

**Northeast Minnesota ATP
ATP Meeting
April 9, 2015
Hermantown**

Members Present

Andy Hubley
Bob Manzoline
Cavour Johnson
Ron Chicka
Earl Elde
Jim Foldesi
David Betts
Karin Grandia
John Welle
Duane Hill
Jack Larson
Don Mohawk
Mike Tardy
Krysten Foster
Kevin Adee
Ginny Storlie
Cindy Voigt
Jesse Story
David Danz
Julie Kennedy
Jim Newman
Gary Peterson
Ron Johnson
John McDonald
Mike Moilanen
Bryan Anderson

Others

Rachel Metlak
Scott Johnson
Nancy Sannes
Robert Herling
Jarrett Valdez

Representing

ARDC
St. Louis & Lake Rail Auth.
Ped/Bicycle Rep.
MIC-ARDC
Midway Township
St. Louis County
Cook County
Itasca County
Aitkin County
MnDOT
Arrowhead Transit
MnDOT
Carlton County
Lake County
Koochiching County
Cook County
City of Duluth
City of Hibbing
Grand Portage Tribal Council
City of Grand Rapids
Carlton County Townships
Carlton County
Duluth Seaway Port Authority
MnDOT
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe
MnDOT

Representing

Itasca County
MnDOT
MnDOT
MIC-ARDC
ARDC

Cindy Voigt called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Committee Business

Jim Foldesi/Kevin Adee motioned to approve the November 17th meeting summary. The motion carried.

STIP Amendment

Cindy Voigt added an extra item to the agenda, asking for a STIP Amendment regarding the Cross City Trail. She explained to the members that when the plan was review by MnDOT Central Office, they informed her that two pedestrian bridges were not included in her project memo. As a result, it was proposed to amend the STIP to include the bridges, contingent upon approval from the MPO Executive Board. Voigt also mentioned that this proposal wouldn't change the price, route, or timeline.

Mike Tardy/Krysten Foster motioned to approve the Cross City Trail STIP amendment as presented by Voigt. The motion carried.

State Program

Nancy Sannes reviewed the MnDOT FY 2015 projects (handout). Sannes reported that many of the projects listed and color coded in green have been let. She highlighted on some projects that will be let later this spring and into the summer. It was noted that there some projects that were newer to the program such as the installation of some mainline dynamic warning systems; additional culverts to District 2's hydraulics project that are located within our ATP; and an ADA project in which funds were redirected from a project in International Falls to London Road in Duluth. Other projects that were not listed in the handout but mentioned were the Ash River Slide Project, north of Orr which could cost between \$2-4 million to complete; the Highway 210 project through Jay Cook, in which a contractor has been awarded; as well as the Highway 53 Relocation Project.

Local Program

The new MnDOT District State Aid Engineer, John McDonald was formally introduced and provided some of his background to the rest of the ATP members. He proceeded to provide an update to the ATP of some of the 2015 Local Projects. He highlighted on projects such as CSAH 9 in St. Louis County which is a pavement reclamation project that has been authorized; pavement rehabilitation projects in Aitkin and Pine Counties; trail project between International Falls and Ranier in Koochiching County. He also mentioned that there are a number of HSIP projects set for this summer with work including edge lining, chevron installation, etc... McDonald gave praise to the group with the quality and timing of the plans that he has reviewed, making the process easier and more efficient.

2016-2019 ATIP

Investment Targets

Bryan Anderson provided an overview of the FY 2019 investment guidelines. He mentioned that it changed since the last ATP Meeting in November:

- MnDOT: \$75,000,000
- Local Program: \$8,000,000
 - Rural/Small Urban Transit: \$1,100,000

- TA: \$900,000
- HSIP: \$1,300,000
- Small Urban/Rural: \$4,700,000

Transit Funding Overview

Bryan Anderson reviewed the targets for transit. It was mentioned that MnDOT Transit Office will fund the DTA's Stride vehicles this year. There is anticipation that funding of this sort can continue into future years, however, it was mentioned that the Transit Office cannot make this commitment as of yet. If this moves forward small urban transit would be funded from Central Office while the extra \$250,000 will be used as a place holder for 2020 as it was this year. Rural transit funding would still need to be determined. Anderson mentioned that Central Office is considering reaching out to each of the ATP's and matching the dollar amount to what is normally given to rural transit. The main takeaway is that half of the region's transit needs would be funded through Central Office.

Federal Aid Candidate Projects

Bryan Anderson provided a brief overview of the Federal Aid candidate projects. It was noted that the amount of federal aid dollars that each entity received was adjusted do to extra available funds. Each entity briefly described about what their project was about.

- St. Louis County CSAH 100 – originally requested \$1,500,000 but will receive \$1,655,000.
 - Reclaim and overlay with full culvert replacements on CSAH 100 for 5.5 miles long, between CSAH 99 and CSAH 110 in Aurora.
- St. Louis County Maple Grove Rd - \$1,600,000.
 - 4.5 mile mill and overlay as well as pavement reclamation on CSAH 6, between Midway Rd and Westburg Rd in Hermantown.
- Aitkin County CSAH 6 – original request was \$500,000 but will receive \$665,000.
 - Mill and overlay project, culvert replacement, and additional safety features between MNTH 210 and MNTH 65.
- Arrowhead Transit - \$595,000
 - Purchasing passenger busses. The amount of busses is still to be determined.
- Cook County CSAH 12 (Gunflint Trail) – original request was \$400,000 but will receive \$565,000.
 - Culvert replacement and repaving of road and shoulders
- DTA \$420,000 request/guidelines \$250,000
 - Normal investment guidelines are \$250,000 for STRIDE vehicle purchases. Anderson mentioned that MnDOT Central Office will fund the entire \$420,000.
- City of Duluth MSAS 134 – original request was \$450,000 but will receive \$860,000.
 - Mill and overlay. Additional funds used for other improvements such as sidewalks, curb ramps, etc...

Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Overview

Jarrett Valdez provided a brief overview of the TAP Task Force meeting which was held February 10th. Andy Hubley informed the members about the background, process, and ARDC's role for the selected projects. It was stressed how both Grand Marais and Scanlon do not have experience with TAP projects and it is important for their respective Counties and MnDOT to help guide the two cities through the project development process.

Sponsoring Agency (Project Location)	Brief Project Description	TAP Amount Requested	Contributing Match	Total Eligible Costs	Project Total
Cook County (City of Grand Marais)	Highway 61 Redesign: This project is seeking funds to build continuous pedestrian and bike facilities in the Highway 61 corridor along with necessary storm water improvements	\$600,000	\$151,140	\$751,140	\$751,140
Carlton County (City of Scanlon)	St. Louis River Trail Project Phase II: This project is seeking funds to construct a 10 foot-wide paved, non-motorized trail between Scanlon and Cloquet along the St. Louis River	\$300,000	\$75,000	\$375,000	\$435,250
Total		\$900,000	\$226,140	\$1,126,140	\$1,186,390

Bryan Anderson asked the group for their thoughts or concerns regarding the TAP solicitation and the possibly of making changes for the FY 2020 process. Cindy Voigt made a suggestion regarding the Letter of Intent (LOI) review time period, stating that the review period is unnecessary for applicants that have extensive experience with the program and have a project that they know is TAP eligible. It was suggested that the full TAP application be made available sooner to those who know that their project is eligible, which would minimize scrabbling to complete it during the holidays.

Bob Manzoline commented that it would be beneficial for the TAP maximum request amount be reduced from \$600,000 to \$450,000, which would enable the TAP Task Force to recommend more projects for funding especially since the available funds have been decreasing in recent years. Anderson stated that this subject will be discussed at the next RTAC meeting.

Bob Manzoline/Karin Grandia motioned to approve of all the projects presented and have them placed into the draft ATIP. The motion was carried.

Draft ATIP

Nancy Sannes provided the group with summary of spending for 2016-2019. Overall spending is in shape as total SRC funds are approximately \$360,000,000 while the spending target was approximately \$359,500,000. It should be noted that the funds include the Highway 53 Relocation Project for fiscal years 2016 and 2017. However, she mentioned that target funds that MnDOT is planning to spend are not matching up perfectly, which will result in some adjustments to be made, such as federal projects being moved over to the state targets.

Sannes urged the group to thoroughly look through the draft ATIP and be on the lookout typos or possible errors. It will be due on April 15th but there will be another opportunity for review and address other changes. It was highlighted that the Highway 53 Relocation Project (6918-80) will have two additional projects that are work packaged to build the bridge and the interchange with MNTH 135. Also, the Corridors of Commerce Project (3116-142) will be let in July 2015, which is bond funded and separate from the targets.

For the FY 2019 Program, Sannes highlighted that more painting will be done on the Blatnik Bridge; US 71 medium mill and overlay project located at the Beltrami-Itasca County line to the Itasca-Koochiching County line, will be funded by ATP 1 but designed and delivered by District 2. She informed the members that the St. Louis River Trail Extension Project will receive a local match to the awarded TAP funds, courtesy of the State. It was noted that two projects were taken out of the drafted ATIP such as a mill and overlay with sidewalk work in International Falls as well as the Deer Creek Bridge as MnDOT has pushed those out to 2020. Nancy mentioned that those who have been awarded an HSIP project should provide MnDOT with the project rather quickly so they could be added to the ATIP during District 1's next review opportunity.

An update was given regarding the Highway 53 Relocation Project. It was mentioned that the total cost of the project is estimated at \$180-\$240million. Also the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is under federal agency review with anticipation for approval in either August or September. The contractor has been selected and MnDOT is currently working with the designer to finalize plans. The goal is to have bridge design completed by early May. Construction work will begin this fall, starting with the purchasing of the materials. Another part of the work package will involve constructing the roadway and interchange with MNTH 135, which is anticipated to begin in early 2016. It is important to note that other facilities such as the Mesabi Trail will be accounted for to accommodate the inclusion of snowmobile use in the winter and possible connection to the OHV Park.

Foldesi/ Welle motioned to approve the ATIP. The motion carried.

Gitchi-Gami Trail and Skyline Parkway Mapping Project

Andy Hubley presented on the interactive mapping that ARDC has been creating. He informed the ATP members that it has been primarily used for planning purposes but could have the potential to be marketed to trail users. A demonstration was given, showcasing the interactive mapping functions of the Gitchi-Gami Trail, Skyline Parkway, and sidewalks that have been inventoried in different cities throughout the region. Hubley mentioned that all of the mapping project will be centralized on website (<http://www.arrowheadplanning.org/Default.asp?PageID=1185>) for future and easier viewing. Starting in the summer, the Mesabi Trail will be filmed and completed into a story map.

Upcoming Meetings

The next ATP meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 5, 2015.

The next RTAC meeting will be June 18, 2015

Meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.