

U.S. Highway 14 Partnership looking to increase state transportation funding

By ASHLEY STEWART astewart@owatonna.com | Posted: Wednesday, February 5, 2014 5:15 pm

OWATONNA — The U.S. Highway 14 Partnership will be looking to the state Legislature this year for additional transportation funding.

In November, Gov. Mark Dayton and the MnDOT Commissioner Charlie Zelle announced that the expansion of Highway 14 east of Owatonna as well as an expansion from North Mankato to Nicollet and a Nicollet bypass are on a list of 10 projects being funded by the “Corridors of Commerce” program that includes \$300 million in trunk highway bonds, which aim to complete the missing links and build capacity on Minnesota’s highway corridors.

And this legislative session, which starts on Feb. 25, the partnership will be looking for more.

At the annual partnership meeting Wednesday morning at the Owatonna Arts Center, Amanda Duerr, a representative for the U.S. Highway 14 Partnership, told members that this year’s motto is “14 in ’14.”

“We want to keep building on the momentum from Corridors of Commerce and expand Highway 14 to the left and to the right,” Duerr said.

Duerr also said it is important that the partnership increase “public pressure” on state officials to increase transportation funding, which will be done through various resources and visits to the Minnesota State Capitol.

During the meeting, New Ulm Mayor Bob Beussman was elected president of the Highway 14 Partnership.

Beussman has been an active member of the partnership since he was elected mayor in 2010 and served as vice president last year.

Beussman is replacing Owatonna council member Les Abraham, who served as president for the last three years.

“My commitment hasn’t wavered and it won’t now,” Abraham said.

Dodge County Commissioner Steve Gray was elected as the partnership’s vice president.

For more information about the Highway 14 Partnership, call Amanda Duerr at 651-225-8840 or acduerr@flaherty-hood.com.

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