

**Northeast Minnesota ATP
Steering Committee Meeting Summary
Thursday, October 13, 2011
Mn/DOT Duluth**

Members Present

Wayne Olson
David Salo
Doug Grindall
Walter Leu
Cindy Voigt
Jim Rohweder
Jim Foldesi
John Welle
Al Goodman
Dave Christy
Jesse Story
Tom Pagel

Representing

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

Others Present

Bryan Anderson
Scott Johnson
John Minor
Nancy Sannes
Rex Bordson
Amr Jabr
Jon Mason
Robert Herling

Representing

Mn/DOT
Mn/DOT
Mn/DOT
Mn/DOT
Mn/DOT
Mn/DOT
ARDC
MIC

Call to Order

Chairman John Welle called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and introductions were made.

Committee Business

Motion by Jim Foldesi/ Walter Leu, to approve the June 20, 2011 meeting minutes. Motion passed.

Wayne Olson/ Doug Grindall motioned to nominate Welle to a second term as the ATP Steering Committee Chair. – The motion carried.

2011-2012 Program Status

Local Program

Walter Leu reviewed the FY 2011 local program (handout) and discussed each project's status.

Highlights of the local program include:

- The funding for the HelmetHero program for 2011 was lost because St. Paul didn't receive the STIP amendment. Funding will hopefully be found to continue the program through either cost saving on other projects or possibly deferral of another Enhancement project.
- The DNR has \$500,000 in 2012 enhancement funds that cannot meet an April 2012 deadline. This is the Beaver River Bridge project and Lake County has a 2015 resurfacing project on Scenic 61 with \$600,000 in federal funds. This project can meet April 2012. In addition, Lake County has already planned reconditioning of CSAH 14, in 2012, with \$1,200,000 in federal funds. Combining these two projects could bring favorable bids. The STIP would need to be amended to move SP 092-090-038 from 2012 to 2015, and convert the \$600,000 of STP funds to Enhancement funds for this project to move forward.
- Grand Portage has \$300,000 in Enhancement funding for 2012. Grand Portage has been working with the BIA to develop trail plans for the funding. An agreement is being set up with the BIA to transfer the construction funds to the BIA to administer as well.
- Some of the HPP funds given to developing better access to the Air National Guard will be used on improving Haines Road which leads to the facility.
- A STIP amendment is being processed to amend SRTS funds (\$54,200) into the 2011-2014 STIP to be used to engineer a trail in Esko.
- The City of Duluth received \$800,000 in Scenic Byway funding to restore the Stewart Creek Bridge this project will be amended into the 2011-2014 STIP.

Leu congratulated the local agencies on a job well done for delivering a successful 2011 program. \$27 million in work was completed.

State Program

Nancy Sannes then reviewed the FY 2011 Mn/DOT program (handout) and noted that most projects are on track even with the state shutdown this summer. A project highlight is the \$31 million dollar concrete overlay on I-35 from Boundary Ave to Scanlon in 2012 and 2013. One side of the highway will be done the first year with traffic shifted to the other side and then flipped to the opposite side the following year.

Nancy also reviewed the Better Roads projects with the Work Group. Those projects included overlays on TH 200 (Cass-Aitkin CO LN to S JCT TH 2), TH 169 (TH 200/Hill City to .1 MI S Aitkin-Itasca County LN), TH 1 (Northome to TH 6), TH 65 (JCT TH 27 to Pliney), TH 18 (S JCT TH 47 to TH 65).

Sannes mentioned the long delays in obtaining Army Corp of Engineers permits are causing issues with projects especially with TH 1. Many of the County Engineers also have been having a difficult time obtaining permit on a timely basis. Amr Jabr mentioned that it might be beneficial to have a high level meeting with the Corps, the Steering Committee agreed and Foldesi mentioned that if this meeting occurs he would like to attend.

2013-2016 ATIP

Investment Guidelines

Sannes reviewed the investment guidelines with the Committee. Sannes mentioned that 2016 is only a projection based on expected funding. The rail, HSIP, and Enhancement targets, as well as, the transit investment capital plan were used in developing the guidelines.

Walter Leu/Jim Rohweder motioned to approve the investment guidelines for 2013-2016. – The motion carried.

Enhancements Process

Jon Mason provided an overview of the September 21st Enhancements workshop. Jon mentioned that 12 people participated in the workshop. The Enhancements pre-application is due on November 4th and final applications will be due on December 16th.

Schedule

Bryan Anderson reviewed the upcoming schedule (handout) for the year. Anderson mentioned that the ATIP development process follows previous years schedules. The Committee noted that the next Steering Committee meeting on January 26th falls during a City Engineers meeting and Anderson mentioned that he will work to reschedule the meeting.

Other Business

STIP Amendments

Bryan Anderson reviewed the STIP amendments with the Steering Committee. The projects that needed Steering Committee approval included:

Steward Creek Project – Scenic Byway grant funds received by the City of Duluth and project to be amended into the STIP.

Air Guard funding – the use of \$1,250,000 (\$800,000 federal) to be spent on a secondary route to the air national guard near the old Rice Lake Landfill and transfer the remaining funds to the St. Louis County Haines Road reconstruction project.

SRTS trail funding – Thompson Township (Carlton County Sponsor) received a \$243,000 SRTS Grant for trail construction and preliminary engineering. \$54,000 needs to be listed in the STIP for the preliminary engineering to begin as soon as possible.

Lake County/DNR Project swap- The DNR has \$500,000 in 2012 Enhancement funds (Beaver River Bridge) that cannot meet an April 2012 deadline. Lake County has a resurfacing project on Scenic 61 with \$600,000 in federal funds in 2015. This project could meet the April deadline. The STIP needs to be amended to move the CSAH 61 reconditioning project from 2015 to 2012 and convert \$500,000 of Enhancement funding to STP funds.

Olson/Pagel motioned to approve the STIP amendments as presented by Anderson. – The motion carried.

Minnesota Go

Anderson mentioned that Mn/DOT is crafting a 50 year long range vision to better align the transportation system with what Minnesotans expect for their quality of life, economy and natural environment. Public comments will be accepted until October 21st and more information can be found at www.minnesotago.org .

NEMNATP Website

Anderson and Mason reviewed the ATP website with the Committee. The ATP website is www.nemnntp.org .

Next meeting

The next meeting will be scheduled for the middle of January 2012.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:30.