

For Immediate Release

March 30, 2010

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U.S. Cities Celebrate Transportation Innovation in Film Series - Minneapolis Joins Association of Big-City Transportation Officials -

The National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) today announced that innovative transportation projects have taken hold in big cities across the nation, and are documented in a new series of high-energy films highlighting projects in seven cities from coast to coast. The films were released at a special screening hosted by Rep. Jim Oberstar (D-MN), Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak, to celebrate the city's new membership in the transportation group.

The seven films showcase bold projects from Chicago, Los Angeles, Phoenix and other cities that make streets safer, more welcoming and balanced among a wide variety of uses. The films provide a compelling narrative of cities' leadership in transportation policy innovation in the United States. They are now available on-line at www.NACTO.org.

“Cities like Minneapolis are rethinking the way people get around, combining bike paths and pedestrian trails with new transit options,” said Chairman Oberstar of the House Transportation and Infrastructure committee, who joined the organization in promoting the new videos. “Projects like these are cutting down on congestion; reducing pollution and helping people live more active and healthy lives.”

“The exciting and forward-looking advances — led by President Obama, Secretary LaHood and Chairman Oberstar — that are taking place in transportation policy at the federal level make today the perfect time for Minneapolis to join NACTO,” said Mayor R.T. Rybak. “We’ve made huge strides in creating a more livable Twin Cities in the last few years, and NACTO will help us spread the word about what these types of projects can do for people, the economy and for traffic safety, as well as to lobby for even more positive change.”

Mayor Rybak highlighted several innovative projects recently completed or underway in Minneapolis, including an upcoming application for a federal grant for streetcar development, the recent completion of the “Marq2” project which significantly expanded bus capacity in downtown Minneapolis and sets the stage for bus rapid transit along the I-35W corridor, and the upcoming June start of bike share in three Minneapolis neighborhoods, including downtown.

“Every city has a story to tell,” said Janette Sadik-Khan, New York City Transportation Commissioner and NACTO president. “In today’s busy multimedia world, we feel these

films are a great way to let Congress and the wider world know about the incredible laboratories of transportation innovation that cities are today. I couldn't be more pleased to welcome Minneapolis as our newest member of NACTO. Their investments in public transit, walking and bicycling are what we'd like to see implemented nationally.”

Minneapolis now joins the ranks of NACTO's 14 other member cities, which include Boston, San Francisco, and Houston. NACTO works with decision makers in Washington, D.C. to promote a transportation system that supports efficient modes of travel including public transportation, walking and bicycling. Investments in urban transportation create jobs, encourage development and contribute to national energy independence.

The City of Minneapolis is home to a strong public transportation system with a growing rail component. Recent improvements in public transportation have resulted in rapid growth in commuting by transit. The City also boasts the second-highest rate of bike commuting in the nation, second to Portland. Currently, 60 percent of individuals working in the downtown area currently commute by transit, walking, bicycling or carpooling.

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NACTO is comprised of transportation officials from Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Detroit, Houston, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, New York, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Portland, San Francisco, Seattle, and Washington, D.C. The organization encourages the exchange of transportation ideas, insights and practices among large central cities while fostering a cooperative approach to key national transportation issues.