Welcome and Introductions – Nancy Richardson, Mississippi Valley Conference President

The following CEOs or representatives were present:

Nancy Richardson, Director, Iowa DOT
Kirk Steudle, Director, Michigan DOT
Pete Rahn, Director, Missouri DOT
Frank Busalacchi, Secretary, Wisconsin DOT
Tom Sorel, Commissioner, Minnesota DOT
Jolene Molitoris, Director, Ohio DOT
Deb Miller, Secretary, Kansas DOT
Christine Reed, Chief Engineer, Illinois DOT

Also attending were:

Khani Sahebjam, Minnesota DOT
Kyle Schneweis, Kansas DOT
Susan Mortel, Michigan DOT
Beth Nachreiner, Wisconsin DOT
Serge Phillips, Minnesota DOT
Dan Franklin, Iowa DOT
Janet Oakley, AASHTO

Secretary / Treasurer Report

Secretary’s Report – The minutes of the July 16 meeting of the Board of Directors were amended (clerical error) and approved.

Treasurer’s Report – Dan Franklin, reviewed a preliminary financial report from the 2009 annual meeting. Motion was made, seconded and approved to provide Ohio DOT, $25,000 as initial funding for planning the 2011 meeting. The remaining balance will be forwarded to Iowa DOT for the 2010 meeting.

An audit committee was established consisting of representatives from Iowa (Tom Devine), Michigan (Leon Hank) and Wisconsin (Beth Nachreiner).

Meeting Location for 2012 MVC Annual Meeting

Director Steudle will send a note to all MVC states requesting that they consider hosting the 2012 Mississippi Valley Conference Annual Meeting.

Reauthorization Resolution – Director Pete Rahn

A resolution was discussed at the Board of Director’s meeting in July which expressed opposition to the Surface Transportation Assistance Act (STAA) as reported by the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. The resolution was withdrawn with the intention of bringing a revised resolution back to the MVC Board at a meeting held during the AASHTO Annual Meeting.

Director Rahn distributed an alternative resolution which identified some of the concerns with the STAA but in a more positive and constructive way. During the discussion concern was expressed that the resolution refers to potential funding impacts and identifies a shift of funds from urban areas
to rural areas even though a finance title has not been released. In addition, there is a difference in how states share funding between their rural and urban areas and the impacts will vary.

While some believe it is important to identify that the states have a number of concerns with the STAA, there was also considerable concern over passing a resolution while there is direct dialogue between the Chairman and the states. There are meetings underway to identify and work on the differences. Concern was expressed that we could jeopardize our relationship with the T&I Chair with a resolution. There was the belief by some that the chair needs to hear a strong message with our concerns over the lack of a bill or a long-term extension and its impact on our improvement program.

After considerable discussion, Director Richardson indicated that there did not appear to be enough votes to adopt a resolution on the authorization. The resolution was withdrawn.

Mississippi Valley Freight Coalition Reauthorization Position Paper –
Beth Nachreiner reviewed the attached “freight paper” prepared by the Strategic Transportation Issues Committee (STIC).

In Grand Rapids, the Mississippi Valley Conference Freight Coalition (MVCFC) presented a report and discussion of freight issues likely to be incorporated in the upcoming reauthorization legislation. The Board asked the STIC to review the document and report back to the Board. Events such as the Recovery Act has consumed the time of the STIC members since Grand Rapids so a thorough review of the document was not completed.

However the STIC felt that in the interim, the Board would benefit from a review of the freight issues found in the STAA, the only reauthorization proposal currently released.

After discussion, the Board agreed that there is a need for a factual review of the STAA on other issues beyond the freight paper. There are many opinions on how the bill will impact various issues but nothing to identify specifically what the bill says. There was support among the Board members for developing a series of papers, similar to the format used for the freight paper, which would identify how the T&I Committee proposal addressed that specific issue.

The Board passed the following motion:
The Strategic Transportation Issues Committee (STIC) will by December 1 identify the significant authorization issues that the Board of Directors (Board) should consider for further review and analysis by STIC. The Board will select those issues and direct the STIC to prepare papers which identify how the issue is addressed in the STAA. The paper will also identify questions, issues to consider and any next steps.

Preview of 2010 Meeting, Des Moines, Iowa July 6 – 9, 2010
Director Richardson provided an update on the plans for the 2010 Annual meeting and also asked if there was interest in identifying various financial options for the states to pay for meeting attendance, such as the use of federal training funds. Iowa will look into options.

Information on 2011 Meeting, Columbus Ohio
Director Molitoris reported that she has been in contact with Commissioner Sorel and they will be coordinating activities for the meeting. It was identified that this will be the first time since we began rotating the meeting location that the meeting location will not be in the same state as the President. Various scenarios for the “division of responsibilities” were discussed but there was
agreement that other than establishing the theme, the host state would be responsible for the annual
meeting including the meeting logistics, agenda, speakers and events. There was also recognition
that the host state would coordinate and work with the president’s state as appropriate.

It was mentioned that in accordance with Board direction, $25,000 would be forwarded to Ohio in
advance of the 2011 meeting to help with those expenses that come due prior to the meeting.

Mississippi Valley Conference Logo
Nancy brought up the issue of establishing a MVC Logo that can be used from year to year. This
MVC logo would not take the place of the logos that are created by the host state for the annual
meeting. Some examples were provided.

The discussion of the logo led to a discussion of our name – the Mississippi Valley Conference of
State Highway and Transportation Officials and whether we should consider renaming our
conference. Over the next few months, the Board will explore options for renaming the conference.

Other business
The Mississippi Valley Conference Freight Coalition was established to focus on regional freight
issues. The National Center for Freight and Infrastructure Research and Education (CFIRE) at the
University of Wisconsin at Madison it providing support for this effort. Cecil Selness of the
Minnesota DOT has been the MVC representative on the CFIRE Executive Committee. Cecil has
since retired and Leon Hank of the Michigan DOT was appointed by the Board to fill that position
for a term of two years.

No other business was brought to the Board and the meeting was adjourned.