

**Northeast Minnesota ATP
Steering Committee Meeting
March 5, 2007
Lake Superior Conference Room
Mn/DOT Duluth District Office**

Members Present

Cindy Voigt
Marcus Hall
Walter Leu
John Welle
Rick Goutermont
Mark LeBrun
Dave Christy
Chuck Schmit

Representing

City of Duluth
St. Louis County
Mn/DOT
Aitkin County
Lake County
Pine County
Itasca County
Cook County

Others Present

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

Representing

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

Call to Order

Cindy Voigt graciously accepted to serve as Acting Chair for the meeting and called the meeting to order at 10 am.

Minutes of the January 29, 2007 Meeting

Motion by Marcus Hall, seconded by Rick Goutermont, to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

2007 Program Status

Walter Leu reviewed the 2007 local program. Walt advised that John Welle of Aitkin County deferred SP 01-610-21 (Phase 1 of their Great River Road project on CSAH 10 & CSAH 21) to FY 2008. He also noted that John had agreed to partially AC SP 01-608-04 so the Regional Rail Authority's SP 31-090-05 (CSAH 7 to Marble Mesabi Trail) can be funded in FY 2007.

Walt reminded everyone that all high priority projects must meet the June 30 deadline.

Gus Peterson reviewed the status of the 2007 Mn/DOT program. Sixteen projects have already been let in FY 2007. The most significant of the remaining projects are TH 65's Silverdale Bridge replacement which is to be let on May 18, 2007 and TH 210 thru Jay Cooke Park (Thomson to Jct TH 23 in Duluth) which is also scheduled for letting in May. Gus again expressed concern with the supplemental agreements and cost overruns. Two major issues involved a project on I-35 from Scanlon to Thompson Hill (cost doubled thru Supplemental Agreement) and the creosote issue (contaminated soil) in Pine County will cost the state over \$2 million combined.

Gus stated that Mn/DOT's biggest concern is FY 2008 projects, specifically the TH 2 reconstruction project in Grand Rapids. The concern is whether there will be enough federal aid available to finance this project which is now scheduled to be let on June 8, 2007. Walt commented that two things have to occur:

- (1) the bid amounts for the Metro area's Crosstown project (bids to be opened the end of March) will affect the state's cash flow, and
- (2) the FY 2007 Federal Appropriation Bill still hasn't been passed so we don't know what level of federal funding to expect.

John Welle questioned whether there are any visible bituminous price trends. Gus advised they have stabilized at higher levels.

2011 Enhancement Project Recommendations

Bryan Anderson advised that the Enhancement Task Force met on February 8, 2007. A total of eleven projects were originally submitted, totaling \$2.8 million. Five projects have been selected and submitted for FY 2011 which are under the target of \$1.5 million federal. The projects are:

- (1) Buchanan Town Site Wayside Rest in Duluth Township (St. Louis County),
- (2) Lakewalk East Extension Phase IV (City of Duluth),
- (3) Lake Superior Transportation Museum Repairs (City of Duluth),
- (4) TH 217 Phase 2 Enhancement in Littlefork (Koochiching County),
- (5) Tioga to TH 169 Multi-use Trail Phase 1 (City of Grand Rapids).

Draft 2008 – 2011 ATIP

Gus advised that there is one item requiring Steering Committee action. The Mesabi Trail-Bearhead State Park to Tower project (SP 90-060-21) is being deferred from FY 2007 to FY 2009. Gus has accounted for it in FY 2009 and it should be approved. Motion by John Welle, seconded by Marcus Hall, to approve the project deferral. Motion passed.

Gus was able to accommodate the remainder of the project shifting in the 2008-2011 Draft ATIP. Overall, the federal aid did not increase. There will be a couple of additional projects added to the list of deferrals prior to the ATP Meeting in April.

Denny reviewed the FY 2011 Federal Aid Candidate Project listing and the Draft 2008-2011 STIP. He noted that all projects submitted for federal funding in 2011 are being included in the 2008-2011 Draft ATIP. Denny asked that the members review the 08-11 STIP worksheet and let Gus know if there are any changes/corrections.

Investment Guidelines:

Safety Improvement – setasides are in the program for FY 09-11. We still need to identify future safety projects. The projects included in the ATIP are primarily portions of projects deemed eligible for HSIP funding.

The total project cost for local road projects is up slightly due to St. Louis County significantly overmatching several projects to get them into the program. This is being done in the anticipation that the projects will receive special federal funding in a future Appropriation or Reauthorization Bill. Mn/DOT numbers are down due to the reduction in state fund target levels for both FY's 2008 & 2009.

Walt commented that they tried to achieve equity by funding all local projects in the 2011 submittal. He noted that both Aitkin and Lake Counties had submitted a project for funding in 2011 but withdrew them due to the above reason. Gus advised that because we were low on federal aid for Mn/DOT and local federal aid projects in 2011, he put in a \$1 million placeholder for a federal local road project(s) in 2011. He also included the Mn/DOT bridge repair project on the Midway Road @ I-35. The \$1 million available for local road projects will allow for some funding flexibility on future projects.

The FY 2008-2011 draft STIP was recommended to the Steering Committee for approval. A motion was made by Marcus Hall, seconded by Dave Christy. Motion passed.

County Board Meetings

- Bryan Anderson advised of the following schedule of County Board meeting dates:
 - March 13, 2007 – Pine, St. Louis, Carlton, Aitkin Counties
 - March 19, 2007 – Itasca County
 - March 20, 2007 – Cook, Lake, Koochiching, MPO

Other Business

TRLF Funding Solicitation – Gus Peterson

Gus advised that there may be two projects submitted:

- (1) City of Duluth for design of the Munger Trail extension project
- (2) City of Carlton for a grade separation project

The deadline for submitting an application is April 15 and the funding must be obligated by the end of calendar 2008. John Welle asked if there are any revolving funds available for roadways classified below a collector. Gus advised that there are not – federal aid requirements are that roads be a collector or higher classification.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the ATP Steering Committee is scheduled for Monday, June 25, 2007.

The next full ATP meeting is scheduled for April 5 at the Hermantown Public Safety Building starting at 9:30 am.

The agenda will be:

9:30 am – 10:30 am ATP Meeting

10:30 am – 1:30 pm Stakeholders Outreach Meeting (includes lunch) "Meet & Greet" session with Mn/DOT Management Staff from St. Paul. The St. Paul staff will introduce a couple of new staff members and provide a presentation relating to the state funding situation and the 10 Year Plan. The full ATP membership is invited to the Stake holder's meeting.

1:30 pm – 2:30 pm ARDC Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting

Adjourn

Acting Chair Cindy Voigt adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:10 a.m.