

Northeast Minnesota Area Transportation Partnership Meeting

Thursday, November 6, 2008

**Hampton Inn
310 Canal Park Drive, Duluth, MN**

Members Present

David Salo
Les Ollila
Jack Larson
Jesse Story
Jason Fisher
Jason Holliday
Doug Grindall
Charles Lepper
Cindy Voigt
Tom Peterson
Wayne Olson
Walter Leu
Bob Manzoline
Mark LeBrun
Curt Rossow
Galen Tveit
John Welle
Jim Rohweder
Earl Elde
Bruce Martinson
Paul Bergman
Mike Moilanen
Mike Forsman
Alan Goodman
Ron Chicka
Denny Johnson
Andy Hubley

Others Present

James Gittemeier
Don Mohawk
Rex Bordson
John Minor
Lorraine Kramer

Call to Order

Chairman David Salo called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM and introductions were made.

Representing

City of Hermantown
DNR
Rural Transit
City of Hibbing
City of Chisholm
Fond du Lac Reservation
Koochiching County
Koochiching County
City of Duluth
DNR/Environmental
Carlton County
Mn/DOT State Aid
Regional Rail Authority
Pine County
Pine County
Aitkin County
Aitkin County
MIC
MIC
Cook County
Lake County
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe
St. Louis County
Lake County
MIC
Mn/DOT
ARDC

Representing

MIC
Mn/DOT
Mn/DOT State Aid
Mn/DOT State Aid
Mn/DOT

Welcome to new members - Jim Rohweder, Proctor City Administrator and Curt Rossow, Pine County Commissioner. The other new member, Jim Foldesi, St. Louis County Interim Public Works Administrator, was not in attendance.

Minutes of the April 3, 2008 Meeting

Motion by Al Goodman, second by Jason Holliday, to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

ATP Management Enhancement Process (handout)

Andy Hubley said that Enhancements are a federally funded program that targets projects which are historic, scenic or environmental in nature and/or focus on facilities for bicycles and pedestrians.

Six (6) pre-applications have been received for FY 2013. The solicitation is now closed. Final applications are due on December 19, 2008. The Enhancement Task Force will review applications in February 2009 and the ATP Steering Committee review will be in March 2009.

Walter Leu advised that \$2.5 million in projects have been submitted and only \$1.5 million in funding is available. Some projects will not be funded.

2008-2009 Program Status

Walter Leu reviewed the FY 2008 local program (handout). Most of the FY 2008 projects are complete. The total amount for the 29 FY 2008 local projects is \$27 million, including \$10.4 million in federal funds. 14 additional local projects were moved from FY 2008 to FY 2009.

Walter also reviewed the FY 2009 local program (handout). The total amount for the 43 FY 2009 local projects is \$42 million, including \$26.7 million in federal funds.

Denny Johnson reviewed the FY 2009 Mn/DOT program (handout). Projects shown in green are let projects and are either under construction or completed.

2009 – 2012 STIP

Denny advised that the 2009-2012 STIP (handout) has been sent to the FHWA for approval. All NE MN ATP projects that were submitted were funded. The total program is very large because of the HPP and bond projects.

Bob Manzoline asked if any northeast Minnesota counties are looking at exercising a sales tax for transportation purposes. Denny said that he was not aware of any proposals by NE MN ATP counties.

Andy Hubley said that the timing of the FY 2010 TH 169 reclaim project and the construction of the Nashwauk steel mill will be a conflict and asked if the highway construction would involve a detour of traffic. He also asked if the pavement reclamation project would be utilized as part of a future 4 lane improvement, if HPP funding was appropriated. Denny said that he would get back to Andy on both questions, however, the pavement reclamation project is needed and will proceed due to the poor condition of the highway. Walter Leu advised that any 4 lane realignment of TH 169 would probably result in a turnback to the county.

Bruce Martinson asked if there were any limits to MN/DOT project delivery and local match resources related to possible HPP funding of TH 61 projects in the next 6-year transportation bill. Denny advised that Mn/DOT has to balance local match needs with priorities of preserving the existing bridge and highway system. FY 2015 would be the earliest that the district could deliver any new TH 61 projects if funded. Al Goodman suggested the possible use of design build as a tool to get projects advanced. Denny said that would be an option to consider if there are any earmarked funds for the projects.

John Welle asked if the ADA requirements on pavement projects in urban areas are changing. John had heard that districts are considering three quarter inch overlays to avoid the higher cost of meeting ADA requirements. Denny said that he wasn't aware of that specific threshold, however, the ADA requirements must be addressed in most pavement projects.

Doug Grindall asked why the FY 2010 TH 11 project was not included in the new STIP list of projects. Denny said that it is a bond funded project and that he would check to see that the correction is made.

Mark LeBrun said that he has had complaints related to the condition of TH 70 west of Interstate 35. Citizens are concerned with the pavement condition and narrow shoulders and would like to see the highway reconstructed. Denny said that Mn/DOT is only planning to resurface the highway. This section of TH 70 is a low volume highway and reconstruction of the highway is not included in the district's Long Range Plan.

2010 – 2013 ATIP
Funding Targets / Investment Guidelines (handout)

Denny reviewed the Funding Targets / Investment Guidelines. Similar to recent years, the \$42 million average annual federal formula funding target is distributed 67% to Mn/DOT, 22% to locals and 11% to the remaining program categories.

He advised that the DTA does not have any bus replacement requests for FY 2013.

ACTION ITEM:

Motion by Al Goodman and second by Les Ollila to approve the Investment Guidelines.
Motion passed.

Process / Schedule (handout)

The NE MN ATP tentative 2010-2013 STIP process/schedule is included with today's agenda.

The MIC and Mn/DOT solicitation for FY 2013 projects will be within the next 10 days. Candidate projects are due by December 19, 2008.

The Steering Committee meets the end of January 2009, the County Team meetings (if needed) will be held in February 2009, County Board meetings will be in March 2009 and the draft 2010-2013 ATIP will be submitted to Mn/DOT (St. Paul) by April 15, 2009.

Other Business

TRLF Solicitation

The Transportation Revolving Loan Fund solicitation for Mn/DOT and local road projects will be sent out before the end of the year.

Draft Northeast Minnesota Long Range (2009-2028) Transportation Plan (handout)

Denny reviewed the handouts. The current FY 2009 – 2012 STIP is the largest we've ever had, averaging \$108 million per year due to major HPP and bond funded projects. In FY 2013 to 2018, we will be back to approximately \$62 million per year based on projected federal formula and state funding revenues. The Long Range Plan consists almost entirely of preservation of the existing bridge and pavement system and low cost safety improvements due to constrained budgets.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the ATP is scheduled for Thursday, April 2, 2009.

Adjourn

Chairman David Salo adjourned the meeting at 11:30 AM.