

**Northeast Minnesota ATP  
Steering Committee Meeting  
March 3, 2008  
Lake Superior Conference Room  
Mn/DOT Duluth District Office**

**Members Present**

John Welle  
Mark LeBrun  
Dave Christy  
Jim Foldesi  
Milt Hagen  
David Salo  
Paul Bergman  
Tom Peterson  
Patrick Mlakar

**Representing**

Aitkin County  
Pine County  
Itasca County  
St. Louis County  
Carlton County  
City of Hermantown  
Lake County  
Special Interests  
City of Duluth

**Others Present**

Alan Goodman  
Ron Chicka  
Bryan Anderson  
Ben VanTassel  
James Gittemeier  
John Minor  
Denny Johnson  
Gus Peterson  
Lorraine Kramer

**Representing**

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

**Call to Order**

Chairman David Salo called the meeting to order at 10:05 am. Introductions were made.

**Minutes of the January 28, 2008 Meeting**

Motion by Jim Foldesi, seconded by Tom Peterson, to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

**2008 Program Status**

John Minor reviewed the 2008 local program (handout). John advised that nine (9) local projects were deferred until FY 2009. Also, the joint Kohl's project of Mn/DOT, St. Louis County and the City of Duluth will be re-let.

Gus Peterson reviewed the Mn/DOT 2008 program status (handout) and said there is very little change.

Gus said that the Kohl's project bids were rejected due to the City of Duluth's zoning ordinance conflict related to business parking requirements. The plan is to repackage the project and put it into the June 6, 2008 letting as a 2009 project. One outstanding issue is the 2008 HSIP funding for the project. The traffic signals may require additional local match if they are no longer HSIP eligible.

Regarding setasides, Gus said that everything looks fine to date.

### **2008 - 2011 Project Adjustments/Deferrals**

The Kohl's project Estimate Comparison (handout) was reviewed and the project will be fully funded as a FY 2009 project.

All projects indicated as deferred on the handout will be deferred, with the exception of the City of Duluth's Glenwood St. project which will remain as a FY 2011 project.

### **2012 Project Recommendations**

Bryan Anderson said that the Enhancement Task Force met on February 4, 2008. Five (5) enhancement projects have been recommended for funding in FY 2012 (handout). They are:

- (1) City of Effie Streetscape Project - \$100,000
- (2) Grand Portage Reservation Trails - \$300,000
- (3) Gitchi Gammi Trail, Beaver River Bridge and West Road Segment - \$500,000
- (4) City of Duluth Lakewalk Extension Phase IV - \$500,000
- (5) City of Duluth Lakewalk Extension Phase V - \$500,000

The recommendations total \$1.9 million, which is slightly over the \$1.5 million target for enhancement projects.

Denny reviewed the FY 2012 Federal Aid Candidate Projects (handout). All are recommended for funding, with the exception of the Aitkin CSAH 3 project and the Carlton CSAH 8 project.

Denny also discussed the candidate project for the Duluth/Superior MPO area by the Duluth Transit Authority (DTA) for the purchase of 10 buses at an estimated cost of \$3.7 million in federal funding. Concern was expressed at the Carlton County Team meeting related to the high cost of replacing DTA buses and that they shouldn't have automatic funding when there is also limited funds for road projects. Don Mohawk, Mn/DOT District 1 Transit Project Manager, has had discussions with DTA staff on alternative funding options for transit needs and is also gathering information on how other districts have been funding bus replacements. Don or Denny will report back to the Steering Committee after this information is obtained.

### **Draft 2009-2012 ATIP**

Gus advised that moving the Kohl's project to FY 2009 resulted in \$12.6 million of targeted federal and state funds being moved from FY 2008 to FY 2009. Converting Mn/DOT's 2009 ELLA projects to FY 2008 projects would reduce this down to \$9.3 million. This leaves a \$3.3 million difference which would have to be made up by increasing the target dollars by that amount in FY 2009. Converting the 2009 ELLA's to 2008 funds, also allows the projects to begin earlier in the construction season. Mn/DOT's Office of Investment Management has agreed to this concept of keeping the program whole.

The draft ATIP (handout) is \$1 million over-programmed. Gus asked that each committee member review the project list, making sure your projects and cost estimates are correct. Get back to Gus with any changes prior to the April 15<sup>th</sup> ATIP submittal date.

### **ACTION ITEM:**

Given the uncertainties related to the new State Transportation Funding Bill, Gus requested that the ATP Steering Committee approve only the federal formula funding portion of the draft 2009-2012 ATIP. Motion by John Welle and seconded by Dave Christy to approve this request. Motion passed.

### **County Board Meetings**

Denny said that Mn/DOT District 1 staff have suggested that the upcoming county board meetings be postponed because of the uncertainties related to the new state transportation funding bill. Both Mark LeBrun and John Welle agreed that this is a good idea. A new schedule for the county board meetings will likely be in May or June.

Denny mentioned that a big part of the state transportation funding bill relates to bridges and bonding. He also stated that Mn/DOT's performance based planning process has given us good guidance as to the investment principles that should be followed. John Welle questioned whether there are new unassigned dollars in the new funding. Denny said that we anticipate that there are and that they may be distributed by the target formula. He also mentioned that the schedule for completing Mn/DOT's 10 Year Plan may be delayed, pending updated 10 year revenue forecasts.

John Welle wondered about "flex funds". Denny said that future state flex funds (\$3.4 million per year for northeast Minnesota) must be used for turnbacks or for addressing issues such as safety on the local road system.

## **Other Business**

Ron Chicka said that John Foschi no longer represents the City of Proctor on the MIC TAC and this also opens up a spot on the ATP, Steering Committee (MPO Rep vacancy) and the Enhancement Task Force. Ron will be making calls to potential candidates to fill John's position. He hopes to have someone in place by the April ATP meeting. Ron and Earl Elde are also MPO/MIC representatives on the ATP.

Denny said there are three (3) other vacancies on the ATP - the Airport Representative, the Rail Representative, and the Trails, Bike, Ped Representative.

## **ACTION ITEM:**

The ATP Work Group recommends that the Steering Committee approve three (3) local project reauthorizations: The projects are:

SP 38-614-10, CSAH 14 in Lake County – 2 year deferral, 33% increase in federal funds

SP 16-612-70, CSAH 12 in Cook County – 1 year deferral, now a \$2 million project – 100% increase in federal funds

SP 69-604-65, CSAH 4 in St. Louis County – joint project with City of Duluth – additional study resulted in the need for new left turn lanes on Arrowhead Road which expanded the project scope – 300% increase in federal funds

Motion made by Dave Christy and seconded by John Welle to approve the changes for these projects. Motion approved.

## **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the ATP Steering Committee is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, June 26, 2008.

The next full ATP meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 3, 2008 at the Hermantown Public Safety Building.

## **Adjourn**

Chairman David Salo adjourned the meeting at 11:15 AM.