



For Immediate Release: May 21, 2013

Contact: Amanda Duerr  
[acduerr@flaherty-hood.com](mailto:acduerr@flaherty-hood.com)  
Cell: 651-208-2815  
Office: 651-259-1928

### **PARTNERSHIP PLEASED WITH “CORRIDORS OF COMMERCE” FUNDING**

A top priority of the U.S. Highway 14 Partnership—funding for the “Corridors of Commerce” program—was included in the transportation budget passed by the Legislature. \$300 million in Trunk Highway bonds were authorized to fund this new program, which aims to complete the missing links and build capacity on Minnesota’s highway corridors.

Corridors of Commerce is set up as a competitive grant program, where eligible projects will be annually selected by MnDOT. Based on the established criteria, Highway 14 would be a strong competitor for program funding.

“The Highway 14 Partnership is pleased that the Legislature recognized that there are many long-overdue corridor projects throughout the state and developed a program to begin to address these needs,” said Les Abraham, President of the U.S. Highway 14 Partnership. “The Corridors of Commerce program provides a real opportunity to make progress on Highway 14.”

Local government and business members of the Partnership made a strong case for Highway 14 during the 2013 Legislative Session: testifying on the highway’s safety concerns and economic development needs in four separate legislative committee hearings, attending transportation rallies and community meetings, and contacting legislators and the Governor to support Highway 14.

“Our advocacy efforts were successful,” stated Abraham. “We made a strong case for why completing Highway 14 needs to be a priority, both in terms of improving safety and meeting the needs of our regional businesses. In a way, “Highway 14” became a buzzword at the Capitol and was cited by legislators from across the state as a reason why Minnesota needs to invest in transportation.”

Though many legislators strongly advocated for providing additional resources to support Minnesota’s transportation infrastructure, legislative leadership and Governor Dayton ultimately agreed that no new transportation revenue would be raised in 2013. Governor Dayton has expressed his desire to build public support for increased transportation funding in the coming year and advance a comprehensive investment package in 2014.

“The Partnership knows that additional resources will be needed to complete Highway 14’s full expansion,” said Abraham. “We will continue our advocacy efforts until we have a four-lane corridor from Rochester to New Ulm.”

###