



Northeast Minnesota Area Transportation Partnership Meeting

July 11, 2018 @ 10:00 am
Mountain Iron Community Center
8586 Enterprise Drive South, Mountain Iron, MN 55768

MEETING SUMMARY

1. Meeting called to order by Vice-Chair Neumann at: 10:00am.

Members in attendance: Bryan Anderson, Robert Anderson, Wayne Boucher, Robert Deschampe, Jim Foldesi, Karin Grandia, Steve Hallan, Jason Hollinday, Andy Hubley, Jack Larson, John McDonald, JinYeene Neumann, Sophia Parr, Gary Peterson, Davin Tinquist, Gary Johnson, Cindy Voigt, John Welle

Guests in attendance: Chris Belden, Robert Ege, Samantha Lo, Molly McCartney, John Minor, Jerry Paulson, Philip Schaffner, Penny Simonsen, Tony Swader, Jennifer Witt, Russell Habermann, Michelle Pierson

2. Approval of April 11, 2018, Meeting Summary

A motion was made to approve the April 11, 2018, meeting summary by Jim Foldesi/Jason Hollinday. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made to approve the meeting agenda by Cindy Voigt/Steve Hallan. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Comments from Citizens Present

5. Presentations

- a) The State of Air Transportation in Northeast Minnesota - Tom Werner, NAA, Duluth Airport Authority

Werner highlighted the existing air transportation infrastructure in Northeast Minnesota, spoke about aeronautics partnerships with manufacturing and education, and discussed the unique designation of three regional airports having port of entry/customs status. Werner also noted that the Duluth International Airport recently completed a study about air shuttle service to several regional centers; the study concluded that current demand would not make the shuttle project feasible at this time.

b) 2018 Legislative Session Overview - Jennifer Witt, MnDOT Central Office

Witt highlighted transportation-related policies and funds from the 2018 legislative session. She discussed the Corridors of Commerce program, funded transportation projects, the vetoed omnibus bill, the vetoed tax bill, MnLARS, and other transportation-related legislation (i.e. failed hands-free cell phone bill and legislation protecting construction flaggers).

c) MnDOT Project Selection Policy - Philip Schaffner, MnDOT Central Office

Schaffner presented a draft document regarding MnDOT's selection policy for projects, which will guide how MnDOT evaluates and selects projects. He said the new process will identify criteria, identify both projects selected and not selected, and publicize all scores and reasons some projects were not selected. He also noted it will be applied to the 2029 STIP and is anticipated to make the STIP easier to understand. Schaffner invited all ATP members to review the draft document by the end of July and send him comments. He said a final document including the new project scoring methods is expected to be adopted by November.

6. Unfinished Business

a) Non-Motorized Trail Funding in Minnesota

This item was tabled due to time constraints.

7. New Business

a) STIP Amendments for Approval - SP 016-612-074 and SP 016-612-075 (Gunflint Trail Projects in 2019 and 2020)

Krysten Foster, Cook County Highway Engineer, handed out a document highlighting requested changes for SP 016-612-074 and SP 016-612-075, which are scheduled to take place on the Gunflint Trail in 2019 and 2020. She explained that, following the examination of subgrade, the project will be more extensive than originally expected. Therefore, she proposes to change SP 016-612-074 in 2019 from a mill and overlay project to a culvert replacement project and SP 016-612-075 in 2020 from a mill and overlay project to a bituminous reclamation project. Foster noted that this is not a request for increasing federal funds, but rather a change in limits of construction to fit the money already allocated. **A motion to approve the STIP amendment request for SP 016-612-074 and SP 016-612-075 to change the limits and scopes of the projects as requested was made by Jim Foldesi/John McDonald. The motion carried unanimously.**

b) Carlton County Functional Classification Change Request

JinYeene Neumann, Carlton County Highway Engineer, presented a functional classification change request for several roads in Carlton County. **A motion to recommend the functional classification change request for approval to the ARDC Board was made by Gary Peterson/John McDonald. The motion carried unanimously.**

8. Program and Workplan Updates

a) ARDC Transportation Planning Updates - FY 2018 Workplan Report

Russell Habermann, Planner at the ARDC, reported deliverables from the regional workplan priorities, including Safe Routes to School assistance, District Freight Plan preparation, District Bicycle Plan assistance, Superior National Forest Scenic Byway committee facilitation, North Shore Scenic Drive facilitation, Avenue of Pines Scenic Byway committee facilitation, Gitchi-Gami Trail Association assistance, Aitkin area active transportation assistance, Lake Vermilion Trail steering committee assistance, and MnDOT trail counter program administration.

b) DSMIC Transportation Advisory Committee Updates

Chris Belden, Planner at the DSMIC, noted updates regarding Connected and Autonomous Vehicles (CAV) studies, MnDOT's Twin Ports freight model, the MIC's Sustainable 2045 Long-Range Plan, an update to the metro bikeways plan, and an update to the Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Pedestrian Plan.

c) MnDOT State and Local Programs Updates

John McDonald, MnDOT D-1 State-Aid Engineer, noted all local projects are moving forward. He also introduced Jerry Paulson, who is new with State-Aid, to the group.

Rob Ege, MnDOT D-1 Traffic Engineer, gave a brief update about state projects. Notable projects include the letting of a project on Highway 6, first signs of work on the Twin Ports Interchange project, and the Highway 61 project in Grand Marais.

Bryan Anderson, MnDOT D-1 Planning Director, handed out a draft of the District 1 10-Year Capital Highway Investment Plan (CHIP) for 2019-2028. The first four years of funding are committed, but projects in years six through ten are not. The program includes a \$1.3 billion investment, which is large due to the 2020 Twin Ports Interchange project and a 2028 placeholder for the Blatnik Bridge project.

d) MnDOT District 1 Bicycle Plan

Habermann noted that Toole Design Group is working on prioritization of routes at this time. He noted that the next steering committee meeting will be held in late August.

9. Member Concerns

No concerns were brought forward by members of the ATP.

10. Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 12:00pm by **Krysten Foster/Karen Grandia**.
The motion carried unanimously.

Bold print denotes action.

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Next NEMNATP Meeting: October 10, 2018 @ 10:00 a.m. in the Two Harbors Community Center
(417 South Avenue, Two Harbors, MN 55616)