

**Northeast Minnesota Area Transportation Partnership Meeting**

**April 2, 2009**

**Hermantown Public Safety Building  
5111 Maple Grove Road  
Hermantown, MN**

**Members Present**

David Salo  
Wade Pavleck  
John Welle  
Ron Johnson  
Dennis Jensen  
Bob Manzoline  
Jack Larson  
Amy Wicklund  
Jesse Story  
Charles Lepper  
Doug Grindall  
Jim Foldesi  
Steve Kniefel  
Les Ollila  
Rick Goutermont  
Ron Chicka  
Gordon Aanerud  
Wayne Olson  
Catherine McLynn  
Mark LeBrun  
Tom Peterson  
Cindy Voigt  
Jim Rohweder  
Walter Leu  
Denny Johnson

**Others Present**

Ben VanTassel  
Bryan Anderson  
Don Mohawk  
John Minor  
Rex Bordson  
Gus Peterson  
Lorraine Kramer  
James Gittemeier

**Representing**

Cities > 5000  
Koochiching County  
Aitkin County  
Duluth Seaway Port Authority  
Duluth Transit Authority  
Regional Rail Authority  
Rural Transit  
Fond du Lac Band  
Cities > 5000  
Koochiching County  
Koochiching County  
St. Louis County  
St. Louis County  
DNR  
Lake County  
MIC  
Carlton County  
Carlton County  
Itasca County  
Pine County  
DNR/Environmental  
City of Duluth  
MIC  
Mn/DOT  
Mn/DOT

**Representing**

ARDC  
ARDC  
Mn/DOT  
Mn/DOT  
Mn/DOT  
Mn/DOT  
Mn/DOT  
Mn/DOT  
MIC

**Welcome/Introductions**

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

## **Minutes of the November 6, 2008 Meeting**

Motion by Les Ollila, seconded by Jack Larson, to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

### **2009 Program Status**

Walter Leu reviewed the FY 2009 local program status (handout). There are 44 projects in the 2009 program totaling \$47 million.

Projects must meet the April 15 deadline or be moved to the FY 2010 program.

Gus Peterson said that the NE Minnesota Bicycle Education Program enhancement project, SP 91-070-17, is being moved to FY 2010.

Walt said that the local economic stimulus projects recommended for federal funding, were partially based on criteria related to population ( cities with 5,000 or greater population).

Gus reviewed the status of the 2009 Mn/DOT program (handout). The majority of the 2009 Mn/DOT projects are let and/or completed. Significant projects that have been let include the first phase of the I-35 project in Duluth, the reconstruction of TH 61 from the Onion River to CR 34 in Cook County, the Miller Mall project on and adjacent to TH 53 in Duluth and a concrete overlay on TH 2 between Deer River and Cohasset. Gus also said that the TH 210 project from McGregor to Cromwell has been moved to FY 2013 due to cuts in Mn/DOT state funds.

### **2013 Project Recommendations**

Bryan Anderson reported that the Enhancement Task Force and ATP Steering Committee are recommending four enhancement projects (handout) for funding in FY 2013. The four (4) projects are:

- (1) Fond du Lac – Cloquet Trail Connection
- (2) Finland Community and Trail Center
- (3) Munger Trail Connection Phase II
- (4) Two Harbors Trail System – Railroad Underpass

The total federal cost of the four projects is slightly less than the \$1.5 million ATP investment guideline for enhancement projects. Chuck Lepper made a motion, seconded by Catherine McLynn to approve the four projects for 2013 funding. Motion passed.

Denny Johnson reviewed the FY 2013 Federal Aid Candidate Projects (handout), together with a memo from Abby McKenzie, Director of Mn/DOT's Office of Investment Management, regarding SRC State Funds Reductions for FY's 2010 and 2011. The NE MN ATP needs to cut \$5 million in 2010 and \$10 million in 2011, which also has a wave effect requiring project deferrals through 2013. Abby also advised that with the high risk and uncertainty of the FY 2010 federal funds, each ATP is requested to identify 20% of their FY 2010 federally funded projects as contingency projects.

Significant funding adjustments have been made to the 2010-2013 program. Almost all state funding is now needed to match available federal funds.

On the handout, projects shaded in grey are recommended for funding in FY 2013 and projects in white are not recommended for funding in FY 2013.

Catherine McLynn made a motion, seconded by Jim Rohweder to approve the FY 2013 federal aid candidate projects for funding. Motion passed.

### **Review/Approve FY 2010 – 2013 ATIP (handout)**

Gus advised that the four (4) year program is over one half billion dollars and represents a very substantial investment in transportation. The historically large program includes a number of federal high priority projects (HPP) and state bond funded projects.

He explained that the word “backfill” on the funding summary refers to the amount of funding we can put back into our program from the economic stimulus projects.

The projects highlighted in purple on the ATP 1 FY 2010-2013 Draft ATIP handout are projects affected by the state fund budget cuts. If the description is highlighted in purple, the funding has been changed to federal funds. If the year is highlighted in purple, the fiscal year has changed to the date shown. Projects highlighted in yellow means they are fully funded with state funds.

Gus further explained that this has been a very challenging year for funding. We have a FY 2010 project on I-35 in Duluth for approximately \$75 million, which allows for flexibility with AC funding. A \$14 million HPP major reconstruction project on Highway 1 “Eagles Nest Area” between Tower and Ely has been moved to FY 2013 and tied to the HPP project on TH 169 “13 Hills Area” between Virginia and Tower.

The 20% federal aid contingency projects will include the I-35 project in Duluth described above (adjustments in federal AC funding) and the St. Louis County project located at the west and east intersections of Arrowhead Road and Rice Lake Road.

Wayne Olson questioned the TH 73 project south of Cromwell being scheduled for a resurfacing this year instead of a complete reconstruction. Denny explained that the reconstruction of TH 73 is not included in the District 1 fiscally constrained 20 year plan. Denny said that he recently discussed this issue with Dan Reed (TH 73 coalition) who was seeking Mn/DOT support for the reconstruction of TH 73 south of Cromwell as a possible federal high priority project. Denny reported that he told Dan that Mn/DOT could acknowledge the need for the project but could not commit to the 20% local match likely to be required.

The submitted FY 2010-2013 Draft ATIP was recommended for approval. Motion made by Wade Pavleck and seconded by Gordon Aanerud to approve the FY 2010-2013 Draft ATIP with possible modifications related to the clarification of funding for the transit economic stimulus projects. Motion passed.

### **Other Business**

### Economic Stimulus Projects:

Denny reviewed the list of Mn/DOT projects (handout).

Gus said that as of March 23rd, nineteen northeast Minnesota stimulus projects had been submitted to the FHWA.

Don Mohawk advised that there is an error on the list of transit stimulus projects that will need to be resolved.

Walt reviewed the list of local projects, including the Mn/DOT projects with a local share. Walt advised that dollarwise, District 1 came out extremely well on the stimulus projects.

### District Long Range Transportation Plan:

Denny reviewed the District One 10 Year Plan (2009-2018) funding summary (handout) and said that the state fund revenue forecasts for 2014 to 2018 need to be reduced by approximately \$3.5 million/year. The key point shown by the yellow shading on the handout is that only \$26 million per year will be available for pavement improvements from 2013 to 2018 and pavement improvement needs are approximately \$80 million per year.

### Transit Funding

Don Mohawk reviewed the statewide data on the 2004-2012 transit funding handout.

Don commented that the NE MN ATP has funded transit very well and over the ATP federal transit funding target guideline of \$1.3 million/year (all bus replacement needs have been fully funded).

The ATP Steering Committee has been discussing the equity issue of continuing to fund all transit needs when Mn/DOT and local road and bridge needs are significantly under funded. The ATP Steering Committee has suggested that the ATP consider moving future transit funding closer to the \$1.3 million/year federal target guideline. Dennis Jensen said that the DTA has the largest bus fleet of the Greater Minnesota transit providers which results in the need for higher transit funding for bus replacements.

Chairman David Salo advised that additional information is needed on transit funding. This issue will be put on the agenda for the June ATP Steering Committee meeting and Don Mohawk will provide additional information and a possible recommendation related to future NE MN ATP transit funding investment guidelines.

### Next Meeting

The next full ATP meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 5, 2009 at a location to be determined. The Steering Committee will meet on Monday, June 22, 2009.

**Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 AM.