



2522 Thomas Avenue S.
Minneapolis, MN 55405
(612) 235-6028
(866) 925-8459
www.tennesseanlaw.com

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: R J Tennessen

RE: September Legislative Report

DATE: September 11, 2014

Legislative Candidate Forums

Planning for the legislative candidate forums on October 1 and October 8 is progressing. Unfortunately the gubernatorial candidates have scheduled debates for the same evenings. One of the reporter-moderators we have used in the past has to cover the gubernatorial debates and as of now the other is doubtful so I am seeking replacements.

Legislature

The Transportation Committees of the House and Senate, and the House Commerce Committee will meet on September 30 at 10 AM in room 5 of the State Office Building to hear testimony on freight and passenger service, rail congestion, and safety.

Members of the House of Representatives are focusing on their campaigns.

Metropolitan Council

The 2040 draft Transportation Policy Plan is available for comment.

<http://www.metrocouncil.org/Transportation/Planning/Transportation-Policy-Plan/2040-Transportation-Policy-Plan/2040-TPP-Public-Comment-Draft.aspx>

The Minneapolis City Council was the last municipality on the SWLRT line to give municipal consent on August 29. That was promptly followed by a lawsuit in federal court by some residents in Kenwood Corridor neighborhood to block the project.

MnDot

On September 5 MnDot announced that it is seeking recommendations for road and bridge projects that will be funded under the Corridors of Commerce program.

Corridors of Commerce funds projects to support economic growth through targeted regional investments that help improve the movement of freight and reduce barriers to commerce. The 2014 legislation made available up to \$25 million for use in 2015. The primary intent of this funding is to prepare eligible projects for future years should additional funding become available

The 2015 funding can be used for right of way acquisition, environmental study work and preliminary engineering, as well as other project costs. MnDOT will collect project recommendations during the **next two weeks** and will announce the selected projects in October.

Move Mn

Move Mn continues to expand its coalition and is engaged in a statewide outreach program to explain the need for capital investment in our transportation system.