

**Northeast Minnesota ATP
Steering Committee Meeting
Thursday, June 26, 2008
Country Inn & Suites – Duluth North
4257 Haines Road in Hermantown**

Members Present

John Welle
David Salo
Tom Peterson
Cindy Voigt
Peter Eakman
Ron Chicka
Doug Grindall
Wayne Olson
Dennis Jensen
Walter Leu

Representing

Aitkin County
Cities over 5000
Special Interests
City of Duluth
St. Louis County
Duluth/Superior MIC
Koochiching County
Carlton County
Transit
Mn/DOT

Others Present

Catherine McLynn
Andy Hubley
Bryan Anderson
Ben VanTassel
John Minor
Rex Bordson
Denny Johnson
Gus Peterson
Lorraine Kramer

Representing

Itasca County
ARDC – MIC
ARDC
ARDC
Mn/DOT
Mn/DOT
Mn/DOT
Mn/DOT
Mn/DOT

Call to Order

Chairman David Salo called the meeting to order at 1:20 pm. Introductions were made.

Minutes of the March 3, 2008 Meeting

Motion by Walter Leu, seconded by Wayne Olson, to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

2008 Program Status

Walter Leu reviewed the 2008 local program (handout). All 2008 projects have been authorized. Some special federal funded projects will be moved to 2009. They do not have to meet the April 15 deadline but they should be completed by the end of June. Also, some enhancement projects have been moved to 2009. The completed projects are:

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Project Number</u>	<u>Route</u>	<u>Project Total</u>
Pine County	SP 58-646-23	CSAH 46	\$1,050,000
City of Hermantown	SP 202-104-11	MSAS 104	\$ 800,000
City of Grand Rapids	SP 3104-51L	TH 2	\$1,802,650

Gus Peterson reviewed the Mn/DOT 2008 program status (handout). He advised that a total of \$30 million was let in FY 2008.

Setasides (handout) – these are used for Mn/DOT state funded program categories. Mn/DOT overspent on system preservation because of the emergency contract on the Blatnik Bridge. This repair cost will be shared by Wisconsin DOT.

John Welle questioned whether setasides are taken from the targeted construction funds. Gus explained that over the last four or five years, there has been a shift to fund certain items typically funded by the operating budget to the construction budget. There is an ongoing discussion about this practice and moving some items back to the operations budget as a result of the operating dollars made available by HF 2800.

2009-2011 Draft STIP Response

Gus reviewed the ATP Draft STIP Response Spending Levels (handout). The total that the Mn/DOT Office of Investment Management (OIM) approved in their response back to the district was approximately \$300 million in federal and state funds over the next four years. The total for the Draft STIP response is very close to that level.

Gus went over the Draft 2009-2012 STIP. Gus needs to submit this program to St. Paul on Tuesday, July 1, 2008, so he requested that any changes be sent to him prior to Tuesday.

The biggest project that Mn/DOT has coming up is a \$65 million pavement recondition/bridge replacement project on I-35 from Boundary Avenue to 26th Avenue East in Duluth, which will be completed in three phases.

John Welle questioned the safety projects listed in 2009. Do they have the same August deadline as last year? Walter explained that last year's projects were funded by the Department of Public Safety so the August deadline does not apply to 2009 projects.

Gus said that Mn/DOT had received good bids on their 2009 ELLA (Early Let/Late Award) projects.

Gus also explained the contingency projects. There is a deficit of approximately \$8 billion in the Federal Highway Trust Fund in fiscal year 2009. Congress is exploring a number of options to keep the fund solvent. OIM directed all of the ATP's to identify approximately 15% of their federally aided projects as contingency in case Congress is

unsuccessful in providing additional funds. We have submitted two contingency projects for 2009:

- (1) A Mn/DOT resurfacing project on TH 210 between McGregor & Cromwell
- (2) A transit project for DTA bus purchases

One additional handout is the FY 2009-2012 Draft STIP Federal Aid and Special Funding Summary. The ATP is allowed to over-program in FY 2009 because of the under spending in FY 2008. This was due to the Miller Hill Mall project bids being rejected and the project moving into FY 2009.

Gus explained that this is the largest program our region has ever had.

ACTION ITEM:

Motion was made by Doug Grindall and seconded by Tom Peterson to adopt the 2009-2012 Draft STIP response. Motion passed.

Other Business

None

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the ATP Steering Committee will be held in early October. A notice of the exact date will be sent out.

The next full ATP meeting is scheduled for early November.

Adjourn

Chairman David Salo adjourned the meeting at 2:00 pm.