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From: "Tiffany Melvin" <tiffany@nascocorridor.com>
To: Henkel, Tim
CC: Freese, Lisa; Selness, Cecil
Date: 8/10/2007 2:14 PM
Subject: RE: MinnDOT speaker at Conference

I COMPLETELY understand. I HOPE HOPE HOPE you don't feel I was being insensitive to the situation up there. So many people are watching what is going on and thinking of / praying for you guys - we just thought it might be a worthwhile discussion. Please know I meant no disrespect for the horrible tragedy you guys are dealing with. It is just so frustrating that this had to happen and that our country can't get it's act together BEFORE a crisis, instead of waiting for the crisis to happen. I apologize if I appeared insensitive or disrespectful. I have been praying for you guys up there every night and you have my deepest sympathy. I wasn't trying to capitalize on anything, just have a discussion that I think is the most important for our nation's future - the need for funding our existing infrastructure to maintain and improve it.

Good luck with everything and we'll talk soon.

Tiffany

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-----Original Message-----

From: Tim Henkel [mailto:Tim.Henkel@dot.state.mn.us]
Sent: Friday, August 10, 2007 1:41 PM
To: tiffany@nascocorridor.com
Cc: Cecil Selness; Lisa Freese

Subject: Re: MinnDOT speaker at Conference

Tiffany,

I have considered your request to speak at the North America Works Conference on October 19th in Kansas City? We are currently in the midst of recovery efforts and we need more time to consider a request of this nature. Given the timing of your request, immediate priorities, and the need for more time for respond, I need to pass on this near-term presentation opportunity.

We very much appreciate your words of support. Cecil and I look forward to seeing the draft statement that you want us to review.

Sincerely, Tim

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>>> "Tiffany Melvin" <tiffany@nascocorridor.com> 8/10/2007 11:50:26 AM

>>> >>>

Tim,

Have you had a chance to put any thought into someone from MinnDOT (you? Cecil? Anyone else?) speaking at the North America Works Conference on October 19th in Kansas City? I know how incredibly busy you must be. We are trying to firm up the panels. We have a conference call Monday on the issue, so I thought I would check in with you. The planning committee thinks this would be a very timely topic because it is local, but also a national issue because it is something that could happen anywhere in the nation due to the critical state of our nation's infrastructure. Since the issue of increasing funding to our existing, deteriorating transportation infrastructure is an issue NASCO has been working on for 13 years, it is a good topic for one of our conferences and very timely. It is very unfortunate that the great tragedy took place in Minnesota. I do hope this horrible event will serve some positive purpose in the form of increasing awareness of the critical problem and funding to help prevent this type of thing from happening again.

Again, we are all thinking about you during this very sad time, and if there is anything we can do, please let us know. We are drafting a statement that

I want you and Cecil to look at. We are not going to send it to anyone or put it on our website until and unless it has your full approval. We will get it to both of you as soon as possible.

Please let me know about speaking at the conference when you have a chance. I certainly realize it is not at the top of your list of priorities. :)

Take care,
Tiffany

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