



RTAC MEETING SUMMARY  
October 9, 2013  
Midway Township Town Hall  
Duluth, MN

Attendees:

John Welle	Aitkin County
Andy Hubley	ARDC
Ellen Pillsbury	ARDC
Jon Mason	ARDC
Liz Sarabia	ARDC
Jack Larson	Arrowhead Transit/Rural Transit
Mike Tardy	Carlton County
Annie Harala	Carlton, Cook, Lake, St. Louis CHB/Aitkin-Itasca-Koochiching CHB
Susan Michels	Carlton-Cook-Lake-St. Louis CHB
Cindy Voigt	City of Duluth
Sam Muntean	Cook County
Karin Grandia	Itasca County
Rick Goutermont	Lake County
Bill Bennett	LHB, Chambers
Bryan Anderson	MN DOT
Don Mohawk	MN DOT
Mao Yang	MN DOT
Nancy Sannes	MN DOT
Scott Johnson	MN DOT
Shannon McGrath	MN DOT
John Minor	MN DOT State Aid
Rex Bordson	MN DOT State Aid
Walter Leu	MN DOT State Aid
Cavour Johnson	Pedestrian/Bicycles
Mark LeBrun	Pine County
Bob Manzoline	St. Louis & Lake Co. Rail Authority

1. Welcome and Introductions

Call to order by Mark LeBrun, Chair at 10:07 AM. Introductions followed.

## 2. Committee Business

Call for approval of the agenda. Motion to approve by John Welle/Rick Goutermont; passed unanimously.

Call for approval of meeting summary from June 25, 2013. Motion to approve by Walter Leu/Jack Larson; passed unanimously.

## 3. 2014-2017 Area Transportation Improvement Plan (ATIP)

Bryan Anderson presented the local projects. He mentioned that they don't have targets for FY 2018; we'll be operating off the 2017 investment guidelines. Important figure there is for the local, that the range is substantial still, but the range is between \$5-8 million for local projects. MN DOT Central Office is still working on some different figures and recalculating the local credit for FY 2014. We did solicit for 2017 TA projects, which Jon presented later in the meeting and about soliciting for 2017-18 TA projects, but shortly we will be doing a solicitation for normal local projects. Also will be discussing more about 2017-18 statewide projects later in more detail.

Walter Leu covered the programs to date for local projects. See handouts, 2013 Local Projects and 2014 Local Projects. At the June meeting pulled the projects for 2014 and those will be identified in the 2014. Walter continued with a review of the 2013 local projects, moving down the sheet, item by item confirming with the county representatives the status of the work. For further details, refer to the recording of the meeting and the handout. Discussion also included funding options for several projects. Call for questions, none heard.

Walter continued with a review of the state, local and federal fiscal year calendars. This was noted because of the STIP amendments which cover the time from local, state and federal year starts.

He continued with the 2014 local projects following down the page of the 2014 local projects sheet. As he reviewed the items he explained how funding was used to move the project from 2013 to 2014, asked for confirmation from local representatives, offered details on combining projects, fund swaps, etc. For further details, refer to the recording of the meeting and the handout. There was a question regarding the fund swap where one is a path and one is STIP funding, which Walter explained as being able to do. In this case the TAP money is still in the STIP. Walter went on to explain about future STIP amendments.

## 4. Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Solicitation

Jon Mason reported on the history of the program to date including some of the changes. He pointed out there is now a required 20% local match. Solicitation began on October 1, 2013 with project selection criteria to MN DOT by October

18th. There will be two workshops like previously offered for enhancements. Applicants will then have about two weeks to get their letters of intent submitted. LOI review will be from 11/15 to 12/1/2013 in which a project will be determined if it is eligible. Applicants will be notified by 12/1/2013 if they can proceed with a full application. The applications will be due 2/1/2013. An 11-member task force has been established to prioritize and rank the projects. Their recommendations will come to the RTAC and RTAC's recommendations will go to the full ATP in March or early April, 2014 with grants awarded by 4/15/2014.

Jon also provided a draft NE MN ATP Selection Criteria sheet. Discussion followed regarding defining the difference between SRTS projects and other projects, the weight of item #9, targeted dollar amounts.

Also the question was raised if the applicants will have the option to designate if they want to be in 2017 or 2018. Further questions and discussion followed regarding funding for 2018, prioritization, and SRTS advantage. It was pointed out that questions 3 & 5 are more arbitrary, opinionated which would be difficult for a review committee.

Criterion #9 was identified as being problematic in that every project could potentially be identified as a SRTS project and discussion followed. Discussion also continued on health and safety as criterion. It was suggested that #9 be removed and 10 points for safety. Motion by Bob Manzoline/Cindy Voigt to add health to #7 after quality of life and remove safety, #9 would be changed to focus on safety, #1 would be adjusted to be less open-ended about the types of connections for transportation purposes; passes unanimously.

## 5. RTAC Planning Projects

Jon Mason noted that since the last meeting, the RDCs in the state have received more funds. This resulted in the need to make some adjustments to the work plan such as adding more hours to regional and statewide projects in the work plan and adding the Hat Trick Avenue Access Assessment.

Beginning with the Hat Trick Avenue Project, Jon reviewed the reasons for the project and the five steps that will be used for the project. Ellen Pillsbury provided the details on the upcoming SRTS projects for this fall. She also reviewed the schedule and implementation achievements.

Jon continued with a review of activities that have taken place along the North Shore Scenic Drive. The NSSD Council has provided assistance with the Beaver Bay Trailhead, the Temperance River Wayside Design, will be undertaking a wayside design for the Caribou River and completed a wayside improvement plan. It was noted that the Beaver Bay Trailhead is scheduled for completion in 2014 and ARDC has assisted Lake County in applying for a \$100,000 DNR Trails Legacy grant for the project.

Also, Jon reviewed the Superior National Forest Scenic Byway planning which is looking to expand the byway designation to Beaver Bay, Biwabik and Gilbert, and entertaining locations for welcome/gateway signs at the termini of the byway.

The International Falls Gateway Project began in 2006 with construction scheduled for 2014. As this phase begins, the new focus will be on the rehabilitation of the fire tower and amenities.

The Orr Design project is ready for implementation. At this time the City is working toward prioritizing improvements, garnering additional community support and seeking funding for implementation of priority segments. Jon reviewed the amenities, system and site improvements.

Call for a motion to approve the changes to the 2014 work plan. Motion by Jack Larson/Bill Bennett; passed unanimously.

#### 6. Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP)

Shannon McGrath, MN DOT, provided a review of the STIP projects (see handout for details) beginning with 2014 projects and going over the 2015. She pointed out the City of Duluth received a CIMS grant for TH 23 Grand Avenue which will be incorporated into MN DOT's plan for 2016. Noted projects coming up in 2015 was work in International Falls and the relocation of Hwy 53 between Eveleth and Virginia. Also in 2015 there will be a number of bridges being replaced. Discussion followed.

Bryan Anderson presented the Corridors of Commerce program. This program was developed by sales of new bonds up to \$300 million for construction, reconstruction, improvements of trunk highways. The purpose is to add highway capacity, address bottlenecks, improve movement of freight and reduce barriers to commerce. For more information, refer to MN DOT's website which is accepting public comments until 10/16/2013 with selection in November. District One submitted one project to the program, TH 169, Cross Range Expressway, however, as four segments with prioritization.

Bryan also discussed Main Street Candidate projects of which there are 5 in District One. Three projects along Hwy 61, one through Cromwell on TH 210 (addresses flooding) and TH 2 Deer River. These have been forwarded to Saint Paul, but if there are comments, you can talk to Bryan about them as they will be looking to early November for these projects to be awarded. Question was brought up about the Tofte trail which may be included in project along Hwy 61.

Returning to the ATIP Amendments, Walter briefly reviewed each amendment which had been discussed earlier in more detailed. Call for motion to approval these amendments. Cindy Voigt made the motion to approve/Jim Foldesi;

passed unanimously. Cindy Voigt did have a final question before the seconding regarding the fund swap which Walter answered.

## 7. Other Business

Walter Leu mentioned that we don't have the guidelines, but do have information on local programs guidelines. He would send out an email of what they may be for 2018. He further discussed the program and potential changes with questions from others.

ATP meeting would be November 18<sup>th</sup> with a location to be determined.

January RTAC meeting will be toward the end of the month, location to be determined.

## 8. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 12:15 PM.

DRAFT