



2522 Thomas Ave. S.  
Minneapolis, MN 55405  
(612) 235-6028  
(866) 925-8459  
[www.tennesseanlaw.com](http://www.tennesseanlaw.com)

## MEMORANDUM

TO: The I-35W Solutions Alliance Board of Directors

FROM: Robert J. Tennesen

RE: Legislative Report

DATE: October 11, 2012

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### Legislature

No activity at the legislature.

### Candidate Forums

The Bloomington forum went well with 8 candidates participating. We currently have 3 candidates participating in the Richfield forum on Oct. 10, and 13 candidates participating in the Burnsville forum on Oct. 17.

Lori Sturdevant will be moderating the Richfield forum and we are looking for a moderator for the Burnsville forum.

The forums will be shown on local access cable channels in the surrounding communities up until the election. We are also working with John Quincy and Bufflehead to get them uploaded to the internet with a link at The I-35W Solutions Alliance website.

### The Transportation Finance Advisory Committee (TFAC)

The committee met on September 24. They heard stakeholder input from The Transportation Alliance, Minnesota Trucking Association, Transit for Livable Communities, Suburban Transit Assn. and Minnesota Public Transit Assn.

The focus of the meeting was finding ways to close or move toward closing a projected funding gap between revenues and the desired future for the transportation system in Minnesota for the next 20 years.

Areas being considered:

- Investment opportunities to support Minnesota’s economy and quality of life over the next 20 years
- Potential revenue sources and non-traditional approaches to transportation financing
- Opportunities for public-private partnerships to invest in transportation improvements

Future meetings of the committee will be held on October 15, November 19 and December 7.

## **Lake Street/I-35W**

The City of Minneapolis needed to decide on a plan for the Lake Street/I-35W project or lose \$8.9 million in federal funding. The federal government required a plan for the earmarked funds by Oct. 1 and the funds must be obligated by Dec. 31. The City is partnering with Hennepin County, MnDOT and Metro Transit on the project.

The plan includes a large new in-line transit facility (three times bigger than the existing 46<sup>th</sup> Street station) and a new “green crescent” trail between the Midtown Greenway and the new station. Those components are expected to cost \$43 million. Other improvements include four new bridges between 28<sup>th</sup> Street and 31<sup>st</sup> Street and a southbound exit from I-35W to Lake Street. A northbound entrance to I-35W from Lake Street, projected to cost \$37 million, was eliminated.

Only about \$50 million in funding has been identified, leaving a need to find another \$64 million.

## **Southwest Corridor LRT**

The Obama Administration is expediting Southwest Corridor LRT transit between downtown Minneapolis and Eden Prairie. The project is included as part of the We Can’t Wait Initiative President Obama created by executive order earlier this year.

The Federal Transit Administration will pay for 50% of the \$1.25 billion project. Governor Dayton awarded \$2 million to the project from a pool of funds in the bonding bill for infrastructure projects to keep the project eligible for federal funding.