

Welcome/Introductions

Chairman John Welle called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM. Welcome and introductions were made. John was elected Chair of the ATP/ATP Steering Committee at the last ATP Steering Committee meeting. John thanked David Salo for serving as Chairman for the past four years. John also recognized new ATP members David Betts (Cook County Engineer), Peter Eakman (Pine County Engineer), Kevin Adee (Koochiching County Commissioner – replaces Chuck Lepper) and Dave Sobania (DNR – replaces Les Ollila).

Minutes of the April 8, 2010 Meeting

ACTION ITEM:

Motion by Walter Leu, seconded by David Salo to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

2010-2011 Program Status

Walter Leu reviewed the FY 2010 local program (handout) totaling approximately \$17 million in federal funding. Walt also reviewed the FY 2011 local program status (handout) totaling approximately \$27 million in federal funding.

There was a discussion related to the recent implementation of edgeline rumble stripEs on county and state roads and the resulting increased noise to nearby residents. Walt said that the rumble stripEs are new techniques to improve safety and the design of the rumble stripEs are being evaluated for possible improvements to reduce noise impacts. Mike Forsman said that he felt that the solution was to move the rumble stripe off of the edgeline and on to the shoulder.

Walt explained that the Steering Committee approved a motion to transfer federal funding on two Itasca County projects. FY 2011 federal funding was transferred from SP 031-614-012 to SP 031-607-027 (paving project on CSAH 7).

Gus reviewed the Mn/DOT FY 2011 program (handout). Projects highlighted in green are either let, completed or under construction. The I-35 sign project in Carlton County highlighted in yellow was deferred to FY 2012 due to planned 2011 highway construction on I-35. An unbonded concrete overlay is scheduled between Hinckley and Mahtowa at a cost of approximately \$30 million.

Gus also explained the AC payback on the I-35 Megaproject in Duluth. FY 2011 shows the first of three paybacks. Two additional paybacks are in FY 2012 and FY 2015.

Also, the I-35 Megaproject contractor did not make the 2010 open to traffic date and will not receive the \$950,000 early completion incentive set-aside. These funds will be used to fund other Mn/DOT projects.

Gus explained that we normally set-aside \$13 to \$15 million per year in various set-aside accounts as listed on the handout.

Mn/DOT continues to invest heavily on Interstate 35.

2011-2014 STIP

The 2011-2014 STIP hasn't received FHWA approval yet, but is expected to be approved in December 2010. Gus has CD's of the STIP if anyone wants a copy.

2012-2015 ATIP

Enhancements Process:

Andy Hubley advised that they have received 13 pre-applications for FY 2015 enhancement projects (handout). The final applications are due on December 17, 2010.

Three Enhancements Task Force member positions need reappointment or replacement. Mike Forsman will need a term extension, Chuck Lepper and Jeff Brown will no longer be serving on the task force.

ACTION ITEM:

A motion was made by Walter Leu, seconded by Bob Manzoline to extend Mike Forsman's term on the task force, to fill Chuck Lepper's position with Wade Pavleck from Koochiching County and to fill Jeff Brown's position with Cavour Johnson from Coleraine. Motion passed.

Walt recognized Chuck Lepper for his many years of service on the Task Force and on the ATP.

Funding Targets/Investment Guidelines:

Denny reviewed the FY 2011-2015 Funding Targets/Investment Guidelines (handout). The federal formula funding target for our region is approximately \$42 million/year. The amount of federal formula funding in the FY 2011-2014 STIP is slightly over that amount.

ACTION ITEM:

Motion by Mike Forsman and seconded by Chuck Lepper to approve the FY 2012-2015 Funding Targets/Investment Guidelines. Motion passed.

Process/Schedule:

The NE MN ATP tentative 2012-2015 STIP process/schedule is included with today's agenda.

Other Business

- **TRLF Program Solicitation**

Gus recently sent out a solicitation for candidate TRLF projects. Tom Pagel of Grand Rapids has expressed interest in a rail crossing improvement project. This program is very attractive for cities and counties because of the low interest rates. There is \$13 million available this year for road projects. Projects have to be

federal aid eligible. If interested, contact Gus. Applications are due back to the Office of Capital Programs and Performance Measures on January 10, 2011.

- **Mn/DOT Planning Activities**

Statewide Corridor Coalition Forum Series (handout)

Denny said the First Forum will be held on December 2, 2010 at the Earle Brown Heritage Center in Brooklyn Center to address challenges and strategies as we try to meet the transportation improvement needs along these highway corridors. The forum is sponsored by Mn/DOT, the Minnesota Transportation Alliance, the League of Minnesota Cities and the Association of Minnesota Counties. Representatives from highway corridor coalitions from throughout the state are invited to the forums.

2011 – 2020 HIP Review Summary/Strategies (handout)

Denny said that Mn/DOT is asking all districts to submit draft plan information and a summary overview of the District 10 Year Plans. Denny reviewed the handout by program category. The statewide HIP Review meetings will be held on December 8 & 9, 2010.

As all ATP members know, Mn/DOT District 1 improvement needs are significantly more than available funds and we are now basically a “preservation district”. Funding is not available for highway reconstruction or expansion and highway pavement preservation is significantly underfunded.

Draft STIP & SRC Programming Process (handout)

Denny reviewed the handout and reported that Mike Tardy is representing District 1 on the statewide workgroup that will be meeting over the winter months to review and update the programming process. This will include determining Mn/DOT Central Office and District Office roles and responsibilities by program category. There is also an ATP Advisory Committee that will meet and provide input to the workgroup. John Welle and Doug Grindall will represent the NE MN ATP on the statewide ATP Advisory Committee.

Mn/DOT’s Vision for Minnesota’s Transportation System – Lynne Bly

Denny advised that Mn/DOT planning functions have been reorganized with a new Multimodal Planning Office. Lynne Bly from this office gave a presentation on future planning activities and indicated that more specific input opportunities on future transportation visions/plans will be provided in early 2011. Lynne advised that she will likely return for an update of the visioning/planning process at the April 2011 ATP meeting.

Recent Election Results

Local elected ATP members were congratulated on their re-election to office.

ACTION ITEM:

Mike Forsman made a motion, seconded by Bruce Martinson that the ATP committee send a letter to Congressman Jim Oberstar thanking him for his years of service and his strong backing and support for all modes of transportation at regional, state and national levels and to also send a letter of thanks to Congressman Oberstar's staff. Mike Robinson suggested as a gesture of our strong support of Congressman Oberstar, that the entire group second the motion - which they did. Motion passed.

David Salo brought up the need to develop and build a relationship with Congressman-elect Chip Cravaack and to determine the best way to establish relationships and to start the education process on the importance of transportation with the new Congressman.

Mike Forsman suggested that we congratulate Chip Cravaack on his election to Congress, that we would like to work with you, hope that you find transportation as a priority and are open to future discussions relating to transportation needs.

ACTION ITEM:

A motion was made by David Salo, seconded by Mike Forsman to send a letter to Congressman-elect Chip Cravaack congratulating him on his election to Congress, trusting that he would look at transportation issues as a priority and inviting him to have discussions with members of the ATP. Motion passed.

Mn/DOT district staff will draft the letters for review, editing and signature by John Welle, ATP Chair.

Walt recognized Lorraine Kramer for her years of service with Mn/DOT District 1. Lorraine is retiring on December 1, 2010.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the ATP will be on April 7, 2011 at a location to be determined.

Adjourn

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.