

Northeast Minnesota Area Transportation Partnership Meeting

April 8, 2010

Hermantown Public Safety Building
5111 Maple Grove Road
Hermantown, MN

Members Present

Alan Goodman
Paul Bergman
Mike Forsman
Earl Elde
Les Ollila
Brian Boder
Cari Pedersen
Jack Larson
Catherine McLynn
Jesse Story
Walter Leu
Wayne Olson
Shae Kosmalski
Doug Grindall
Tom Peterson
John Welle
Dave Christy
Ron Johnson
Jim Rohweder
William Whiteman
David Salo
Denny Johnson
Charles Lepper
Andy Hubley
James Gittemeier

Others Present

Don Mohawk
John Minor
Rex Bordson
Gus Peterson
Lorraine Kramer

Representing

Lake County
Lake County
St. Louis County
MIC
DNR
St. Louis County
City of Duluth
Rural Transit
Itasca County
Cities > 5,000
Mn/DOT
Carlton County
Cook County
Koochiching County
DNR/Environmental
Aitkin County
Itasca County
Duluth Seaway Port Authority
MIC
Bois Forte Tribal Government
Cities > 5,000
Mn/DOT
Koochiching County
ARDC
MIC

Representing

Mn/DOT
Mn/DOT
Mn/DOT
Mn/DOT
Mn/DOT

Welcome/Introductions

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

Minutes of the November 5, 2009 Meeting

Motion by Walter Leu, seconded by Jim Rohweder, to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

2010 Program Status

Walter Leu reviewed the FY 2010 local program status (handout). There have been a large number of changes in project status, which are summarized below:

- The 2010 Fond du Lac Trail Connection project to the Munger Trail is no longer viable due to trail alignment issues. The project's enhancement funding will be shifted to the Fond du Lac Trail Connection to Cloquet and the Carlton CR 7 intersection improvement projects in 2013.
- Move/backfill the Buchanan Town site enhancement project from 2011 to 2010.
- Swap the Seven Bridges paving project 2010 funds with local funds and shift portions of the enhancement funds to the Lakewalk Phase 4 and Phase 5 enhancement projects in 2012.
- Move/backfill the St. Louis County CSAH 87 RR crossing project from 2011 to 2010.
- Move the Mallet Steam Engine project from 2010 to 2011.
- Move/backfill the Clair Nelson ped/bike enhancement project from 2013 to 2010.
- Move the 2010 Cloquet Connection Phase 2 enhancement project out of the program.
- Move/backfill the Joshua Avenue preliminary engineering funding to 2010.
- Swap HPP and Enhancement funding on two 2010 Mesabi Trail projects and move the Bearhead to Tower Trail project from 2010 to 2011.
- Swap HPP and Enhancement funding on two 2010 DNR Gitchi Gami Trail projects and move the Cascade River Trail project to 2011.
- Move funding for the Glenwood Street project to 2010.

Walt reviewed a handout that describes when formal STIP Amendments and/or STIP Administrative Modifications are required. A proposed Resolution 10-01 (handout) stating that the ATP delegates authority to Mn/DOT District 1 to manage STIP amendments and modifications was read to the membership. Walt recommended that the ATP adopt this resolution that allows Mn/DOT to process Formal STIP Amendments and Administrative Modifications without concurrence of the ATP. Gus explained the timeliness of getting STIP Amendments processed. Gus advised that MN/DOT's Office of Capital Programs & Performance Measures posts all STIP Amendments on their website.

Following a lengthy discussion on this issue, a motion was made by Mike Forsman, seconded by Paul Bergman to adopt the resolution. Motion passed.

Gus reviewed the FY 2010 Mn/DOT project status (handout). Projects shown in green are let projects. Projects shown in white have 2010 letting dates but have not been let. The I-35 unbonded concrete overlay project from Sturgeon Lake to Moose Lake has been moved to FY 2011 as it fits better with other construction being done in that area (December 2010 letting). The project shown in yellow is the Silverdale Bridge relocation for which the actual completion has been handed off to Mn/DOT's Metro district.

The I-35 Mega Project in Duluth has been let and came in under estimate for a bid just under \$67 million. The second bid was just over \$69 million. The low bidder was

Arrowhead I-35 Constructors, LLC which is a consortium comprised of PCIRoads, LLC of St. Michael, Mn & Lunda Construction Corp. of Black River Falls, Wis.

Gus also reviewed Mn/DOT's 2010 Highway Construction Program project listing (handout). This lists the carry-over projects and the new 2010 projects, together with a map of the projects.

Federal Economic Stimulus 2

Denny reviewed the northeast Minnesota Federal Economic Stimulus 2 project listing (handout) which includes 3 Mn/DOT projects and 5 local projects. However, it now appears unlikely that there will be a Stimulus 2 funding bill.

2014 Project Recommendations

Andy Hubley of the ARDC advised that the Enhancement Task Force met earlier and established the FY 2014 Enhancement Project Recommendations (handout) which includes five (5) projects at a cost of approximately \$1.6 million of federal funds.

Denny reviewed the FY 2014 Federal Aid Candidate Project listing (handout). Typically we fund approximately \$8 to \$9 million of federal funds for local projects and \$27 to \$28 million of federal funds for Mn/DOT projects. These totals will drop substantially in FY 2014 because the ATP's federal target is being reduced by \$6.5 million to pay back the bonding used on the TH 53 Trinity Road reconstruction project. Projects shown in green are recommended for funding in 2014. Projects shown in white are not recommended because of the funding limitations, however, the TH 1 project in and west of Ely will be funded with 100% state funds. Gus mentioned that on the I-35 project in the Duluth/Superior MPO Area, the portion on TH 2 from Boundary Avenue to I-35 will also be completely state funded.

Denny reviewed another handout regarding a proposal to use Gas-Tax Treasury Bonds to Pay for the Next Federal Transportation Bill. Those treasury bonds would be repaid with revenues from the highway trust fund out into the future and the gas tax would not have to be raised until after the economy recovers. The current Transportation Bill has been extended through the end of this calendar year.

Draft 2011-2014 ATIP

Gus reviewed the NE MN ATP 2011-2014 Draft ATIP. He advised that when the Steering Committee met, the I-35 Mega Project hadn't been let. The result of that letting allows us to continue with the proposed program in the handout.

The Draft ATIP will closely maintain the historic average of 67% of federal funds programmed for Mn/DOT projects, 23% for local projects, and the remaining 10% for other types of projects. There will be less federal funds available in FY 2014. Doug Grindall said that a HPP trail project in Koochiching County appears to be missing from the list of projects.

ACTION ITEM:

A motion was made by Chuck Lepper and seconded by Les Ollila to accept the Draft 2011-2014 ATIP with the addition of one HPP trail project in Koochiching County which was inadvertently omitted from the list.

Walter Leu said that he will be setting up a brainstorming session on April 22 for local engineers to discuss possible funding swaps of federal and state aid funds and to update project cost estimates for FY's 2011, 2012 & 2013. Hopefully this will eliminate additional changes in the future. Also, John Minor will be contacting project sponsors to get project numbers.

County Board Meetings

Andy Hubley advised that Bryan Anderson will return to work next Monday. At that time, Bryan will be setting up the County Board Meetings scheduled for the month of May.

Other Business

Denny advised that the RTAC will be meeting at 12:30 p.m. today. Roberta Dwyer will be giving a presentation on the I-35 Mega Project and everyone is welcome to attend.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the ATP is scheduled for Thursday, November 4, 2010. A motion was made by Catherine McLynn and seconded by Jack Larson to move the meeting date to October 28, 2010 to avoid a conflict with the opening weekend of firearms deer season. After discussion, Catherine and Jack agreed to amend the date in the motion to Wednesday, November 3, 2010. Motion passed.

The next meeting of the Steering Committee will be on June 21, 2010.

Adjourn

David Salo adjourned the meeting at 11:40 AM.