

From: Rick Arnebeck
To: Brad Larsen; Cecil Selness
Date: 12/7/2006 10:55:00 AM
Subject: Re: Fwd: update

Brad,CecilI discussed this with Doug this morning....we agreed it would be best that I would serve as the member to be on the Executive committee and accept the NASCO Secretary position (5016C board)Cecil should serve on the other committee for starters....once we get involved, we can determine if he would want to appoint someone to replace him.....rick

Rick Arnebeck
Division Director - OST
651-296-1615
Mn/DOT, St Paul

>>> Brad Larsen 12/6/2006 1:50 PM >>>

Rick and Cecil - see the following email, we should decide soon who will be the board members and call Tiffany to discuss. I think I recommended that Rick be the 501C3 Board member (this Board deals with managing the NAFTRACS Freight ITS project and the earmark funding for that project) and that Cecil or someone from his office be the 501C6 Board member (this is the main board of NASCO). Being on the Executive Committee of the main Board would probably be a good thing for MN, but could involve some additional work. Let me know what you think and I can set up the call.

>>> "Tiffany Melvin" <tiffany@nascocorridor.com> 12/6/2006 1:22 PM >>>

Hi, guys!

We had an Executive Officers conference call today. Our current Secretary of NASCO, State Senator Debbe Leftwich of Oklahoma (Executive Officer) had to step down for reasons unrelated to NASCO. So, we have an opening for an Executive Officer, and we would like to offer it to the 501C6 Board member from Minnesota! Do you have any updates on who will be serving on the 501C6 and who will be serving on the 501C3? The 501C6 person would have the opportunity to be the Secretary of NASCO and immediately begin serving on the Executive Committee. We would love to have Minnesota represented on the EC.

Please let me know as soon as possible. I hope all is well and you are both having a happy holiday season!

Tiffany

Tiffany Melvin

Executive Director

North America's SuperCorridor Coalition, Inc.

901 Main Street, Suite 4400

Dallas, Texas 75202

(214)744-1042 Telephone

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CC: John Tompkins; William Gardner

Brad

Larsen's

emails

for

Nathan

From: Elizabeth Hartmann
To: Brad Larsen
Date: Fri, Feb 17, 2006 12:13 PM
Subject: Fwd: Re: Request for list of needed projects NASCO

In response to your email query...see attached:

Does anyone know what happens to this list now that it has been sent to NASCO?

>>> Elizabeth Hartmann 02/17/06 11:04 AM >>>
Good morning gentleman!

I understand that what we shared with NASCO has not reached you yet. Here is a copy of what was sent to NASCO yesterday a.m. A hard copy should arrive soon.

Thanks,
Liz

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

From: "Elizabeth Hartmann" <elizabeth.hartmann@dot.state.mn.us>
To: <rachel@nascocorridor.com>
Cc: "Robert Hofstad" <bob.hofstad@dot.state.mn.us>; "Elizabeth Hartmann" <elizabeth.hartmann@dot.state.mn.us>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2006 9:00 AM
Subject: Request for list of needed projects

Hi Rachel,

Please find enclosed a copy of the cover letter, and an excel file of the projects faxed to you earlier today. Let me know if you have further questions, or difficulties with the file.

Liz Hartmann

Liz Hartmann, Ph.D.
Research Analysis Specialist
MNDOT:Office of Investment Management
395 John Ireland Blvd, MS # 440
St. Paul, MN 55155-4425
651-205-4425 (phone)
651-296-3019 (Fax)
elizabeth.hartmann@dot.state.mn.us

CC: Abigail McKenzie; Elizabeth Hartmann; Randy Halvorson; Robert Hofstad

From: "Rachel Edwards" <rachel@nascocorridor.com>
To: "Elizabeth Hartmann" <elizabeth.hartmann@dot.state.mn.us>
Date: Thu, Feb 16, 2006 10:08 AM
Subject: Re: Request for list of needed projects

Hi Liz,

I received both your e-mail and the fax. Thank you very much! I-35 & I-94 are the backbones of our corridor coalition. Historically, Minnesota hasn't been too involved with NASCO, but we would like to change that. Tiffany Melvin, NASCO Executive Director, will be in MN March 2 & 3 having private sector meetings and speaking at a conference. Time permitting, I'd love to have her meet with someone from MNDOT to brief them on NASCO and discuss a working relationship. Who would you suggest I contact about this? Your help would be greatly appreciated.

-Rachel

Rachel L. Edwards
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Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2006 9:00 AM
Subject: Request for list of needed projects

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Liz Hartmann

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St. Paul, MN 55155-4425
651-205-4425 (phone)
651-296-3019 (Fax)
elizabeth.hartmann@dot.state.mn.us

"Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut that held its ground."

From: Robert Gale
To: Larsen, Brad
Date: Tue, Mar 7, 2006 10:42 AM
Subject: Re: NASCO

Brad,

I cannot come up with any tangible benefits for Mn/DOT membership in this organization. We were "members" a number of years ago and I can't say we derived any benefits from that prior association. As I understand this, NASCO has designation as a "National Network of Significance" which purportedly gives it some leverage in obtaining federal project dollars. The problem is that there are a whole host of other corridors who have the same status with FHWA. Also, I am not aware of any projects along the corridor that received federal funding through this other than a corridor study that was done.

Here are some maps that give a picture of the truck volumes involved (unfortunately the latest I could get are 1998 vintage):

http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/freight/freight_analysis/state_info/minnesota/truckflow_mn.htm

http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/freight/freight_analysis/state_info/texas/pb_laredo.htm

We are not a "player" in this market when compared to our major domestic markets as you can see from the maps. Also, this information does not include rail and water volumes between Minnesota and Mexico which would likely play out to be much more than what you see for truck since, for the long distances involved, rail or water would be the favored mode(s). Nor have we received input from our customers looking for help with accessing the Mexican market via truck/highway.

I do not see that Mn/DOT has much, if anything, to gain by giving these people \$50,000 or \$25,000 or anything for that matter. Of course, if past is prologue, this group can be very effective in lobbying on the political side in states for funding for their organization which can change the whole complexion of the discussion.

I would say we should save the state's money for more worthwhile endeavors than this group has to offer.

Bob Gale

>>> Brad Larsen 03/07/06 9:25 AM >>>

Bob - I heard that you talked to Tiffany Melvin with NASCO. They want MN to join - the membership fee is \$50,000/yr. (and possibly MN could get by with \$25,000/yr.). What do you think? What are the potential benefits of being a NASCO member?

I'm going to send this information to Randy to see how he wants to proceed.

CC: Gardner, William

From: Brad Larsen
To: Halvorson, Randy; McKenzie, Abigail
Date: Thu, Mar 9, 2006 10:02 AM
Subject: NASCO

Last week I met with Tiffany Melvin, the Executive Director of NASCO (North America's Super Corridor Coalition). They would like MN to join the coalition. The membership fee is \$50,000/yr., but she said we could join for \$25,000/yr. She gave me a brief sales pitch.

NASCO has been in existence for 10 years - it's a non-profit organization based in Dallas, Texas, dedicated to developing the world's first international, integrated and secure, multi-modal transportation system along the International Mid-Continent Trade Corridor to improve both the trade competitiveness and quality of life in North America.

The NASCO Corridor encompasses Interstate Highways 35, 29 and 94, and the significant connectors to those highways in the United States, Canada and Mexico. The Corridor directly impacts the continental trade flow of North America. Membership includes public and private sector entities along the Corridor in Canada, the United States and Mexico.

More information can be found at www.nascocorridor.com
I also have a packet of information if you would like to see it.

I'm contacting some of the other states for their view on the value of being a NASCO Member. The states I'm contacting include Iowa (a strong supporter), Texas (who recently joined), and Kansas (not a member). I'll let you know what I find out.

Tiffany Melvin explained that along with a membership, MN would get two spots on the managing board. She also said the real value of being a member is the multiple opportunities MN would have to talk to other members about improving the movement of goods and people along this corridor. There is going to be an international NASCO conference in Winnipeg in June (Hemisperia 2006) that she encouraged we attend. She is also trying to get numerous MN businesses to join such as Cargill, and possibly other entities such as CTS and the Humphrey Institute.

NASCO also appears to be a fairly effective Congressional lobbying organization. Tiffany Melvin said they were instrumental in getting the new National Corridor and Coordinated Borders programs established under SAFETEA-LU.

I also talked to Bob Gale in the Freight Office. He indicated that Mn/DOT was a member several years ago and didn't derive much benefit from the membership. He added that Mn doesn't see the freight volumes in this corridor like other states see. Nor has the freight office received requests from its customers looking for help with accessing the Mexican market via truck/hwy.

Once again, I'll let you know what I hear from other states. From the material I've reviewed, I think there could be some potential value for MN, particularly given the potential for ethanol to become big business. However, to realize the value, MN's governmental participation would likely need to be broader than just Mn/DOT - it seems like it should include participation from DEED, maybe the Governor's office, and maybe even the legislative branch (I think Iowa includes a state legislature as one of its NASCO reps.)

Let me know if you have any initial thoughts. Tiffany Melvin is willing to come talk to senior staff at Mn/DOT and/or other agencies.

CC: Gale, Robert

From: "Franklin, Dan [DOT]" <Dan.Franklin@dot.iowa.gov>
To: "Brad Larsen" <Brad.Larsen@dot.state.mn.us>
Date: Wed, May 3, 2006 11:05 AM
Subject: RE: NASCO

Brad,

Dale Vander Schaaf, in this office is on the NASCO Board and he will be able to give you the complete "sales pitch". Iowa has been involved from the beginning, with the early study of the I-35 Corridor. However, I just realized that I don't have your phone number....

Dan

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

From: Brad Larsen [mailto:Brad.Larsen@dot.state.mn.us]
Sent: Wednesday, May 03, 2006 10:15 AM
To: Franklin, Dan [DOT]
Subject: NASCO

Dan - do you know anything about Iowa's membership in the North American Super Corridor Coalition? The organization is trying to get Mn/DOT to join, and I'm trying to assemble a list of potential benefits from such a membership.

CC: "Vander Schaaf, Dale [DOT]" <Dale.VanderSchaaf@dot.iowa.gov>

From: "Tony Lorusso" <Tony.Lorusso@state.mn.us>
To: "Bob Isaacson" <Bob.Isaacson@state.mn.us>
Date: Tue, May 30, 2006 2:53 PM
Subject: Re: NASCO and MNDOT

Bob:

I'm forwarding your email to Barbara Mattson, our international trade rep for NAFTA, and am asking her to call Brad. I quickly scanned the website and my initial thought is why does there need to be an organization to facilitate the development of a corridor that essentially already exists. I'm not sure what the NASCO will do that market forces aren't already taking care of. But maybe I'm missing something in my cursory review and Barb can offer a more detailed perspective.

Tony

Tony Lorusso
 Director, Minnesota Trade Office
 Department of Employment & Economic Development
 First National Bank Building
 332 Minnesota Street, Suite E200
 St. Paul, MN 55101 USA
 Tel (651) 297-4657
 Fax (651) 296-3555
 Email: tony.lorusso@state.mn.us

 Visit our website at www.exportminnesota.com

>>> Bob Isaacson 5/23/2006 9:45 AM >>>
 Tony -

Brad Larsen of MnDOT called and is interesting in knowing DEED's perspective about MnDOT joining NASCO - North America's SuperCorridor Coalition, Inc.

<http://www.nascocorridor.com/pages/about/about.htm>

Since NASCO is so much about improving trade competitiveness, could you or someone on your staff give Brad a call? His number is 282-2170.
 Thanks

Bob

Bob Isaacson
 Director, Analysis and Evaluation
 MN Dept. of Employment and Economic Development
 332 Minnesota Street, Suite E200
 St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-1351

651-297-3615 (v)
Bob.Isaacson@state.mn.us
www.positivelyminnesota.com (home page)
www.MinnStats.org (statistics)
www.BizLinks.org (tax and regulatory info)

CC: "Barbara Mattson" <Barbara.Mattson@state.mn.us>, <Brad.Larsen@state.mn.us>

From: Brad Larsen
To: tmelvin@nascocorridor.com
Date: Mon, Jun 19, 2006 10:41 AM
Subject: NASCO

Tiffany - thank you again for all the hospitality in Winnipeg. It was an outstanding conference, and I've been letting everyone know about its diverse attendance and unique (critically important) perspective.

I am in the process of presenting the potential benefits of NASCO Membership to top staff in MN, and have a couple questions. Two key measures that are used by our Governor's office in evaluating membership in organizations are:

- 1) grant \$'s that will come to MN as a direct result of membership, and
- 2) technical assistance (staff time) that will be provided to MN

I know these are tough questions to answer, but do you have any suggestions on how to respond to them?

Also, I was wondering whether NASCO is pushing to have the I-35 corridor designated as a "Corridor of the Future" under USDOT's recent National Strategy to Reduce Congestion?

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651/282-2170
FAX 651/282-2656
E-MAIL brad.larsen@dot.state.mn.us

From: Brad Larsen
To: Bray, John
Date: Tue, Jun 20, 2006 8:13 AM
Subject: Fwd: Daily Media Report

John - the attached caught my eye - NASCO is currently trying to get Mn/DOT to join their organization. Their main goal is to improve the flow of goods and people via highways, rail, water and air through the center of North America. I-35 is generally used as the symbol for this central corridor, but it is really several hundred miles wide. NASCO does not have any plans to extend the future Texas Turnpike to Duluth, nor do I think there is any clandestine attempt to develop a North American Union without public input.

If anything there is probably a lack of leadership. Everything I've been reading and hearing these days (some of which has come from Congressman Oberstar) is about the impending shift of economic power from the US to China/Asia and the European Union. If efforts aren't made now to make the US more competitive, the shift is probably going to take place and our standard of living is going to significantly decrease. One of the best ways (and maybe the only way) to compete in the future is to turn North America into an effective trading block. With Canada's natural resources, Mexico's cheap labor, and the US' manufacturing and production, the continent has the basic components to stay on top. However, without the leadership, it won't happen.

From: Donna Lindberg
To: Daily Media Report; MEDIA REPORT
Date: Mon, Jun 19, 2006 5:10 PM
Subject: Daily Media Report

An additional item for today:

Special Assistant to the District Engineer for Mn/DOT District 1, John Bray, was interviewed today by Matt Smith, KBJR-TV and Danielle Kaeding, Wisconsin Public Radio (KUWS-FM), regarding an e-zine story on the "Human Events Online" website titled "Bush Administration Quietly Plans FTA Super Highway"
<http://www.humaneventsonline.com/article.php?print=yes&id=15497>

Bray told both reporters that there was no relevance between this story and any Mn/DOT plans, endorsement or involvement and that, this bizarre writing was without realistic substance or merit and that this was the first we have heard of this eccentric suggestion.

Bray also briefed both reporters about the funding difficulties that face Mn/DOT and the agency's hopes that the voters pass the Constitutional Amendment relative to MVST that would help, but not solve, the state's transportation challenges.

From: "Rachel Edwards" <rachel@nascocorridor.com>
To: "Brad Larsen" <Brad.Larsen@dot.state.mn.us>
Date: Fri, Jun 23, 2006 4:20 PM
Subject: NASCO

Leaves

Hi Brad,

Hope all's well in Minnesota. Heard a group from MDOT was in Austin last week, looking at how TxDOT handles public/private partnerships. Were you there? Anyhow, Tiffany was in Kansas City earlier this week with our Executive Officers and they talked about MDOT coming on board. We really want to "complete the puzzle" so to speak, along our corridor with your DOT joining. The officers decided they would reduce your dues to \$15,000. Also, we will be applying for the "Corridors of the Future" program, there are no details on it yet. Our lobbyists are keeping us informed. By the way, loved John Bray's comment in the news this week! Tiffany & I will be out of the office on Monday, but she plans to call you next week. Have a good weekend.

Rachel L. Edwards
Director of Marketing
North America's SuperCorridor Coalition, Inc.
901 Main Street, Suite 4400
Dallas, TX 75202
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214.744.1043 Fax
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CC: "Tiffany Melvin" <tiffany@nascocorridor.com>

From: Brad Larsen
To: Edwards, Rachel
Date: Fri, Jun 23, 2006 4:24 PM
Subject: Re: NASCO

Thanks Rachel for the info. - good timing since I'm meeting with top staff on Monday next week to talk about NASCO. Where did you see comments from John Bray?

>>> "Rachel Edwards" <rachel@nascocorridor.com> 06/23/06 4:13 PM >>>
Leaves

Hi Brad,

Hope all's well in Minnesota. Heard a group from MDOT was in Austin last week, looking at how TxDOT handles public/private partnerships. Were you there? Anyhow, Tiffany was in Kansas City earlier this week with our Executive Officers and they talked about MDOT coming on board. We really want to "complete the puzzle" so to speak, along our corridor with your DOT joining. The officers decided they would reduce your dues to \$15,000. Also, we will be applying for the "Corridors of the Future" program, there are no details on it yet. Our lobbyists are keeping us informed. By the way, loved John Bray's comment in the news this week! Tiffany & I will be out of the office on Monday, but she plans to call you next week. Have a good weekend.

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From: "Tiffany Melvin" <tiffany@nascocorridor.com>
To: "Brad Larsen" <Brad.Larsen@dot.state.mn.us>, <rachel@nascocorridor.com>
Date: Fri, Jun 30, 2006 2:02 PM
Subject: RE: NASCO

Sorry I missed you earlier. We have been out all day.

A couple of comments....

Oklahoma DOT is a member of NASCO, so you can add that to your list of DOTs that are involved. If you get any questions, you can also point out that there are not many miles of I-35 in Kansas or Missouri, but we have a good relationship with them.

On our mission, sometimes it is helpful to point out that we are coordinating the development - I don't want MinnDOT to think we are doing anything on your turf. :) We work WITH the DOTs and other agencies along the corridor to promote YOUR priority projects.

The Executive Officers made a special exception to reduce the dues because we really want to have you at the table. Connect the DOTS!! :)

We are going to move forward with the 501C3 for our federal funding and grants. So, MN would have one rep on the Board of the new, 501C3, which will govern the administration of our federal funding, etc. We are keeping that Board very, very small.

We are starting an educational consortium along the corridor to coordinate research efforts and share info along the corridor. Also to eliminate duplications among Universities along the corridor (ie-duplicate research projects). Right off the bat we would want to include Univ. of Minnesota and other educational institutions you recommend.

I left you a message. I know you are out for the rest of today. I will be out Monday and Tuesday. Then in on Wednesday. Out the rest of the week to Mexico. We have huge stuff going on in Mexico, too. Very positive. And great contacts fro the states along our corridor.

In light of the "Corridors of the Future" USDOT initiative, it is more important than ever before for the states along our Corridor to ban together for future projects.

I hope these comments are helpful and I look forward to speaking with you on Wednesday.

Thanks and Happy 4th of July!!

Tiffany

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

From: Brad Larsen [mailto:Brad.Larsen@dot.state.mn.us]
Sent: Thursday, June 29, 2006 3:34 PM
To: rachel@nascocorridor.com; tiffany@nascocorridor.com
Subject: NASCO

Tiffany & Rachel - please take a look at the attached memo I'm drafting to support MN's membership in NASCO - please let me know if you have any revisions or suggestions.

Also, we were wondering how many staff NASCO has and briefly what there main responsibilities are.

Bradley J. Larsen, Federal Relations Manager
Mn/DOT, Office of Government Relations
395 John Ireland Blvd., MS 140
St. Paul, MN 55155
651/282-2170
FAX 651/282-2656
E-MAIL brad.larsen@dot.state.mn.us

From: Brad Larsen
To: Melvin, Tiffany
Date: Sun, Jul 2, 2006 1:40 PM
Subject: RE: NASCO

Thanks Tiffany - this is very helpful. I'm cautiously optimistic that my efforts will be successful. I'll be back in the office on Thursday - hope you have a great holiday.

>>> "Tiffany Melvin" <tiffany@nascocorridor.com> 06/30/06 1:50 PM >>>
Sorry I missed you earlier. We have been out all day.

A couple of comments....

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Subject: NASCO

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395 John Ireland Blvd., MS 140
St. Paul, MN 55155
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FAX 651/282-2656
E-MAIL brad.larsen@dot.state.mn.us

From: "Tiffany Melvin" <tiffany@nascocorridor.com>
To: "Brad Larsen" <Brad.Larsen@dot.state.mn.us>
Date: Wed, Jul 5, 2006 11:21 AM
Subject: RE: NASCO

I hope it works!! We have so much going on right now and I really want you guys at the table!!

I will be in Mexico on Thursday and Friday. Let's try to talk next week.

Thanks,
Tiffany

Tiffany Melvin
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From: Brad Larsen [mailto:Brad.Larsen@dot.state.mn.us]
Sent: Sunday, July 02, 2006 1:40 PM
To: tiffany@nascocorridor.com
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On our mission, sometimes it is helpful to point out that we are coordinating the development - I don't want MinnDOT to think we are doing anything on your turf. :) We work WITH the DOTs and other agencies along the corridor to promote YOUR priority projects.

The Executive Officers made a special exception to reduce the dues because we really want to have you at the table. Connect the DOTS!! :)

We are going to move forward with the 501C3 for our federal funding and grants. So, MN would have one rep on the Board of the new, 501C3, which will govern the administration of our federal funding, etc. We are keeping that Board very, very small.

We are starting an educational consortium along the corridor to coordinate research efforts and share info along the corridor. Also to eliminate duplications among Universities along the corridor (ie-duplicate research projects). Right off the bat we would want to include Univ. of Minnesota and other educational institutions you recommend.

I left you a message. I know you are out for the rest of today. I will be out Monday and Tuesday. Then in on Wednesday. Out the rest of the week to Mexico. We have huge stuff going on in Mexico, too. Very positive. And great contacts fro the states along our corridor.

In light of the "Corridors of the Future" USDOT initiative, it is more important than ever before for the states along our Corridor to ban together for future projects.

I hope these comments are helpful and I look forward to speaking with you on Wednesday.

Thanks and Happy 4th of July!!

Tiffany

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

From: Brad Larsen [mailto:Brad.Larsen@dot.state.mn.us]
Sent: Thursday, June 29, 2006 3:34 PM

To: rachel@nascocorridor.com; tiffany@nascocorridor.com
Subject: NASCO

Tiffany & Rachel - please take a look at the attached memo I'm drafting to support MN's membership in NASCO - please let me know if you have any revisions or suggestions.

Also, we were wondering how many staff NASCO has and briefly what their main responsibilities are.

Bradley J. Larsen, Federal Relations Manager
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651/282-2170
FAX 651/282-2656
E-MAIL brad.larsen@dot.state.mn.us

From: Cecil Selness
To: Halvorson, Randy; Larsen, Brad
Date: Fri, Jul 7, 2006 2:55 PM
Subject: Draft Memo RE: Potential Benefits of Joining NASCO

Randy and Brad

This group has contacted us several times in the past and we did invite them to come and present to the MFAC. We didn't get any encouragement from the MFAC membership to join the group. It seems that their main focus was on ITS types of projects.

We are presently members of the Upper Midwest freight corridor coalition which includes I 94 and I 90 to Chicago and points east. We are still searching for the benefit of this regional group and are not certain what benefit there may be. Based on the flow of commerce to and from Minnesota I 94 needs to be our priority.

I would be cautious about making commitments of money and staff to this group until we see a tangible benefit to be had.

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>>> Brad Larsen 07/07/06 10:56 AM >>>

Attached for your review is a draft memo on the potential benefits of becoming a member of NASCO - North America's Super Corridor Coalition.

The map and membership list referenced in the memo are not attached, but they can be found at NASCO's website which is referenced in the memo.

You'll note at the end of the memo, I have a section for other opinions and recommendations. **Please send me any opinions or recommendations that you would like included in the memo by July 20, 2006.** I plan to present this memo to Mn/DOT's Division Directors on July 25th.

Thank you, and let me know if you have any questions or comments.

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