

III. MnDOT Turnback Program and the 2018 Bonding Bill
Mitch Rasmussen, Assistant Commissioner MnDOT State Aid, provided an overview of both the MnDOT turnback program and the 2018 bonding bill and what it means for counties. First, Mitch provided an update of where the turnback program is at currently, including a statutory breakdown of the funding. Second, Mitch highlighted the breakdown in legislative funding provided for the Local Road Improvement Program and the Local Bridge Replacement Program in this year’s bonding bill, including a list of projects that were funded by these two programs.

IV. NACo Transportation Update
Carver County Commissioner Randy Maluchnik was recently made the Chair of the NACo Transportation & Infrastructure Steering Committee. Commissioner Maluchnik highlighted some of the important transportation issues at the federal level, including a discussion of the funding programs like the Highway Trust Fund, the BUILD grant program, and 404 Assumption.

V. Freight Rail Technology Update
Larry Lloyd with GoRail provided the committee with an overview of the organization and the public benefits of freight rail. Larry also discussed recent technology advancements in freight rail, including Positive Train Control, which has a statutory deadline of implementation by December 31, 2018. He also provided committee members with an update on the AskRail app, a safety tool for first responders that provides real-time information about what materials are traveling by freight through communities at any given time.

VI. Adjourn for the Day
The Transportation and Infrastructure Policy Committee adjourned at 3:50 PM.

VII. Call Meeting to Order
Vice Chair Vance Stuehrenberg called the Transportation and Infrastructure Policy Committee to order at 8:32 AM. The committee recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

VIII. County Updates
Members went around the room sharing transportation-related updates from their counties.

IX. NACE Update
Rich Sanders, Polk County Engineer and the current National Association of County Engineers President, provided the committee with a background on NACE and discussed some of the legislative priorities NACE has worked on in recent years. Rich also discussed
the competitive highway bridge program for FY 2018 – which provided $225 million for bridge grants. Rich is working with AMC to try and put together a bridge bundling program for Minnesota.

X. MCEA Legislative Committee Update
Brian Giese, MCEA Legislative Committee Co-Chair, and Lon Aune, MCEA President, 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 the following: an MCEA proposal to clarify the threatened and endangered species mitigation exemption for existing public road right of way and ditches, a proposal that both MCEA and AMC opposing that would allow for county boards to increase speed limits on county roads by board resolution, truck weights, right of way management, and 404 Assumption.

XI. 2019 Platform & Priorities Discussion
Emily Murray discussed the new platform review process and the addition of the policy coordinating committee. Platform changes this year are due by October 8. The committee then discussed priorities for 2018 and identified the following two priority items:

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

   Motion to support the first priority item made by Kandiyohi County Commissioner Roger Imdieke, second by Carlton County Commissioner Susan Zmyslony. Motion carried.

2. **AMC supports the build-out of broadband infrastructure in Minnesota, including legislation that would provide adequate and continuous funding for the Border-to-Border Broadband Development Grant Program.**

   Motion to support the second priority item made by Anoka County Commissioner Scott Schulte, second by Stevens County Commissioner Bob Kopitzke. Motion carried.

   Ramsey County Commissioner Jim McDonough made the motion to put forward these two priorities as amended as the committee’s 2019 priority proposals, second by Anoka County Commissioner Scott Schulte. Motion carried.

The committee also discussed potential platform items to be discussed further and voted on at the Annual Meeting in December. One item that was discussed was to remove the word “constitutionally” before dedicated in reference to the revenue from the sales tax on 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.**

Blue Earth County Commissioner Vance Stuehenberg discussed an amendment related to hands free cell phone use while driving. This would be a cross-jurisdictional amendment
that would need to be considered by this policy committee as well as the Public Safety Committee.

Pope County Engineer Brian Giese offered some ideas for potential platform changes on behalf of MCEA.

**XII. Adjourn**
Lac qui Parle County Commissioner DeRon Brehmer moved to adjourn the committee meeting, second by Aitkin County Commissioner Bill Pratt. The Transportation & Infrastructure Policy Committee adjourned at 11:22 AM.