

**Northeast Minnesota ATP
Steering Committee Meeting
June 25, 2007
Lake Superior Conference Room
Mn/DOT Duluth District Office**

Members Present

Cindy Voigt
Marcus Hall
Walter Leu
John Welle
Mark LeBrun
Dave Christy
Tom Pagel
David Salo
Milt Hagen
Doug Grindall
Paul Bergman
Tom Peterson
John Foschi
Dennis Jensen

Representing

City of Duluth
St. Louis County
Mn/DOT
Aitkin County
Pine County
Itasca County
City of Grand Rapids
City of Hermantown
Carlton County
Koochiching County
Lake County Commissioner
DNR/Environmental
MIC
Transit

Others Present

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

Representing

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

Call to Order

Chairman Dave Salo called the meeting to order at 10 am. Introductions were made.

Minutes of the March 5, 2007 Meeting

Motion by Marcus Hall, seconded by Dave Christy, to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

2007 Program Status

Walter Leu reviewed the 2007 local program. Many projects were moved to FY 2008.

Three (3) notes on the local project summary (handout):

- SP 01-608-05 has now been let
- SP 69-607-40 letting date set for the end of July
- SP 91-030-07 letting date set for the beginning of August

Gus reviewed the 2007 Mn/DOT project letting summary (handout). Overall, most projects were let for amounts fairly close to the estimates. There were increased costs on the supplemental agreements and cost over-runs, mainly due to contaminated materials. A question was raised as to whether there are designated clean-up funds available. Gus explained that Mn/DOT must pay for it. However, there is a possibility that the Petro Fund may be used on a contamination issue at the Spur Station located on Maple Grove Road and Highway 53.

Draft 2008 – 2011 STIP

Handout (Draft ATIP Review) was distributed with Office of Investment Management's comments. Refer to yellow highlighted area wherein it states that:

“District/ATP 1 is over-programmed by \$1.3M in state funds in 2008. The 2007 SRC balance (April 30, 2007) shows District 1 overspending by \$1.2M. Please cut \$2.5M of Mn/DOT state funds.”

The recommended project adjustments to the Draft 2008-2011 STIP Response (handout) was presented for review and approval. It appears that all requested local projects will be funded; the only changes will be to Mn/DOT projects.

Gus mentioned that many of the FY 08 projects are ELLA projects and have already been let. Also, there is not enough money in the FY 08 R/W funds. Therefore, he moved a FY 08 Highway 53 project to FY 09, added \$1M to the FY 08 R/W Setaside and added \$1M to the FY 08 Preservation budget.

Mn/DOT projects moved to FY 2012 are:

- TH 169 – Bovey to Pengilly Preservation
- TH 23 – Culvert replacements Kingsbury & Keene's Creeks
- TH 53 - Bridge Painting near Virginia
- TH 61 – 26th Avenue East Preservation
- TH 210 – Cromwell Reconstruction

Gus advised that most preservation projects just move in their funding year, not in the construction year.

Paul Bergman raised a question regarding too many projects getting cut on Highway 61. Gus explained that there are currently two (2) HPP projects in the schedule for Highway 61. Walter Leu explained the reality of the funding problem – funding levels for the future are bad and are not getting better.

Gus stated that the official response needs to go to OIM by July 15.

A motion was made by John Welle and seconded by Cindy Voigt to approve the revised 2008-2011 ATIP. Motion passed.

Other Business – Safety Improvement Program

Denny explained the various available Highway Safety Programs (handout). HSIP is the system-wide strategy to reduce crashes. He noted that the State Aid Bond Program (Rural Road Safety Account) is set up by the legislature and needs to be renewed by the legislature to continue into future years.

The ATP's are expected to solicit additional safety projects in the program starting in FY 2009. The goal we are expected to meet is 50% Mn/DOT projects (\$700,000) and 50% local projects (\$700,000).

The 2008 – 2011 STIP Draft Safety Strategy Review (handout) includes three (3) local projects totaling \$1.6M. This does not meet the target, still short \$1.2M. The remainder are Mn/DOT projects (in the handout) which total \$5.6M, which meets Mn/DOT's target.

Discussion regarding the federal funding issue. How do we come up with \$1.2M to meet the goal? We need to determine what identifies an eligible project:

- Intersection lighting is eligible but it must meet crash criteria for high risk rural roads.
- Turn lanes are eligible
- Rumble stripes are eligible
- Delineation is eligible
- Shoulder widening is eligible

Walter Leu suggested that the local agencies discuss the 2008-2011 ATIP projects with their traffic personnel, identify portions of the reconditioning projects that are HSIP eligible and submit the estimated cost for HSIP portions of the projects to Gus. The HSIP portions of the projects will get 90/10 federal funding.

John Welle said using federal funding makes development of projects tougher. Does the Central Safety Fund still exist? He was advised that this is a separate funding program.

Mark LeBrun asked if anyone has one (1) large project to submit? John Welle said that ATP 3 did a county-wide pilot project. However, it was very difficult to implement because of so many differing opinions amongst local jurisdictions.

Gus needs potential portions of local projects for possible HSIP funding submitted by July 10.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the ATP Steering Committee is scheduled for Thursday, October 11, 2007.

Transportation Revolving Loan Fund (TRLF)

Gus advised that the City of Carlton applied for funds through the TRLF to supplement their HPP projects and the project was approved as meeting its requirements (handout).

Adjourn

Chair David Salo adjourned the meeting at 11:20 AM.