

**Northeast Minnesota Area Transportation Partnership Meeting**

**April 5, 2007**

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

**Members Present**

David Salo  
William Whiteman  
Bob Manzoline  
Clayton R. Grimes  
Paul Bailey  
John Welle  
Alta McQuatters  
Cindy Voigt  
Jason Fisher  
John Suihkonen  
Tom Pagel  
Doug Grindall  
Charles Lepper  
John Foschi  
Wayne Olson  
Steve Kniefel  
Jack Larson  
Bill Vogel  
Dave Christy  
Catherine McLynn  
Tom Peterson  
Andy Hubley  
Ron Johnson  
Ron Chicka  
Scott Johnson  
Mike Forsman  
Jim Foldesi  
Denny Johnson

**Others Present**

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

**Representing**

Hermantown  
Bois Forte  
Regional Rail Authority  
Aitkin County  
Aitkin County  
Aitkin County  
Cook County  
Duluth  
Chisholm  
Hibbing  
Grand Rapids  
Koochiching County  
Koochiching County  
MIC  
Carlton County  
St. Louis County  
Arrowhead – Rural Transit  
Grand Portage Reservation  
Itasca County  
Itasca County  
DNR  
ARDC  
Port of Duluth  
MIC  
Lake County  
St. Louis County  
St. Louis County  
Mn/DOT

**Representing**

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

**Welcome/Introductions**

Chairman David Salo called the meeting to order at 9:35 AM and introductions were made.

## **Minutes of the November 1, 2006 Meeting**

Motion by Alta McQuatters, seconded by Mike Forsman, to approve the minutes.  
Motion passed.

### **2007 Program Status**

John Minor represented Walter Leu in reviewing the 2007 program status. Four (4) projects are highlighted on the handout:

- (1) SP 31-661-07 – CSAH 61 Improvements, City of Coleraine. Awaiting updates, nothing received. Dave Christy said the project will be deferred to 2008..
- (2) SP 31-090-05 – CSAH 7 to Marble Mesabi Trail, Regional Rail Authority. Waiting for Project Memo and Plan. Bob Manzoline advised that the Project Memo & Plan have been submitted.
- (3) SP 91-030-07 – Duluth Superior Bikeways Plan Phase II, ARDC. James Gittemeier advised that the plans are close to completion and will be submitted to Walt on Friday or Monday of next week.
- (4) SP 118-090-11 – Lakewalk East Extension Phase 1, City of Duluth. Will this make the April 15 deadline? (Note: this plan was received by Mn/DOT following the meeting).

Gus Peterson reviewed the status of the 2007 Mn/DOT program.

18 projects have already been let in FY 2007 for a total of \$72M. Two (2) primary projects are the I-35 project near Hinckley and the I-35 bridge rail replacement in Duluth. Three (3) noteworthy projects also let are the second phase of the Highway 53 project north of Virginia (\$29.9M), the Bovey Bypass project on TH 169 (\$11.2M), and Highway 1 east of Ely to Lake County 2 (\$6.1M). All of these projects had special federal aid funds and they do not impact the ATP targets.

Projects remaining to be let for FY 07 are TH 65's Silverdale Bridge replacement (cost estimate of \$6.5M) and a preservation project on TH 210 thru Jay Cooke Park - Thomson to Jct TH 23 in Duluth - (cost estimate of \$1.6M), both of which will be let in May.

There is concern about the amount being spent for supplemental agreements and cost overruns. The right-of-way costs on the TH 53 Kohl's project will push this over the set-aside amount.

Gus advised that the Crosstown project in the Metro District was let in March to Ames/Lunda/Schafer Construction for \$288M. John Foschi questioned how close the bids are to the engineer's estimate. Gus advised that the Crosstown bids were fairly close and that other Mn/DOT projects are also fairly close so we are getting good bids. Tom Pagel questioned whether the good bids are enabling us to move other projects forward. Gus advised that the good bids will help to manage the federal aid on FY 08 projects.

A question was made regarding the Highway 36 project in the Metro area. Are we saving \$2M by shutting the roadway down to traffic? Gus advised that we are but the cost savings have to be weighed against the economic impacts of shutting the roadway down.

#### FY 07-10 Project Deferrals

The highlighted enhancement project, Duluth Historic Locomotive Restoration, has been removed from the program. Several HPP funded projects were put into the 2007-09 program as placeholders and are now programmed in more realistic years. Mn/DOT was forced to defer a number of projects in FY 08 & 09 because of reduced state funding, which has a ripple effect out to FY 2012.

#### Items Requiring Steering Committee Action

The Steering Committee reviewed cost increases on four programmed projects and the increased funding is included in the draft 2008-2011 ATIP. No further action is required.

#### **2011 Enhancement Project Recommendations**

Bryan Anderson advised that five (5) projects have been selected and submitted for FY 2011. The projects are:

- (1) Buchanan Town Site Wayside Rest in Duluth Township (St. Louis County),
- (2) Lakewalk East Extension Phase IV (City of Duluth),
- (3) Lake Superior Transportation Museum Repairs (City of Duluth),
- (4) TH 217 Phase 2 Enhancement in Littlefork (Koochiching County) and
- (5) Tioga to TH 169 Multi-use Trail Phase 1 (City of Grand Rapids).

Jim Foldesi advised that the Lake Superior Transportation Museum Repairs is a St. Louis County project. Mike Forsman made a motion, seconded by Chuck Lepper to change this to a St. Louis County project. Motion passed.

#### **Review/Approve 2008 – 2011 ATIP**

Denny Johnson reviewed the 2008-2011 Investment Guidelines and indicated that Mn/DOT had to defer a few projects due to reduced state funding in 2008 and 2009. Federal funds are distributed approximately 2/3 to the state (MN/DOT), 20% to local government (cities & counties) and 13% to enhancements, transit, rail crossings and safety.

A set-aside is included for safety improvement projects in FY 09-11. John Welle questioned whether we are going to be identifying specific projects for the 2009-2011 safety improvements. Denny advised that we are going to look at more system-wide ways to do safety projects and that will require more discussion with the city and county engineers.

Denny said that due to the shortage of Forest Highway funds, the TH 1 (Phase 2) project has been deferred out of the program.

Other special federal funding sources are the Statewide Corridor Fund (SCF), the Coordinated Border Infrastructure Program (CBIP) and Scenic Byways (SB). The State Corridor Fund has been set-up for high cost mobility projects, however, a decision has been made for 2011 to use this fund for preservation projects. District 1 received statewide corridor funds for an I-35 (SB) unbonded concrete overlay project in Pine County north of Hinckley. The other two projects funded were in the Rochester District.

#### FY 2011 Federal Aid Candidate Projects

Denny reviewed the handout of FY 2011 Federal Aid Candidate Projects. He pointed out that there are four St. Louis County projects that are significantly overmatched. The purpose is to allow project development to proceed in anticipation of receiving future earmarked federal funds.

There are no Aitkin County or Lake County projects in 2011 due to funding equity (received increased funding on currently programmed projects). An Aitkin County CSAH 3 project and a Lake County CSAH 18 project were voluntarily removed as 2011 candidate projects with the expectation that they will be considered priority projects for 2012 funding.

The ATP Steering Committee recommends approval of the 2011 federal aid projects. Motion made by Alta McQuatters and seconded by Mike Forsman to approve the 2011 projects. Motion passed.

#### FY 2008-2011 ATIP

Denny advised that we are overprogrammed by approximately \$1M for the four (4) years. On the handout, the deferred projects have the fiscal year shown in red. Under description, the blue color indicates HPP funded projects in the program.

The ATP Steering Committee recommends approval of the FY 2008-2011 ATIP. Motion made by Tom Pagel and seconded by Mike Forsman to approve the 2008-2011 ATIP. Motion passed.

#### **Other Business**

No other business.

#### **Next Meeting**

The next ATP meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 1, 2007 at a location to be determined.

#### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 AM.