



Minnesota Department of Transportation

Transportation Building

395 John Ireland Boulevard
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155-1899

February 27, 2009

The Honorable Steve Murphy, Chair
Senate Transportation Budget & Policy Division

The Honorable Michael Jungbauer
Ranking Minority Member
Senate Transportation Budget & Policy Division

The Honorable James Metzen, Chair
Senate Business, Industry & Jobs Committee

The Honorable Geoff Michel
Ranking Minority Member
Senate Business, Industry & Jobs Committee

The Honorable David Tomassoni, Chair
Senate Economic Development & Housing
Budget Division

The Honorable Amy Koch
Ranking Minority Member
Senate Economic Development & Housing
Budget Division

The Honorable Bernie Lieder, Chair
House Transportation Finance & Policy Division

The Honorable Michael Beard
Ranking Minority Member
House Transportation Finance & Policy Division

The Honorable Frank Hornstein, Chair
House Transportation & Transit Policy & Oversight
Division Committee

The Honorable Dean Urdahl
Ranking Minority Member
House Transportation & Transit Policy & Oversight
Division Committee

The Honorable Tom Rukavina, Chair
House Higher Education & Workforce
Development Finance & Policy Division

The Honorable Sarah Anderson
Ranking Minority Member - Workforce
House Higher Education & Workforce
Development Finance & Policy Division

RE: Report on Mitigation of Transportation Construction Impacts

Dear Chairs and Ranking Minority Members:

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) has completed the enclosed Report on Mitigation of Transportation Construction Impacts in response to the law passed by the Minnesota State Legislature (Laws 2008, Chapter 308). The report will help Mn/DOT implement our new strategic direction to encourage public involvement and build public trust.

In developing this report, Mn/DOT worked with many groups, including other state agencies, counties, cities, chambers of commerce, and business owners from across Minnesota. The input we received was very valuable in identifying successful practices that are currently being used, and areas where we can improve in reaching out to small businesses before, during, and after transportation construction projects.

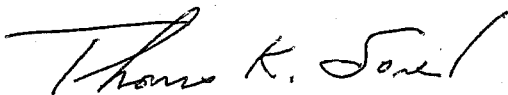
In compliance with the law, Mn/DOT developed the following plan to assist small businesses impacted by Mn/DOT construction projects.

1. Mn/DOT will emphasize small business outreach as an integral part of our broader public participation process by making revisions to our current "Hear Every Voice" program (described in Appendix B) and will place greater emphasis on the identification and mitigation of impacts to small businesses.
2. Mn/DOT will develop a checklist to be used by Mn/DOT project managers to initiate consultations with local government representatives and business community representatives. The checklist is a list of steps to be taken by Mn/DOT project managers to identify impacts to businesses, to plan and coordinate with local governments and small businesses, to identify mitigation measures (including signing), and to involve the construction engineer and contractor in an effort to improve communication and coordination with small businesses.
3. In order to better communicate with small businesses affected by construction projects, Mn/DOT will develop a packet for businesses that includes information about the nature, extent and timing of construction activities, identifies a single point of contact for small business owners, and, working with the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, will seek the assistance of area business development organizations.
4. From our surveys and discussions with small business owners, we learned that placing appropriate signing for businesses and business districts that are affected by construction projects is crucial. Mn/DOT will review its policies for signing in construction zones to document appropriate signing practices and to determine how to improve its response to requests from small businesses for additional signs.
5. Mn/DOT will regularly evaluate our program to make sure that our small business outreach activities are effective and continue to improve so we can avoid, minimize and mitigate the negative impacts of our projects on businesses.

The recommendations and opportunities identified in this report are well aligned with our increased efforts to include public participation and collaborative solutions not only in the project development and construction processes, but throughout the department.

If you have any questions or comments about the attached report, please contact Tom O'Keefe, Mn/DOT Metro District Program Delivery Director and Chair of the Advisory Committee at 651 234-7725. If you have questions about the implementation or ongoing support for the recommendations, please contact Michael Barnes, Mn/DOT Division Director of Engineering Services at 651 366-4825.

Sincerely,



Thomas K. Sorel
Commissioner

Attachment

cc: Peter Wattson, Secretary of the Senate
Albin A. Mathiowetz, Chief Clerk of the House
Legislative Reference Library
Senator Patricia Torres Ray
Billie Ball, Division Administrator
Abbey Mahin, Committee Administrator
Brian Martinson, Committee Administrator
Cap O'Rourke, Committee Administrator
Kerry Kinney Fine, Committee Administrator

Bcc. Betsy
Scott
Erik
Liz
Khani
Tom O'Keefe
All DEs
All Division Directors
Kevin Gutknecht