

**Northeast Minnesota ATP  
Steering Committee Meeting  
Monday, January 23, 2012  
Carlton Transportation Building**

**Members Present**

Wayne Olson  
Walter Leu  
Cindy Voigt  
Jim Foldesi  
John Welle  
Al Goodman  
Dave Christy  
Mark LeBrun  
Dennis Jensen

**Representing**

Carlton County  
MnDOT  
Duluth  
St. Louis County  
Aitkin County  
Lake County  
Itasca County  
Pine County  
Transit

**Others Present**

Don Mohawk  
Bryan Anderson  
Scott Johnson  
John Minor  
Nancy Sannes  
Rex Bordson  
Jon Mason  
Robert Herling

**Representing**

MnDOT  
MnDOT  
MnDOT  
MnDOT  
MnDOT  
MnDOT  
ARDC  
MIC

**Call to Order**

Chairman John Welle called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m. and introductions were made.

**Committee Business**

*Motion by Walter Leu/Al Goodman, to approve the October 13, 2011 meeting summary. Motion passed carried.*

Jon Mason reviewed the Enhancement Task Force membership with the Steering Committee. Mason mentioned that Mark Anderson, MnDOT's Enhancement Coordinator retired in June and Carol Zoff has replaced Mark.

*Walter Leu/Wayne Olson motioned to solicit participation from Carol Zoff for participation on the Enhancements Task Force . – The motion carried.*

**2012 Program Status**

### *Local Program*

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

Highlights of the local program include:

- All federal projects must meet the April 15<sup>th</sup> deadline unless the project is a high priority project which has a deadline of June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- MnDOT is currently working on a STIP amendment to amend the Aitkin Trail project into the 2012 STIP.
- Aitkin County would like to move the Great River Road project from 2012 to 2013.
- Aitkin County is going to try to advance construct their CSAH 3 project in 2012.
- A reminder that Congress has the authority to rescind federal projects so the sooner they are completed the better.
- St. Louis County met regarding the Haines Road project on January 20<sup>th</sup> and is hopeful to meet the June 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.
- City of Duluth is unsure if they can meet the June 1<sup>st</sup> deadline for the secondary access road to the Air National Guard. There are no signed agreements or ROW for the project yet.
- The two City of Duluth Lakewalk projects are being combined in the STIP so that only one project memo needs to be completed.

### *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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Blatnik Bridge (I-535) repairs including bridge painting and deck seal. Cost of this project \$9.0 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.
- Reconstruction of Pokegama Avenue (Th 169) in Grand Rapids between 1<sup>st</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> streets. Cost of this project is \$7.5 million.

Sannes also mentioned that the decorative lighting on the Blatnik Bridge needs to be removed when the bridge is painted and MnDOT is considering not replacing the lighting do to the cost associated with this project. 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.

### **2013-2016 ATIP**

#### *Investment Guidelines*

Sannes reviewed the investment guidelines with the Committee (handout).

### *Transit Discussion*

Walter Leu and Don Mohawk reviewed the Duluth Transit Authority's (DTA) request for FY 2016 funding. The DTA requested \$3.76 million for the replacement of 10 regular route busses. This exceeds the ATP's target of \$2.13 million. The ATP has three options with the request:

- 1) Fully fund the request
- 2) Moderately reduce the request
- 3) Drop the request to the funding target.

*Walter Leu/Jim Foldesi motioned to reduce the 2016 DTA bus allocation from \$3.7 million to \$3.0 million but up the set aside (target) for future years to \$1.5 million from \$1.26 million.*

Discussion: Foldesi asked if by increasing the target by \$250,000 a year will the funding come from the local share or the MnDOT share? Leu mentioned it would come out of the local share.

The motioned passed, yays included: Olson, Leu, Voigt, Foldesi, Welle, Goodman, Christy, and LeBrun.  
Nays included: Jensen

### *Enhancements Process*

Jon Mason provided an overview of the Enhancement project applications received (handout). Mason mentioned that 14 project applications were received requesting approximately \$5.0 million in funding. The investment target for Enhancements is \$1.5 million. The Enhancement Task Force will meet in early February to rank the applications and recommendations will be provided to the ATP Steering Committee in March.

### *Schedule*

Bryan Anderson reviewed the upcoming schedule (handout) for the year.

### *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 titled F.Y. 2016 Federal Aid Candidate Projects.

### *2013 Contingency Projects*

Sannes and Leu mentioned that 2013 contingency projects need to be identified incase federal funding is reduced. MnDOT is identifying 30% of its FY 2013 program is contingent. The local program would also be impacted if federal funds were reduced. The Steering Committee discussed projects that could be deferred if federal funds were reduced. Projects identified were the Cook CSAH 12 project and the Pine County CSAH 11 project. These two projects will be listed as contingent in the 2013 program.

### **Other Business**

Anderson invited ATP Steering Committee members to participate in the January 30<sup>th</sup> Statewide Multimodal Plan open house. The open house is an opportunity for the public and transportation stakeholders to comment on MnDOT policies and help shape the long range plan. The open house will be held at the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission from 4:00-7:00 PM on January 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **Next meeting**

The next meeting will be scheduled for March 6th.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:58.