

Northeast Minnesota Area Transportation Partnership Meeting

April 5, 2012

**Midway Town Hall
3302 Midway Road
Midway Township, MN**

Members Present

John Welle
Bob Manzoline
Doug Grindall
Wade Pavleck
Wayne Olson
Cindy Voigt
Bryan Anderson
Jack Larson
Jim Foldesi
David Salo
Walter Leu
Steve Kniefel
Earl Elde
Catherine McLynn
Al Goodman
David Betts
Diane Parker
Kevin Adee
Cavour Johnson
Joe Alberio
Ron Chicka
Ron Johnson
Jim Johnson
Jim Roweder
Andy Hubley

Others Present

Jon Mason
Robert Herling
Don Mohawk
John Minor
Rex Bordson
Nancy Sannes
Scott Johnson
Joe McKinnon
Philip Schaffner

Representing

Aitkin County
Regional Rail Authority
Koochiching County
Koochiching County
Carlton County
City of Duluth
MnDOT
Rural Transit
St. Louis County
Cities > 5,000
MnDOT
St. Louis County
MIC/ Midway Township
Itasca County
Lake County
Cook County
Cook County/Townships
Koochiching County
Modal Representative (Bike/Peds)
MnDNR
MIC
Duluth Seaway Port Authority
City of Chisholm
MIC/ City of Proctor
ARDC

Representing

ARDC
MIC
MnDOT
MnDOT
MnDOT
MnDOT
MnDOT
MnDOT District 2
MnDOT

Welcome/Introductions

Chairman John Welle called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM. Welcome and introductions were made.

Committee Business

Motion by Al Goodman, seconded by Catherine McLynn to approve the November 3rd meeting summary. The motion carried.

Jon Mason reviewed the Enhancement Task Force membership and noted that Catherine McLynn term ends in April. Local elected officials serving on the task force serve a three year term but members can be reappointed to serve again.

Motion by Walter Leu, seconded by Wayne Olson to nominate Catherine McLynn to another three year term on the Enhancements Task Force. The motion carried.

Local Program

Walter Leu reviewed the FY 2012 local program (handout) and discussed each project's status. Highlights of the local program include:

- Addition of a new project number splitting \$320,000 in federal funds from the Cross City HPP project to connect the Lakewalk to 11 Avenue West (\$400,000 total). The remaining HPP funds will be carried to FY 2013.
- Program is generally in good shape.

State Program

Nancy Sannes reviewed the FY 2012 Mn/DOT program (handout).

Larger projects that will be under construction in 2012 include:

- Mill and overlay and bridge improvements on TH 210 from Carlton to TH 65 (42 miles). Cost of this project is \$7.5 million.
- Reconstruction of Pokegama Avenue (Th 169) in Grand Rapids between 1st and 10th streets. Cost of this project is \$7.5 million.
- Concrete overlay on I-35 between 0.5 miles south of sandstone to 0.9 miles north of Pine CSAH 33 (11.7 miles). Both north bound and south bound lanes will be overlaid. Cost of this project is \$22.7 million. Let already.
- Unbonded concrete overlay on I-35 from Boundary Ave to Scanlon (10.6 miles). The \$31.1 million dollar project will also include bridge work.
- Construction of Tettegouche State Park Visitor Center. Cost of this project is \$6.8 million. All bids were rejected hopeful for a June letting.
- Construction of TH 53 four lane expansion from the City of Cook to 9.3 miles south. Cost of this project is \$42.3 million. May 18th letting.
- Blatnik Bridge (I-535) repairs including bridge painting and deck seal. Cost of this project \$12.0 million. Cost of the project increased 25% from original estimate.

Sannes also mentioned that the decorative lighting on the Blatnik Bridge needs to be removed when the bridge is painted and MnDOT is working with WisDOT to share the cost of putting new lighting on the bridge. It is estimated to cost \$1.2 million to have new lighting put on the bridge with annual maintenance costs of \$15,000-25,000 annually.

Enhancements

Jon Mason provided an overview of the Enhancement projects that are being recommended to the ATP by the Enhancements Task Force. The projects include:

Bigfork RiverWalk Trail: \$275,000

Gitchi-Gami State Trail- Beaver River Bridge and West Road Segment: \$500,000

Grand Rapids Mississippi Riverfront Pedestrian Bridge: \$296,696

HelmetHero Bicycle Education program: \$57,494

Mesabi Trail- Soudan to Ely: \$394,000

Total: \$1,523,190

2016 Federal Aid Candidate Projects

All federal aid candidate projects were reviewed briefly by the ATP Steering Committee. Projects can be found on the attached handout (Area Transportation Improvement Program).

STIP Amendments

Railroad crossing swap with Koochiching and St. Louis County swap.

Wade Pavleck motioned, seconded by Doug Grindall to swap the rail projects.

2013 Contingency Projects

Sannes and Leu mentioned that 2013 contingency projects need to be identified in case federal funding is reduced. MnDOT is identified 30% of its FY 2013 program is contingent. State projects on the contingency list include: mill and overlay on TH 33 (\$4.3 million), TH 169 mill and overlay between Nashwauk and Hibbing (\$5.7 million), bridge painting on I-35 (\$3.5 million), and bus purchases for the DTA and Arrowhead Transit. The local program would also be impacted if federal funds were reduced. Projects on the local program that are listed as contingent are Cook CSAH 12 project and the Pine County CSAH 11 project. These two projects will be listed as contingent in the 2013 program.

Walter Leu motioned, Mark Lebrun seconded to approve the list of contingency projects. The motion carried.

Walter Leu motioned, Wayne Olson seconded to approve the ATIP as presented. The motion carried.

Federal Funding Update

Cindy Carlsson provided ATP members with an update on the federal transportation bill. Highlights included an extension of SAFTEY-LU until June 30, 2012. The new senate bill is a two year bill and provides Minnesota with \$704 million in funding per year.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the ATP will be on November 1, 2012 at a location to be determined.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned 11:40 a.m.