

**Northeast Minnesota ATP
Steering Committee Meeting
October 11, 2007
Comfort Suites -Duluth**

Members Present

Cindy Voigt
Pete Eakman
Walter Leu
John Welle
Mark LeBrun
Dave Christy
David Salo
Milt Hagen
Doug Grindall
Paul Bergman
Tom Peterson
Shae Kosmalski
John Suihkonen

Others Present

Jesse Story
Ron Chicka
Bryan Anderson
James Gittemeier
Denny Johnson
Gus Peterson
Lorraine Kramer

Representing

City of Duluth
St. Louis County
Mn/DOT
Aitkin County
Pine County
Itasca County
Cities > 5000
Carlton County
Koochiching County
Lake County Commissioner
DNR/Environmental
Cook County
Cities > 5000

Representing

City of Hibbing
MIC
ARDC
MIC
Mn/DOT
Mn/DOT
Mn/DOT

Call to Order / Introductions

Chairman David Salo called the meeting to order at 10 am. Introductions were made. Shae Kosmalski was welcomed as the new Cook County Engineer.

Minutes of the June 25, 2007 Meeting

Motion by Walter Leu, seconded by John Suihkonen to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

2007-2008 Program Status

Walter Leu reviewed the local 2007 - 2008 program status (handouts). 25 local projects were let in 2007 and are under construction. In 2008, there are 28 local federal projects.

Gus reviewed the FY 2008 Mn/DOT Project Letting Summary (handout). Six (6) projects have been let to-date for a total of \$28 million. \$13 million is AC payback for the I-35 project near Hinckley, the I-35 Can of Worms bridge rail replacement project in Duluth and the Bovey Bypass project on TH 169. There are very few Mn/DOT projects remaining to be let in 2008. The largest is the Kohl's project which will be let in January 2008; also a pavement repair project on TH 11 in International Falls, and masonry repairs at Split Rock & Gooseberry State Parks.

Gus also reviewed the FY 2008 Mn/DOT set-a-sides (handout). The balances are holding up well. Walt questions whether they reflect the full amount in the STIP and Gus advised that they do.

2008 – 2011 STIP / Program Adjustments

Kohl's Project

Gus reviewed the Kohl's project Estimate Comparison (handout). This was planned for a total (city, county, state) of \$13 million. However, the total has now jumped to \$22 million. To cover this shortfall, we need \$6.7 million additional federal funding and \$700,000 in state match.

A proposal has been made and approved by the Mn/DOT Office of Investment Management to use advanced construction to accommodate the cost increase. The advance construction payback due in 2009 creates the need to adjust 2009 – 2011 programs of the City of Duluth, St. Louis Co., and Mn/DOT. A total of \$7.3 million needs to be moved out those years into 2012. It creates an equity issue in 2012 because both the city and county have projects that moved into that year and will be funded. Gus said that issue can be resolved when the 2012 and 2013 programs are finalized.

Dave Christy questioned the scope of the Kohl's project. Gus advised that access management is the best description of the project. Half of the project is Mn/DOT's from Trinity Road to Haines Road on TH 53 and the other half is the City of Duluth and St. Louis County. There was discussion and an explanation of all the city and county routes included in the project. John Welle asked if the project footprint had changed considerably since it started and Pete Eakman advised that was not the case, just cost increases.

Mark LeBrun questioned how much room there is for error on the federal side? Gus advised that the latest estimate should be accurate. Mark is concerned about deficits in the future.

David Salo mentioned that in preparing for the full ATP meeting, a handout should include the addition of the 2012/2013 equity issue and the addition of a graphic handout (or possibly an overhead display).

Denny advised that Mn/DOT expects construction costs to increase 5% per year, which will have an impact on all Mn/DOT and local agency construction programs.

Walter Leu made a motion and it was seconded by John Suihkonen to approve the cost changes for the Kohl's project. Motion passed.

Gus has submitted three (3) STIP amendments for funding changes on this project. James Gittemeier will be submitting three (3) TIP amendments next week.

2009– 2012 ATP

- Funding Targets / Investment Guidelines

Denny reviewed the ATP Investment Guidelines (handout). Federal funds are distributed as follows: Mn/DOT roads 67%, Local roads 18%, Safety (HSIP), Rail Crossings, Transit, and Enhancements, 15%. Special Funding is comprised primarily of local and Mn/DOT High Priority Projects (HPP). The Forest Highway amount is zero because the meeting is held in the spring of 2008 when there may be some addition of federal highway projects. Other types of Special Funding are:

- CBIP – Coordinated Border Infrastructure Projects – reflects projects on Highway 11 and rest area projects on TH 61.
- SB – Scenic Byway Projects
- SRTS – Safe Routes to School projects
- Forest Highways

After discussion, John Welle made a motion and it was seconded by Cindy Voigt to approve the Investment Guidelines. Motioned passed.

- HSIP Implementation Criteria (handout)

Safety (HSIP) is a new category. Each ATP will set aside its HSIP target in federal funds based on the number of fatal and serious injury crashes that occurred on the trunk highway and local road systems between 2004 and 2006. That total is \$1.55 million for the ATP. The trunk highway/local road split of these funds for our ATP is approximately 50/50 based on the accident data. These funds are reserved for stand-alone safety projects. Every two years the Mn/DOT Office of Traffic, Safety, and Operations (OTSO) will solicit statewide for local HSIP projects based on HSIP implementation criteria. The first solicitation is scheduled for November, 2007 and will be for projects programmed in 2009 and 2010. Mn/DOT districts will select state projects based on HSIP implementation criteria and submit the projects to OTSO for approval in the 2009-2012 STIP.

- Enhancements Process

Bryan Anderson advised an enhancement workshop was held at Mn/DOT on September 20 with 10-15 attendees. Pre-applications are due on November 2 and final applications are due on December 14. As of yet, no applications have been turned in. Information is available at their website (www.nemnatp.org).

- Process / Schedule (handout). Denny briefly reviewed the tentative 2009-2012 STIP Process/Schedule which is similar to past years.

ATP Steering Committee Chair

Walter Leu made a motion and it was seconded by John Suihkonen to again appoint David Salo as the ATP Steering Committee Chair. Motion approved.

Other Business

Gus announced that the new Public Works Director for Bois Forte is Marty Connor (handout).

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the ATP Steering Committee is scheduled for Monday, January 28, 2008.

Adjourn

Chair David Salo adjourned the meeting at 11:30 AM.