

**NE MN Area Transportation Partnership (ATP) Meeting Summary  
November 16, 2016 – 10 am-12 pm  
Hermantown Public Safety Building**

***Present***

**Members Present**

Bryan Anderson  
Chris Belden  
Mark Rudningen  
James Newman  
Gary Peterson  
Jarrett Valdez  
Russell Habermann  
Cindy Voigt  
John Welle  
Karin Grandia  
Jim Foldesi  
David Betts  
Earl Elde  
Ron Chicka  
Gary Johnson  
Mark Casey  
Cavour Johnson  
Wade Pavlack  
John Minor  
Rex Bordson  
Bob Manzoline  
Deb Deluca  
Kevin Adee  
Jason Hollinday  
Mike Tardy  
Duane Hill  
Robert Ege  
Nicole George  
John McDonald

**Representing**

MnDOT  
MIC  
MnDNR  
Skelton Township  
Carlton County  
ARDC  
ARDC  
City of Duluth  
Aitkin County  
Itasca County  
St. Louis County  
Cook County  
Midway Township  
MIC  
Blackberry Township  
City of Proctor  
Trails/Bike/Ped Representative  
Koochiching County  
MnDOT D1 State-Aid  
MnDOT D1 State-Aid  
St. Louis & Lake Co. RRA  
Duluth Seaway Port Authority  
Koochiching County  
Fond du Lac Reservation  
Carlton County  
MnDOT  
MnDOT  
MnDOT  
MnDOT

***Committee Business***

- Mike Tardy called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
- Jim Foldesi and Karin Grandia motioned to approve of the April 7<sup>th</sup> meeting summary.
- Wade Pavlack and Cindy Voigt motioned to approve Bill Bennet as the ATP Vice Chair.

***2017-2018 Program Status***

**2017 Local Projects**

- John McDonald reviewed the 2017 local projects that are scheduled for the region. Some highlighted he touched on were:

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- Carlton, St. Louis, and Itasca Counties are working on a rural intersection lighting program in which the project memo was approved.
- The project memo was approved for the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) project in Barnum which includes a sidewalk and crossing improvements along Highway 61.
- The US Forest Service will administer recently awarded Scenic Byway funds for a mitigation and restorative project along the Gunflint Trail.
- Two projects in Itasca County, one which includes the Bigfork Riverwalk Trail were nearly completed with construction.
- St. Louis County has a number of projects including bridgework within the City of Tower; signal work at the intersection of CSAH 7 and US 169 in Mountain Iron; and the completion of Phase 1 reconstruction of CSAH 9 (4<sup>th</sup> Street) in Duluth, as well as other projects.
- Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funds were transferred to the US Forest Service to administer for the Skibo Vista Overlook Site Redesign Project.
- Construction of the MnDNR's Gitchi-Gami State Trail from Cascade River to Grand Marais has been moved to 2019.
- The Grand Rapids Mississippi River Front Ped Bridge was moved to 2018 as some of those funds will be shifted to a project on the North Shore Scenic Drive in Duluth. When Grand Rapids is ready for project delivery in 2018 those funds will be shifted back to the City.
- John stated that there are a couple deadlines to be aware of:
  - Dec 1<sup>st</sup> – Approve project memos
  - April 1<sup>st</sup> – Plan submission
- Mike Tardy confirmed with Commissioner Gary Peterson that a round-a-bout will be constructed in Moose Lake. Duane Hill also informed everyone that round-a-bouts will also be placed in Hibbing and Chisholm.

MnDOT Projects

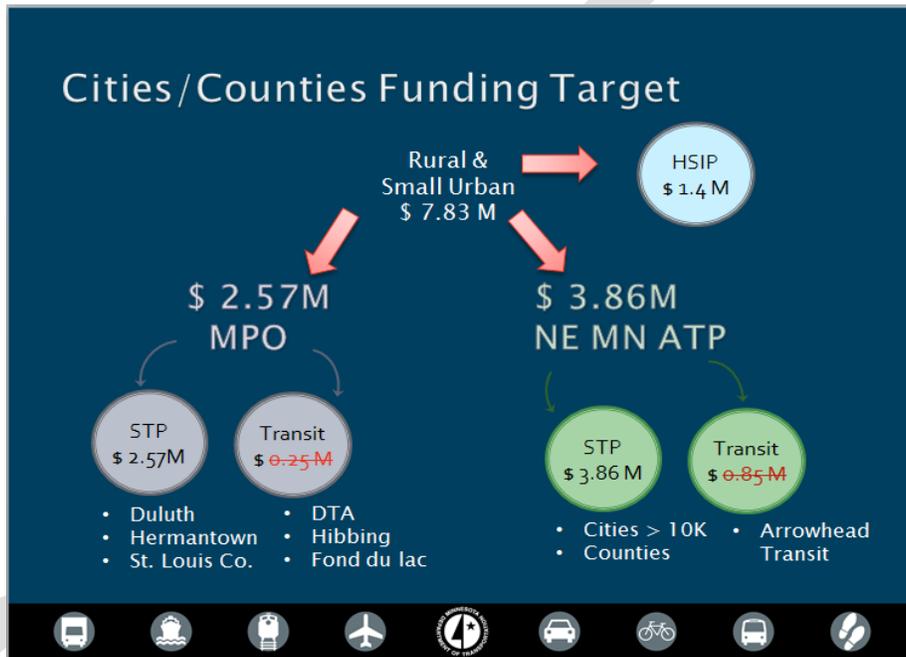
- Robert Ege was introduced to the ATP as he is Nancy Sannes replacement in regards to working the State Program. He provided a handout of upcoming projects. Some highlights included were:
  - Work on the Blatnik Bridge has been let which will consist of CPR work as well as repair and navigational lighting.
  - A couple of projects in Hibbing, one including a mill and overlay project on Highway 169.
  - Highway 23 in Duluth is on schedule to be let in February.
  - Highway 38 project, which is a bituminous reclamation near Pughole Lake was moved back to 2018 and will be let in October 2017.
  - The Highway 37 bridge over Highway 53 will be replaced in 2018 due to trucks hitting it because of its height, resulting in it being problematic.

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**2018-2021 ATIP**

Investment Targets

- Bryan Anderson provided an overview of drafted funding targets/investment guidelines. Draft FY 2021 targets for MnDOT District 1:
  - Local Program: \$7,833,333
    - Rural/SM Urban Transit \$0
    - Transportation Alternatives: \$900,000
    - HSIP: \$1,400,000
  - City/Counties Funding Targets



- Bryan mentioned that by 2022, transit funds may need to be allocated by the ATP since MnDOT Central Office may not be able to resume funding.
- A schedule was provided for the Local Project Solicitation:
  - Local and TA project applications are due January 13<sup>th</sup>.
  - Projects will be reviewed and ranked.
  - Rankings will be presented at the February RTAC Meeting.
  - Projects will be included in the Draft STIP on April 17<sup>th</sup>.

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**Transportation Alternatives**

- Jarrett Valdez informed the ATP that the Transportation Alternatives (TA) solicitation is currently in full swing.
- He provided the group with important deadlines for applicants to be aware of. Please see TA solicitation timeline below:

Transportation Alternatives (TA) Timeline	
Solicitation begins/call for Letters of Intent (LOI)	September 30, 2016
TA Workshop	October 4, 2016
LOI Submission Deadline	October 31, 2016
LOI Review	November 1-18, 2016
Applicants notified whether or not to proceed to the full application	November 21, 2016
TA Final Application Submission Deadline	January 13, 2017
TA Task Force reviews and ranks projects	February 2017
RTAC reviews the Task Force recommendations	February 2017
ATP reviews recommended projects	April 2017
Grant recipients announced	April 17, 2017

- Jarrett also reviewed the submitted TA LOIs with the ATP:

Sponsoring Agency (Location)	Project Name and Description	COSTS		
		Amount Requested	Project Total	Project Type
City of Duluth	<b>Bardon's Peak Overlook Historic Stone Retaining Wall Restoration:</b> This project is seeking funds to restore the historic stone retaining wall that is supporting the Bardon's Peak Overlook at the western end of Skyline Parkway. Work will include repointing the existing stone masonry and repairing the existing concrete cap along the top of the wall.	\$254,520	\$318,150	Historic Preservation
City of Grand Rapids	<b>7th Street NE Safe Routes to School Project:</b> This project is seeking funds to construction of a sidewalk to provide connection of residential areas to two local schools and area trails. The project will close several open gaps in the sidewalk system while providing students a safe route to two local schools.	\$436,00	\$545,000	Ped/Bike Improvements/ Safe Routes to School
St. Louis & Lake Counties RRA (Northern St. Louis County)	<b>Mesabi Trail - State Highway 1/169 to Eagles Nest Township Town Hall:</b> This project is seeking funds to construct a 1.24 mile long segment of the Mesabi Trail that will connect to the planned segment at Highway 1/169 and to the existing Mesabi Trail to Eagles Nest Township Hall.	\$432,000	\$540,000	Ped/Bike Trail
City of Proctor	<b>Munger Trail Spur:</b> This project is seeking funds to construct a trail spur that will intersect the City of Proctor providing a safe route to adjoining trails and to the Proctor High School.	\$200,000	\$1,148,305	Ped/Bike Trail/Safe Routes to School

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City of Ely	<b>Vermilion Community College Safe Routes for Students:</b> This project is seeking funds for construction of a sidewalk and installation of pedestrian crossings for students to access the Mesabi Trail and the downtown businesses from the newly constructed student housing complex.	\$125,000	\$1,650,000	Safe Routes to School
City of Ely	<b>Trezona Trail Improvements:</b> This project is seeking to funds to complete the paving of the last gravel section of the Trezona Trail and installation of safety fencing on some bluff areas along the trail as well as improvements to the retaining wall above the trail.	\$204,000	\$364,000	Ped/Bike Improvements/ Safe Routes to School
Koochiching County (International Falls)	<b>Falls Elementary School 15<sup>th</sup> St CSAH 2 Sidewalk Trail Project:</b> This project is seeking funds to construct a new sidewalk/trail connecting Falls Elementary School to several neighborhoods allowing for safe and convenient access to school for students while reducing potential conflicts between students and vehicles.	\$200,000	\$250,000	Ped/Bike Improvements/ Safe Routes to School
City of Aitkin	<b>Trail to Connection to Tank Trails:</b> The City of Aitkin is seeking funds to build a paved trail that will allow direct access into the trails for public use for hiking, biking, walking, skiing, and snowmobiling with a connection in the future to the Cuyuna Lakes Trail Extension.	\$234,000	\$292,000	Ped/Bike Trail
City of Grand Rapids	<b>Grand Rapids/Cohasset Trail:</b> The City of Grand Rapids is seeking funds to construct a 10' non-motorized trail that connects existing facilities within the City of Grand Rapids to existing facilities within the City of Cohasset, providing safe connection for residents to connect with the	\$504,000	\$630,000	Ped/Bike Trail

	outdoor and natural amenities in both communities.			
Itasca County (Deer River)	<b>The Deer River Trail:</b> Itasca County and the City of Deer River are seeking funds to develop a non-motorized trail system that will connect the Cities of Zemple and Deer River. The trail will join with existing Safe Routes to School infrastructure to connect the elementary and high school, hospital and assisted living, and other facilities.	\$300,000	\$635,214	Ped/Bike Trail/ Safe Routes to School
St. Louis County (Hermantown)	<b>CSAH 32 and CSAH 91 Sidewalk:</b> The St. Louis County Public Works Department is seeking funds to construct a sidewalk along CSAH 32 (W. Arrowhead Road) and CSAH 91 (Haines Road, located within the City of Hermantown). The County has a project funded for 2017 to repave and complete access management improvements on the same segment of W. Arrowhead Road as the proposed sidewalk project.	\$250,000	\$500,000	Ped/Bike Improvements
St. Louis County (French River Wayside)	<b>French River Wayside:</b> The St. Louis County Public Works Department is seeking funds to develop the French River Wayside with improvements to include ADA accessible viewpoints and trails, reconfiguration of the parking lot as well as bike improvements to the North Shore Scenic Drive.	\$480,000	\$600,000	Scenic Turnouts/ Overlooks
St. Louis County (Stoney Point Wayside)	<b>Stoney Point Wayside:</b> The St. Louis County Public Works Department is seeking funds to rehabilitate the Stoney Point Wayside on Lake Superior off of the North Shore Scenic Drive. Work will involve reconstruction	\$640,000	\$800,000	Scenic Turnouts/ Overlooks

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	of the parking lot, reconstruction of the failing retaining walls, and creation of ADA accessible viewing areas.			
City of Iron Junction	<b>Field-North Woods School Forest Trail Head and Trail Build Plan:</b> The City of Iron Junction is seeking funds to build a trail head and trail system on the school forest property to increase students and community involvement in the outdoors with the future goal of connecting the trail system to the communities of Cook and Lake Vermilion.	\$35,000	\$132,000	Ped/Bike Trail/ Safe Routes to School
City of Virginia/ Virginia School District	<b>Virginia School District Safe Routes to School Project:</b> The City of Virginia and the Virginia School District are seeking funds for work that will consist of widening 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Streets S., improving the student drop off area, school signage, speed zones, crosswalk development, safety lighting, ADA improvements, etc.	\$500,000	\$1,200,000	Safe Routes to School
Carlton County (Moose Lake)	<b>Moose Lake City/School Connection:</b> The City of Moose Lake is seeking funds in creating a trail connection, linking the residential downtown area with a safe route to the new school which connects current on-road safe routes to school.	\$215,000	\$268,750	Ped/Bike Trail/ Safe Routes to School
MnDNR (Lutsen)	<b>Gitchi-Gami State Trail - Lutsen Segment:</b> The MnDNR is seeking funds to construct a 1.55 mile section of the paved, non-motorized Gitchi-Gami State Trail from Ski Hill Road to Lutsen Town Center in Cook County.	\$600,000	\$1,610,000	Ped/Bike Trail
<i>17 Total LOI Submittals</i>		<i>\$5,173,520</i>	<i>\$11,483,419</i>	

- Jarrett spoke in regards to the selection process:
  - The TA Task Force will meet in February to score, rank, and recommend projects for funding.
  - An additional question was included in the full application that ask the applicant if they would be willing to receive a lower amount of money than requested as still be capable to deliver the project.
  - If needed, the Task Force will look to reach out via conference call to applicants during their meeting to answer any detailed/specific questions that any of the members may have.

***Minnesota Human Services Coordination Transit Plan Update***

- Nicole George from MnDOT Central Office of Transit presented to the ATP about the upcoming Human Services Coordination Transit Plan that ARDC is about to undertake.
- She explained that the plan is required to be updated every five years under federal guidelines.
  - The plan was created in 2006 and last updated in 2011.
- It focuses on all transit but primarily the goal of improving transportation services for individuals with disabilities, older adults, and low income populations.
- Nicole informed everyone the contents of what will be included such as an assessment of service, identifying needs of transit dependent populations, developing strategies and action steps, etc.
- Public participation opportunities will include ARDC facilitating two focus group discussions with transit riders and providers as well as a public workshop.

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- All projects identified in the Plan will be listed in the STIP.
- The plan will be completed by June 2017.

***Duluth Seaway Port Authority***

- Deb Deluca from the Duluth Seaway Port Authority gave a presentation to the ATP about some of the current activities/projects that the Port Authority is involved in.
- As far as cargo is concerned, she mentioned that iron ore is down this year compared to previous years, however, grain is up 10%.
- The Port Authority has had a near complete turnover in staff during the past three years.
- The agreement with Lake Superior Warehousing was recently re-worked to bring more trade to the port terminal, benefiting both partners.
  - The two are now marketing themselves as Duluth Cargo Connect.
- She mentioned how they have been working very closely with Canadian National (CN) that would minimize travel costs, provide better intermodal connectivity, and expand business.
- It was stated that truck traffic is heavy at the ports and has increased by 400% in the past ten years which has economic development implications and stresses the need of the Fastlane Grant Application that MnDOT is seeking for the Twin Ports Interchange.
- The Port Authority has also undertaken some industrial development projects including sites in Morgan Park which there is a site clean-up plan and a purchasing agreement.
- The ATP was informed that they are in the process of \$2.7 million project that includes developing a new road, pavement work, and removal of a building that will provide a better route to the port and intermodal connections as a result of increased truck traffic.
- Additional property is being sought after at Rice's Point so they can be redeveloped.

***Manufactures Perspective Study/Interviews***

- Duane Hill informed the ATP that District 1 had been involved in developing a Manufactures Perspective on Transportation Study which entailed a series of interviews to manufacturers and shippers being performed.
- MnDOT invited and provided training to interested parties that would partake in interviewing the manufacturers and shippers as well as segments of the tourism industry.
- It was mentioned that the interviews have been completed.
- Comments and data ranged from signs being knocked down to the need for wider shoulders on the road.
  - Comments were sent off to city and county engineers and within MnDOT.
- Duane stated that some items were actionable right away and could be fixed.

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- Some benefits of the project were:
  - Relationships were established between MnDOT and 78 shipping and manufacturing agencies that participated in the interview process.
  - Actionable items could be followed up upon and fixed quickly.
  - MnDOT learned some things that could be addressed in future long-range planning.
- A report will published sometime by the end of the year and the results can be examined more closely at the April ATP meeting.

***MnDOT Fastlane Application***

- Duane talked about how MnDOT will be reapplying for the Fastlane Grant application again due to not being awarded funds last year for the Twin Ports Interchange (Highways 53/35/535/Garfield Ave).
- The project would replace and reconstruct the interchange, while alleviating permit and bridge restrictions for trucks.
- He explained that the FHWA's application review was determined that the cost of the entire project's scope of work would outweigh the benefits.
- MnDOT is in the process of redeveloping the grant application with cost/benefit scenarios in mind.
- They are considering constructing the project in segments instead of as a whole.
  - Part of the project would be to build local a connection from Garfield Ave. to Courtland St., providing access to I-35 south.
- Grant applications are due sometime in December.

***Other Business***

- The next RTAC meeting will be held in February – date TBD.
- The next ATP meeting is TENTATIVELY scheduled for April 5, 2017 – place TBD.