

**Northeast Minnesota ATP  
Steering Committee Meeting  
January 29, 2007  
Lake Superior Conference Room  
Mn/DOT Duluth District Office**

**Members Present**

Cindy Voigt  
John Foschi  
Marcus Hall  
Wayne Olson  
Walter Leu  
Doug Grindall  
David Salo  
John Welle  
Rick Goutermont  
John Suihkonen  
Mark LeBrun  
Tom Pagel  
Dave Christy  
Dennis Jensen  
Tom Peterson

**Representing**

City of Duluth  
MIC  
St. Louis County  
Carlton County  
Mn/DOT  
Koochiching County  
Cities > 5000  
Aitkin County  
Lake County  
Cities > 5000  
Pine County  
City of Grand Rapids  
Itasca County  
Transit  
Special Interests

**Others Present**

Bryan Anderson  
Ben VanTassel  
James Gittemeier  
Alan Goodman  
John Minor  
Denny Johnson  
Gus Peterson  
Brad Larsen  
Lorraine Kramer  
Mike Tardy

**Representing**

ARDC  
ARDC  
MIC  
Lake County  
Mn/DOT  
Mn/DOT  
Mn/DOT  
Mn/DOT  
Mn/DOT  
Mn/DOT

**Call to Order**

Chair David Salo called the meeting to order and introductions were made.

## **Minutes of the October 12, 2006 Meeting**

Motion made by Marcus Hall and seconded by John Suihkonen to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

### **2007 Program Status**

Walter Leu reviewed the status of the 2007 local program. Walter indicated that all projects in the handout with a “nothing” status need to be addressed immediately. Review the projects and give him a status update after today’s meeting. All FY 07 projects require an April 15 deadline & projects need authorization before the end of June.

Gus Peterson reviewed the status of the 2007 Mn/DOT program. He said the majority of Mn/DOT’s fiscal year 2007 program have already been let. The most significant project is TH 53 north of Virginia which was let in December. The remaining major project is TH 65’s Silverdale Bridge replacement. Gus expressed concern with the supplemental agreements and cost overruns. He mentioned the high cost involved when Mn/DOT encountered excavated material with creosote in a Pine County project.

Gus reviewed the 2007-2010 Project Deferrals. There are no foreseen problems with the projects moving from FY 07 to FY 08. Due to revenues going down, the level of state funding has been decreased for FY 08 and FY 09. Because most of the current program is preservation work, difficult decisions must be made when shifting projects from one year to the next.

There are four (4) local projects with cost increases requiring Steering Committee action:

- ***SP 69-607-40*** (St. Louis County) – project federal aid cost increased 50% to \$1,200,000
- ***SP 202-104-11*** (City of Hermantown) – project federal aid cost increased 33% to \$640,000
- ***SP 3104-51L*** (City of Grand Rapids) – 88% increase in local federally-aided component of the lighting system which is owned by the City to \$600,000
- ***SP 01-604-09*** (Aitkin County) – project federal aid cost increased 74% to \$1,500,000 to reflect increased cost of bituminous.

Motion made by Doug Grindall and seconded by John Foschi to approve the revised costs. Motion carried.

- Gus reviewed two (2) additional issues; the first being the Carlton County’s St. Louis River Trail Segments cost adjustments and the second being that accurate cost estimates are not available for the Enhancement Projects.

## **2008 – 2011 ATIP**

- ***ATIP Schedule – Denny Johnson***
  - Enhancement Task Force Meeting changed from February 2, 2007 to February 8, 2007.
  - The next Steering Committee Meeting will be held on March 5, 2007.
- ***STIP Funding Guidance – Denny Johnson***
  - 2008 Federal Target - \$30 million additional from SAFETEA-LU which is an additional \$4.6 million for District One.
  - Federal Targets for 2009, 2010 & 2011 – Increased because of preservation needs.
  - State funding forecast is based on the current revenues less approximately \$15 million per year for statewide reserves. Forecasts are down due to revenues from gas tax and MVST flattening out and the transfer of construction dollars to the operating budget.
- ***Project Cost Updates/Impacts – Gus Peterson***
  - Mn/DOT is in the process of updating the 10 Year Plan. We are looking at the impact of flat revenues and increased inflation.
  - Construction cost inflation is the big issue, having a very significant impact on projects. It is very important to keep the cost estimates up-to-date.
- ***Enhancement Project Impacts – Bryan Anderson***
  - \$1.5 million in funding
  - Enhancement Task Force will be cutting half the projects submitted
  - Recommendation to the Steering Committee in March
- ***2011 Federal Aid Candidate Projects – Denny Johnson***
  - Three (3) county projects submitted with a minimal amount of federal aid (\$50,000) in the MPO area. Marcus Hall explained it was to provide a placeholder in the program in case special federal funding were received in a future authorization or appropriation bill.
  - The City of Duluth has submitted “preliminary engineering for Joshua Avenue Duluth Heights Connector” project for \$500,000. Under special circumstances and ATP approval, consideration could be made to use federal aid on preliminary engineering.

- The Steering Committee must make a recommendation to the full ATP. Motion made by Walter Leu and seconded by Dennis Jensen to recommend allowing preliminary engineering activities as eligible for federal aid. No right-of-way purchases will be federally funded. Comment by Gus Peterson that, if the recommendation is approved, he must get it authorized before any work is started. Motion carried with one nay vote.
- Two (2) projects, one Lake County project, and one Mn/DOT project in Pine County are being voluntarily removed from the 2011 candidate list and will be given special consideration for 2012 funding. The reasons for removal are equity and budget issues. Walter commented that we have to maintain fiscal constraint when developing the STIP. John Welle of Aitkin County explained that his County Board made the decision to submit a project for FY 2011.

### **County Team/County Board Meetings**

- ***Suggested Meeting Dates***
  - March 6, 2007 – Pine County
  - March 13, 2007 – St. Louis County
  - March 27, 2007 – Carlton County
  - (Note: Carlton County meeting date has now been set for March 13, 2007)**
  - Counties to contact Bryan to approve suggested dates
  - No team meetings in Aitkin, Cook, Lake, Itasca & Koochiching counties.

### **Other Business**

- ***Mn/DOT Ten Year Plan (2007 – 2016) Update – Denny Johnson***
  - Check – In Meeting is scheduled for February 14, 2007
  - High priority federally funded projects have created a challenge in providing the state match.
  - Again, majority of the program is for preservation (have had to defer all non – preservation projects out of the 10 Year Plan)
  - Potential relocation of TH 53 near Virginia where an ore body is under the roadway has not been accounted for in the Ten Year Plan.
- ***2011 Mn/DOT State Corridor Fund Project Request – Denny Johnson***
  - Major bridge projects – 50/50 match. Already programmed to FY 2018 – none in our ATP. Because of ever increasing preservation needs statewide, long pavement preservation projects are being

- solicited to utilize the State Corridor Funds (SCF) for FY 2011. These funds are normally used for mobility type projects.
- Two (2) I-35 preservation projects submitted by Mn/DOT's District One. Both are on SB I-35 from one (1) mile north of Hinckley to one (1) mile north of CSAH 33, approximately 17.6 miles. One is for an unbonded concrete overlay on the entire length, \$17.54M SCF requested, and one is for a combination unbonded/thick bituminous overlay project, \$11.325M SCF requested. If selected these projects require a 20% state funds match.
  - Approximately \$46 million is available statewide.
- ***TRLF Funding Solicitation – Gus Peterson***
    - Gus will be sending out solicitation to cities and counties in the next week or two. There are approximately \$7M available.
    - Sue Thompson is Mn/DOT's Program Administrator.
    - Program has always been that the roadway must be a Collector classification.
    - Access Mn/DOT's OIM's website to get additional information. The web address is <http://www.oim.dot.state.mn.us/TRLF/index.html>

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the ATP Steering Committee is scheduled for March 5, 2007, at a time and location to be determined.

### **Adjourn**

Chair David Salo adjourned the meeting. Following the meeting, a Federal Transportation Update presentation was given by Brad Larsen, Federal Relations Manager for Mn/DOT.