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State Rep. John Petersburg receives CGMC Legislator of Distinction Award

ST. PAUL—State Rep. John Petersburg was recognized by the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities (CGMC) Aug. 3 during the Coalition’s three-day summer conference in Fergus Falls for his positive impact on transportation policy in Greater Minnesota.

Rep. Petersburg, a Republican from Waseca, is serving his third term in the Minnesota House. The Legislator of Distinction Award is given to legislators who played key roles in advancing CGMC’s policy during the preceding session.

Rep. Petersburg, who serves as vice chair of the House Transportation Finance Committee, was the chief author of CGMC-supported legislation to increase funding for Corridors of Commerce, a key program designed to improve the state’s transportation system by reducing bottlenecks and barriers to growth. As the transportation bill was being shaped, Rep. Petersburg was instrumental in ensuring that it included cash for Corridors of Commerce — as opposed to bonding funds only — which is needed to cover planning, development and land acquisition costs associated with new projects. The final transportation bill included \$300 million in trunk highway bonds and \$25 million a year in ongoing cash funding for the program.

“As any city leader will tell you, transportation repairs and upgrades are one of the Greater Minnesota’s biggest needs,” said Sara Carlson, mayor of Alexandria and president of the CGMC. “Thanks to Rep. Petersburg’s efforts, more funding will be available to make our state’s highways safer and better for commerce.”

CGMC is a nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy organization representing 90 cities outside of the Twin Cities metropolitan area. The Coalition educates legislators about issues important to Greater Minnesota.

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