



## RTAC MEETING SUMMARY

October 2, 2014

Carlton County Transportation Building  
Carlton, MN

### Attendees:

|   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Krysten Foster                                    | Lake County                          |
| Nancy Sannes                                      | MnDOT                                |
| Mark LeBrun                                       | Pine County                          |
| Cindy Voigt                                       | City of Duluth                       |
| Scott Johnson                                     | MnDOT                                |
| Walter Leu  | MnDOT State Aid                      |
| Karin Grandia                                     | Itasca County                        |
| Cavour Johnson                                    | Bike/Ped                             |
| Bob Manzoline                                     | St. Louis & Lake County RRA          |
| Sam Muntean                                       | Cook County                          |
| John Welle  | Aitkin County                        |
| Annie Harala                                      | Community Health Board/Public Health |
| Jack Larson                                       | Arrowhead Transit/Rural Transit      |
| Bob Manzoline                                     | Regional Rail Authority              |
| Joe Sutherland                                    | Koochiching County                   |
| Bryan Anderson                                    | MnDOT                                |
| John Minor  | District 1- State Aid                |
| Brian Boder                                       | St. Louis County                     |
| Rex Bordson                                       | State Aid                            |
| Matt Bolf   | S.E.H.                               |
| Michelle Pierson                                  | ARDC                                 |
| Andy Hubley                                       | ARDC                                 |
| Jarrett Valdez                                    | ARDC                                 |
| *Others may have been present but did not sign in |                                      |

### 1) Welcome and Introductions

- a) Call to order by Cindy Voigt, Chair at 10:05am
- b) Introductions

### 2) Committee Business

- a) Call for approval of agenda. Motion to approve by Mark LeBrun/Jack Larson; passed unanimously
- b) Call for approval of meeting summary from February 27, 2014. Motion to approve by Mark LeBrun/Jack Larson; passed unanimously

### 3) TIP Amendment

- a) Cross City Trail (Duluth, MN)  
Mark Bolf, representing SCH, the consultant under contract with the City of Duluth for the past several years, presented the processes of determining the corridor for the Cross City trail in Duluth. The Cross City Trail will be a trail that connects the Lakewalk to the Munger Trail. The map



presented may be found here:  
<http://www.duluthmn.gov/media/246635/LakewalkExtensionWest.pdf>

- i) Phase 1: (Blue Segment) Designed, bid and will be constructed in the next few weeks.
- ii) Phase 2,3,4 (Formerly the Green Segment, now the yellow, orange and red segments)- When finalizing this segment, and during a public meeting residents in the Irving neighborhood voiced resistance to the trail moving through their neighborhood and residents concerned with safety in the crossings of the Central Ave off/on ramps resulted in the City looking at alternative routes.
- iii) SCH looked at alternative routes to include use of the old DWP rail corridor. Phase 4 requires additional public input. Should be discussed in the project memo.
- iv) A STIP amendment is needed to move funds from S.P 118-090-021 for a 2015 to 2018 shift and will need formal approval for route change from FHWA.
  - (1) Note that the formerly engineered route may be used in the future, and that segment of the route used federal funds, but may be able to be used in the future. Present this to the ATP, then to the MPO, then the FHWA to the 2015-2018 STIP.
  - (2) Motion by Walter Leu/Mark LeBrun to make a recommendation to the full ATP to approve a change in location/route and scope in S.P. 118-090-021 in the STIP.

#### 4) 2014-2015 Program Status

##### a) Local Program

- i) Walter Leu distributed a Handout showing the completion of projects in 2015.
- ii) Reminder to engineers, that when working on projects that involve federal funds, it is important to request federal funds at least every 6 months. Taking in to consideration that many projects are limited to construction months, other items could be requested from contractors.
- iii) Four projects with a late start were highlighted (see 2015 Local Projects matrix).
- iv) Administrative STIP amendment to convert TAP funds to STIP in 2016, and then look to reverse that the following year. St. Louis County's Arlington Avenue project, which includes \$1.6 million in federal dollars could absorb the 2016 TAP dollars. St. Louis Co. would distribute funds back to TAP awardee the following year. Map 21 gives MnDOT the authority to convert up to 50% of Federal funds (STP<-> TAP). In Minnesota in 2015, of \$25 million in federal funds, already converting \$10 million so this is not unprecedented. For projects at risk, do everything you can to get them ready for 2015 so few would require a conversion. Will need to know this information by January 1. Modifications will need to be prepared. Looking at converting 2015 Scenic Drives to 2016 dollars.

##### b) State Program

- i) Nancy Sannes distributed a MnDOT FY 2015 projects matrix. She highlighted:
  - (1) Draft of the ATIP
  - (2) Bridges on the NHS would need to move out to 2020 (Stewart River)
  - (3) Beaver Bay bridge FY 2017
  - (4) Bridge pilings on I-35
  - (5) Kingsbury Creek. Repairs may preclude having to shut down/reroute I-35
  - (6) International Falls- Mill and overlay.



(7) Summer 2014 rain events in International Falls causing problems near Kabetogama on slopes. Four significant slides have been identified.

- (8) Orr Wayside Rest
- (9) Future GGST o 1602-48

#### 5) 2016-2019 ATIP

- a) A draft of the funding targets/investment guidelines has been completed based on 2018 targets.
- b) Bryan Anderson presented that Local funding is the same as last year with small urban areas at 2.2million and urban areas at 3.2million. \$1million for Stride, Arrowhead Transit and Fond du Lac. Presenting needs for small buses at November ATP meeting. Solicitations for local projects are due November 15 for local projects. Based on equity spreadsheet Cook and Aitkin, are the counties eligible for funding. For 2019 solicitation we may want to do fund swap ahead of time for St. Louis County State Aid funds at a 90% level. This may offer more flexibility to the local agencies.
- c) Process/Schedule will be similar to last year. Applications will be sent out mid-November. Applications will be due by January 9<sup>th</sup> to align with TAP process, evaluated at January TAP meeting.
- d) Transportation Alternatives Program Presentation
  - i) Jarrett Valdez presented regarding the TAP program.
  - ii) TAP program has \$900,000 in our district.
  - iii) TAP Workshop Webinar was recorded and can be found here: <http://www.nemnatp.org/tap>
  - iv) Review period is through November 14<sup>th</sup>
  - v) Applications are due January 9, 2015
  - vi) Awards announced April 15, 2015

#### 6) RTAC Projects

- a) Safe Routes to school planning
  - i) ARDC is working on planning assignments for 15 schools, some with new plans others are plan updates.
  - ii) Carlton County Bicycle fleet is operational—the fleet of bicycles is shared between all school districts in Carlton County.
  - iii) Carlton Schools is piloting new drop off procedures.
  - iv) Many area schools are participating in International Walk to School Day.
  - v) MnDOT to hold three SRTS solicitation this fall using state funds. The three solicitations include:
    - (1) SRTS Infrastructure Solicitation
    - (2) School Mini-Grant Solicitation
    - (3) Bicycle Fleet and Trailers Solicitation
- b) Lake Vermilion Trail Implementation
  - i) A grant application was submitted to the National Park Service in August, seeking 1 year technical assistance
  - ii) Contract signed with the Lake Vermilion Resort Association to continue work on trail administration and construction
  - iii) Trail Fact Sheet was developed and sent to stakeholders
  - iv) DNR Legacy and TAP funds are being explored
- c) Hat Trick Avenue Access Assessment



- i) Seeking public input regarding Hat Trick Avenue's access to and from Hwy 53 in Eveleth
- ii) Results will be compiled and submitted to MnDOT
- d) Regional Sidewalk Inventory
  - i) Sidewalk data has been collected in 19 cities in the Arrowhead Region
  - ii) Information collected includes sidewalk condition, width, boulevard width and material
  - iii) Data is stored in a single GIS database with attributes that follow MnDOT standards
- e) Healthy Northland's Active Living Component
  - i) The map tool has many ways for users to find healthy resources in the region
  - ii) A presentation of the site will take place at the St. Louis County Health and Human Services Conference on October 9<sup>th</sup>
- f) Scanlon Community Corridor
  - i) The Northeast Carlton County Bicycle Route Plan is completed
  - ii) Seeking funding to design path
- g) Gitchi-Gami State Trail Technical Assistance
  - i) ARDC has developed an ArcGIS Online Story Map of the trail
  - ii) App designed to promote tourism along the trail and provide information for all users
  - iii) QR codes will be available at kiosks along the trail
  - iv) App is currently hosted at: <http://www.arrowheadplanning.org/gitchigami>
  - v) ARDC has been granted administrator privileges for the Gitchi-Gami Trail Association's facebook page and is providing assistance with promoting trail membership, events and tourism opportunities. The facebook site is: [www.facebook.com/GitchiGamiTrailAssociation](http://www.facebook.com/GitchiGamiTrailAssociation)
- h) Cook County Active Living and Highway 61 Design Project
  - i) Kick-off meeting held on September 4 and was well attended
  - ii) 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in October
  - iii) A Health Impact Assessment (HIA) on the project will begin October 7
  - iv) Project website: [www.becausemovingmatters.org](http://www.becausemovingmatters.org)

## 7) Scenic Byway Updates

- a) North Shore Scenic Drive
  - i) Corridor Management Plan (CMP) Updates and ADA Design Project Identification
    - (1) Meeting and identifying projects with stakeholders to prioritize ADA projects for the designation of grant funds
  - ii) Caribou Falls Wayside Design
    - (1) DNR meeting in early October for the purpose of deciding on to pursue TAP funds
- b) Superior National Forest Scenic Byway
  - i) Assist council with CMP Update
  - ii) Prioritizing project that could be submitted for TAP funding
  - iii) Looking at signage needs
- c) Gunflint Trail National Scenic Byway, Skyline Parkway, Edge of the Wilderness National Scenic Byway, Waters of the Dancing Sky State Scenic Byway-
  - i) Updating CMPs
  - ii) Identification of priority projects for TAP Funding.



## 8) Functional Classification Update

- a) Completed
  - i) County Comments received
  - ii) Documents collected in an excel matrix
  - iii) Edits made in MnDOT's functional class shapefile
  - iv) Shapefile and spreadsheet submitted to MnDOT Central Office for further review
    - (1) Still need St. Louis and Koochiching County information
- b) Next Steps
  - i) Central Office comments will be sent to District 1 after review
  - ii) After Central Office-District 1 correspondence, comments will be forwarded to ARDC
  - iii) Forwarding MnDOT responses to each county

## 9) TA/TE Enhancement Project Highlight

- a) Tioga to TH 169 Multi-Use Trail (From FY 2011 TE Application)
  - i) This is to highlight a past applicant with a successful project
  - ii) City of Grand Rapids was looking to construct a trail to connect the Tioga Trail to the TH 169 Multi-Use Trail. Applied for Transportation Enhancement funds in October 2006. Construction for FY 2011. The segment would connect existing trail near Southwest Elementary to an existing trail near the YMCA. They constructed about 1mile of trail at a 10ft width. Total project cost was \$253, 483. Federal funding provided \$125,000 with a local match of \$128,483. Construction occurred in the Summer of 2012. Challenges included lack of federal funding options and meeting administrative requirements. One thing to take away from this process was that the trail development in Grand Rapids was a direct result from the completion of the 2003 Grand Rapids Comprehensive Plan. See a video of the trail at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=36LXXkzOR7Q>

## 10) Other Business

- a) The next ATP meeting will be on November 17<sup>th</sup>.
- b) TAP Task Force meeting to be held in January
- c) Winter RTAC meeting to be held in February this year

## 11) Adjourn

- a) Motion to adjourn at 11:50am by Krysten Foster/Andy Hubley.