



## RTAC MEETING SUMMARY

October 1, 2015

Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB)  
Eveleth, MN

Attendees:

Bryan Anderson	MnDOT
John McDonald	MnDOT
Nancy Sannes	MnDOT
John Minor	District 1 State Aid
Mark LeBrun	Pine County
John Welle	Aitkin County
Ben Kofoed	Aitkin-Itasca-Koochiching Community Health Board
Jim Rohweder	Metropolitan Interstate Council
Jim Foldesi	St. Louis County
Mike Tardy	Carlton County
Louise Anderson	CCLSL Community Health Board
Krysten Foster	Lake County
Jack Larson	Arrowhead Transit
Cindy Voigt	City of Duluth
Rex Bordson	D1 State Aid
Ashley Runge	City of Grand Rapids/Get Fit Itasca
Bill Bennett	Chamber of Commerce
Michelle Pierson	ARDC
Russell Habermann	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 10:04am
- b) Introductions

**2) Committee Business**

- a) Call for approval of meeting summary from June 18, 2015 with slight alternation to item 2 regarding the previous meeting date. Motion to approve by Jim Foldesi/John Welle ; passed unanimously.
- b) Call for nominations for RTAC Chair and Vice-Chairpersons. Mike Tardy nominated Krysten Foster. She accepted the nomination. Motion to elect Krysten Foster as the new RTAC Chairperson by Mike Tardy/Bryan Anderson; passed unanimously. Krysten Foster nominated Mike Tardy to serve as Vice-Chair. The Vice-Chair will preside over meetings in instances the Chairperson is unable to attend meetings and will serve as the Chair in the subsequent year. Motion to elect Mike Tardy as Vice-Chair by Krysten Foster/Jim Foldesi; passed unanimously.



### 3) Area Transportation Improvement Plan (ATIP) Update

Bryan Anderson, MnDOT stated that more information about the ATIP would be presented at the upcoming ATP meeting to be held November 2, 2015 at the Hermantown Public Safety Building located 5111 Maple Grove Road from 10:00-11:30am. Anderson noted that the FY2020 program is looking at \$7.6M for our local share.

### 4) 2015-2016 Program Status

- a) Handouts were distributed by John Minor, State Aid detailing local project status in FY 2015, 2016, 2017.
- b) Handouts were distributed by Nancy Sannes, MnDOT highlighting ATP 1 FY 2016 projects, and a matrix of proposed ATP 1 2020 projects that included an accompanying map. Sannes and John McDonald commented on several projects, no questions were raised.

### 5) Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Outreach

- a) Jarrett Valdez noted that \$900,000 would be 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. This includes SRTS projects using TAP funds.
- 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 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015, and invited applicants will need to submit full applications by January 8, 2016. Grant recipients will be announced on April 15, 2016, following an ATP prioritization and ranking task force identifies selected applications.

### 6) FY 2016 RTAC Planning Project Updates

- a) **Safe Routes to School Planning** - New plans in Hermantown, Marshall School in Duluth, Proctor Elementary have been designated. Update plans for Laura MacArthur Elementary and Piedmont Elementary in Duluth, and regional plan updates in Moose Lake and Esko have also been identified for SRTS planning assistance in the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school years.
  - i) **SRTS Solicitations**- two SRTS solicitations will occur this fall. SRTS Infrastructure Solicitation opens October 1<sup>st</sup> and parallel's the TAP application process with Letters of Intent (LOI) due by October 30<sup>th</sup>, 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 will be due January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016.
- b) **Hat Trick Avenue Access Assessment** - A survey has been redeveloped seeking public input regarding Hat Trick Avenue's access to and from Highway 53 in Eveleth. When postcards were not successful in netting respondents, phone calls and visits were conducted. Results will be compiled and submitted to MnDOT.
- c) **Healthy Northland's Active Living Component** - This web-tool includes many features for users to find healthy resources in the Arrowhead Region. Trail alignment videos have been developed and added to database. Proposed activities for FY 2016 include continued oversight of website and determination of public launch.



- d) **Cook County Trails Plan** – Steering committee kick-off meeting was conducted on July 27<sup>th</sup>. 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. The User Group meeting was held September 8, 2015. GIS analysis of existing trail data.
- e) **North Shore Scenic Drive Council (NSSDC) Planning** - ARDC assisted the NSSDC with completion of grant applications for a viewfinder installation at Taconite Harbor, and for a structural integrity project at Hovland Dock. Work continues on an ongoing wayside project for issues uncovered during planning processes at the French River Fish Hatchery wayside, Palisade Head, Tofte Town Park and Hovland Dock. ARDC continues facilitation of regular Council meetings and social media management.
- f) **Superior National Forest Scenic Byway Council Planning** - ARDC is assisting the Council with logo signage replacement along the entire Byway, updating and restocking SNFSB brochures, and seeking matching funds for the TAP awarded Skibo Vista Project.
- g) **Scanlon Community Corridor** – The Cloquet Area Trail Committee met September 17, 2015. A draft design was presented for the St. Louis River Trail Extension through Scanlon and Cloquet. A discussion was had about funding options and preferred trail routes. A master plan compliant with the Greater MN Regional Parks and Trails Commission has been drafted.
- h) **Gitchi-Gami State Trail Technical Assistance** - The Gitchi-Gami State Trail scoping project is underway. 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 is also underway. 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. Analysis of the data is now being conducted. ARDC’s control site counter will be left up during the remaining of the fall near Iona’s Beach to gather additional data.
- i) **Helmet Hero Bicycle Education** - This program teaches bicycle safety and correct helmet use to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students around the region with a goal to reduce the number of bicycle injuries, promotion of safety, and promoting bicycling as an active lifestyle choice. Federal funds end for this project after FY 2016.

## 7) Other Business

- a) Project Updates: The floor was opened to anyone who wanted to speak on any upcoming projects
  - i) Cindy Voigt spoke about several projects involving road closures in Downtown Duluth and to keep one’s eye out for news releases detailing closures and detours.
  - ii) Mike Tardy noted that TAP applicants should be mindful and note long-term maintenance of their proposed facilities in TAP applications.
  - iii) Jim Foldesi noted that preventative maintenance was like sealcoating one’s driveway or shingling one’s roof. Actions like this protect and prolong the life of the projects.
  - iv) A discussion was had about potential sources for funding for various entities and the pros and cons of an increased sales tax, a wheelage tax.
- b) November Area Transportation Partnership Meeting- November 2, 2015
- c) February RTAC Meeting Location/Agenda Topics



**8) Adjourn**

- a) Motion to adjourn at 11:30am by Jack Larson/John Welle.
- b) RTAC members were invited to stay for a MnDOT Cost Participation meeting following the regular RTAC meeting.