



RTAC MEETING SUMMARY

February 18, 2016
MnDOT District 1 Office
Duluth, MN

Attendees:

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Mike Tardy | Carlton County |
| Todd Campbell | MnDOT |
| Brian Boder | St. Louis County |
| John Welle | Aitkin County |
| Karin Grandia | Itasca County |
| Bob Manzoline | St. Louis & Lake RRA |
| Jack Larson | Arrowhead Transit /Rural Transit |
| Cindy Voigt | Duluth |
| Krysten Foster | Lake County |
| Mike Tardy | Carlton County |
| John Minor | District 1 State Aid |
| Scott Johnson | MnDOT |
| Nancy Sannes | MnDOT |
| David Betts | Cook County |
| Rex Bordson | D1 State Aid |
| Louise Anderson | CCLSL Community Health Board |
| Meghan Bown | City of Grand Rapids/Get Fit Itasca |
| Gary Johnson | Blackberry Township |
| Michelle Pierson | ARDC |
| Russell Habermann | ARDC |
| Jarrett Valdez | ARDC |
| *Others may have been present but did not sign in | |

1) Welcome and Introductions

- a) Call to order by Krysten Foster, Chair at 10:04am
- b) Introductions

2) Committee Business

- a) Agenda
- b) Call for approval of meeting summary from October 1, 2015. Motion to approve by Jack Larson/Karin Grandia; passed unanimously.

3) Rice Lake Road Sidewalk STIP Amendment

It was noted that project 069-090-029, a bike/ped project in Mt. Iron may have delivery issues. It was suggested that the federal funds tied to that project (\$274,560) could be applied to project 069-604-073 on CSAH 4 in St. Louis County on Rice Lake Road in Duluth. The county can absorb these funds into the project and reimburse the Mt. Iron project which would de-federalize the project. A motion was made by Mike Tardy/David Betts to support the request to make this shift of federal funds. Motion carries.



4) Area Transportation Improvement Plan (ATIP)

Handouts were distributed by John McDonald highlighting 2016 Local Projects. It was noted that project 069-090-030 requires a change in length from 4 miles to 3 miles. Contributing factors to this reduction in trail construction length are road speed and design in the area. The project was initially overmatched and can absorb the entirety of the federal funds. This will require an amendment as it is more than 3/10 of a mile. A motion to accept the reduction of trail construction length on project 069-090-030 from 4 miles to 3 miles was made by Cindy Voigt/Bob Manzoline. No further discussion. Motion carries.

5) 2016 Program Status

a) Handouts were distributed by detailing local project status in FY 2016 local projects and ATP 1 FY 2016 MnDOT projects.

6) Federal Aid Candidate Projects FY 2020

- a) Maps and handouts were distributed highlighting proposed 2020 projects
- b) Jack Larson noted that a new maintenance facility is being proposed outside City of Gilbert –Nancy Sannes noted he should send a notification email to her about this proposed project.
- c) Nancy Sannes went over DRRP spending and compared figures to targets. A handout will be prepared with these figures for the full ATP meeting on April 7, 2016.

7) MnDOT Signal Cost Participation

a) In District 1, it has been long-standing practice that project legs on a signal at intersections including a state highway and a local road belong 50%/50% to MnDOT and the local entity. MnDOT has extended federal funds to the local side at a rate of 80%/20% but beyond the 2016 projects, MnDOT will not be able to spend MnDOT funds on the locally owned legs on the signals. One idea to assist local communities with this issue would be to have donor counties contribute funds and then when the August re-distribution funds come in, donor counties would be remunerated for their assistance at that time. It is the goal to keep these projects whole through FY 2019. County engineers asked that MnDOT stay in touch with the counties regarding this process.

8) Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Outreach

- a) Jarrett Valdez presented on the FFY 2020 TAP Solicitation Process. \$900,000 is available for TAP projects in FY 2020 for our region. Maximum requests remain at \$600,000, minimum requests at \$100,000. A required local match of 20% is necessary for all projects. Applications totaled \$2,845,549 in request funds and the selection process was competitive.
- b) Valdez presented the TAP application process timeline demonstrating that the TAP Workshop Webinar will be held on October 6, 2015, Letters of Intent will be due by October 30th, 2015, and invited applicants will need to submit full applications by January 8, 2016. Grant recipients will be
- c) announced on April 15, 2016, following an ATP prioritization and ranking task force identifies selected applications.
- d) The TAP Task Force met on February 11, 2016 and went through a project scoring process. Three projects scored highly: A St. Louis & Lake Counties Regional Rail Authority project on the Mesabi Trail, City of Duluth's Brighton Beach Shared Use Path project, and the City of Grand Rapids' Corridor Improvement Project. It was a Task Force decision to divide the \$900,000 equally between the three



projects should they be able to accept a lower dollar figure to expand the geographic distribution of the funds in the region.

- e) The TAP Task Force was also asked to rank the SRTS infrastructure applications—three applications were submitted from our region. In order of highest rank, they are: Fond du Lac, Barnum, and Cook County Schools
- f) The TAP Task Force has a vacancy in the category of Local Government Representation. Please come to the April 7th ATP meeting (location to be determined) with ATP member County Commissioners to be nominated for this role.

9) FY 2016 RTAC Planning Project Updates

a) Safe Routes to School Planning

i) **Planning Processes** – Lincoln Park Middle School held its final draft plan review in December 2015. Myers-Wilkins Elementary held a review of its draft plan on February 23rd. Those plans are nearing finalization. SRTS planning at Laura MacArthur Elementary is underway. Existing conditions document has been drafted and a meeting to present findings will be held in March. A plan at Hermantown schools is underway. Parent surveys and classroom tally data have been gathered and existing conditions document is in draft form. Findings from that document will be presented in March. Planning projects at Duluth Piedmont Elementary, Moose Lake, and Cromwell-Wright schools will begin early this spring.

ii) **SRTS Solicitations**- two SRTS solicitations occurred in fall 2015. SRTS Infrastructure Solicitation opens October 1st and parallel's the TAP application process with Letters of Intent (LOI) due by October 30th, 2015. Infrastructure projects will use federal dollars this year and projects will be selected and notified by March 18, 2016. Also the SRTS Planning Assistance Grant will be available for schools and communities seeking SRTS planning assistance. Final applications for both solicitations were January 8th, 2016.

(1) ARDC worked with Get Fit Itasca and Koochiching County to submit SRTS Planning assistance applications.

b) **Superior National Forest Scenic Byway Council Planning** - ARDC is assisting the Council with updating and restocking SNFSB brochures, considering the development of a Facebook page as an additional way to promote and market the Byway, and seeking matching funds for the TAP awarded Skibo Vista Project.

c) **North Shore Scenic Drive Council (NSSDC) Planning** - ARDC assisted the NSSDC with securing funding for the Taconite Harbor Viewfinder Installation project and the Hovland Dock Structural Integrity Project. Four wayside design projects have been completed at the French River Fish Hatchery, Palisade Head, Tofte Town Park, and Hovland Dock. See www.arrowheadplanning.org/currentprojects to see details of each design project. Additionally, a grant application for the North Shore Scenic Drive Interactive Map Tour has been submitted.

d) **Cook County Trails Plan** – Multiple steering committee meetings have been held. Six goals were determined to include: trail connectivity, collaboration between trail user groups and stakeholders, multi-use trail networks, multi-use 'nodal' trailhead hubs developed, trail safety, and



systems need to be manageable. A draft plan document has been developed and is out for review by the steering committee. Visit www.arrowheadplanning.org/ccctp for updates.

- e) **Hat Trick Avenue Access Assessment** - A survey was administered to 21 of 28 businesses in the corridor in September-October 2015. The survey identified several key issues: high traffic speeds, maintenance issues on Hwy 53's northbound lane, limited space for turning vehicles and the new conflict warning system does not always work properly. The most dangerous times of travel are after school/commuting hours and winter weather causes issues. Option suggestions gleaned from the survey to address intersection issues included: installation of a recognized traffic control system, elimination of cross traffic, and performance of regular road maintenance.
- f) **Scanlon Community Corridor** – The design process for this project concluded in December 2015. Outcomes of the design process included proposed trail routing, trail amenities such as mile posts and signs and a Master Plan compliant with the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission's requirements. Communications with businesses in the proposed trail corridor are now taking place. Next steps include identification of future trail ownership and management.
- g) **Gitchi-Gami State Trail Technical Assistance** - The Gitchi-Gami State Trail scoping project nears finalization. A large GIS database has been created to house all relevant data along the existing and future trail corridor. A thorough GIS analysis of the trail corridor to determine potential barriers and opportunities has concluded. The document is visual and map based. In collaboration with the Gitchi-Gami Trail Association, the MnDNR, and Sawtooth Mountain Clinic in Grand Marais, ARDC conducted a first-of-its-kind trail user count project over the summer 2015. A final report is available at www.arrowheadplanning.org/GGSTCount
- h) **Healthy Northland's Active Living Component** - This web-tool includes many features for users to find healthy resources in the Arrowhead Region. A map highlighting SHIP communities has been embedded, additional access points have been added to the main page to lead users to the Healthy Northland Blog, future mapping options are being explored and the database continues to serve this and other active transportation projects in the region.

10) Other Business

- a) March County Board Meetings - meetings have been set for Lake, Pine and Carlton Counties
- b) Next Area Transportation Partnership Meeting to be held April 7, 2016. Look to communication from Bryan Anderson, MnDOT for more details
- c) Next RTAC Meeting Location/agenda topics
 - i) June 2016 - No topics were offered at this time, but a request to schedule meeting sooner was made.

11) Adjourn

- a) Motion to adjourn at 11:35 am by Mike Tardy/Karin Grandia was carried unanimously.