



Northeast Minnesota Area Transportation Partnership Meeting

October 10, 2018 @ 10:00 am
Two Harbors Community Center
417 South Avenue, Two Harbors, Minnesota 55616

SUMMARY

1. Meeting called to order by Chair Manzoline at 10:05 am.

Members in attendance: Brian Bluhm, Ron Chicka, Robert Deschampe, Jim Foldesi, Krysten Foster, Karin Grandia, Steve Hallan, Jim Heilig, Duane Hill, Jason Hollinday, Andy Hubley, Dan Larson, Mark LeBrun, Bob Manzoline, John McDonald, JinYeene Neumann, Gary Peterson, Bill Pratt, Tony Swader, Cindy Voigt, John Welle

Guests in attendance: Chris Belden, Rex Bordson, Todd Campbell, Robert Ege, Russell Habermann, Michael Kalnbach, John Minor, Tina Neary, Michelle Pierson, Penny Simonsen

2. Approval of July 11, 2018 Meeting Summary

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

3. Comments from Citizens Present

4. Approval of Agenda

5. Unfinished Business

- a) Non-Motorized Trail Funding in Minnesota

Russell Habermann presented research into the history of non-motorized trail funding in Minnesota. He noted that people want non-motorized trails that are maintained and in good condition but that finding funding sources to pay for both development and especially maintenance is difficult. Habermann shared the history of bike registration, sales tax practices, and trail user fees. It was noted that user fees do not generate enough

income to maintain a trail system. When asked how other states use product or excise taxes to dedicate to trail funding, Habermann noted few states have implemented this and only recently, so more research would be needed as these programs mature. Members present noted that user fees can also be deterrent and that encouraging more people to ride bicycles/walk trails can have very positive impact on health benefits (reducing health costs) and economic development. When it comes to a dedicated point of sale tax, it was mentioned that should a point of sale tax be dedicated to trail funding/repair, projects could be negatively impacted in the future (it could be suggested that only the money generated through the point of sale tax/dedicated tax should be used for trails, making it more difficult to seek bonding dollars, for example.) It was also noted that altering federal Transportation Alternatives funding regulations to include maintenance or reconstruction would be helpful. When asked if the ATP wants to take a stance, it was noted that this issue has long been on the table as there is not a ready solution that could generate enough money to make it worthwhile, and thus, this issue is likely to remain. No motions were brought forward.

6. New Business

- a) New Members – Samantha Lo (Pine County Public Health), Tony Swader (Grand Portage Band), and Jim Heilig (Duluth Transit Authority)

- b) Annual Evaluation of the NEMNATP

Russell Habermann noted that the new structure of the NEMNATP is reaching the end of its first year. Habermann will be sending out a survey to inquire what is working and what might require adjustments going forward. This will provide an opportunity to look at membership and attendance, and also look at the guidelines to see if they reflect the current practices. Look for a survey to complete in the near future.

- c) Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program Application for Approval

Habermann asked attendees to review the provided TA Program application and asked members to bring forward any questions, comments, or suggested revisions. Cindy Voigt suggested revising “plan” to “planning” on item 3 on page 21. **A motion to approve the application with the language revision as stated was made by Cindy Voigt/Jim Heilig. The motion carried unanimously.**

- d) TA Program Task Force – Active Living Representative for Approval: Robin Nicholson

Chair Manzoline introduced the item, and Habermann shared that Robin has been recommended by active living partners in Cook County, which is currently not represented on the Task Force. Ms. Nicholson lives in Cook County and has been engaged in the Cook County Moving Matters initiatives for several years. She was nominated by Maren Webb and is willing to serve. **A motion was made to approve Robin Nicholson as an active living representative on the TA Task Force by John McDonald/Robert Deschampe. The motion carried unanimously.**

- e) Transit Funding Presentation - Tom Gottfried, Office of Transit and Active Transportation

Via telephone, Tom Gottfried presented what and how transit funding will be handled in ATP-1 in the years 2019-2023. A spreadsheet was distributed highlighting equipment purchases, bus stop upgrades, and more. Discussion included bus purchases and about the new electric buses purchased by the DTA. The State will not be asking ATP-1 to help distribute transit funds through 2023.

- f) 2019 Officers

Chair Manzoline noted JinYeene Neumann, as current Vice Chair, will serve as Chair in 2019. He then called for volunteers, and barring none, a nomination for vice chair. Jason Holliday was nominated by Andy Hubley. **A motion to approve Holliday to serve as vice chair in 2019 with the understanding he will become Chair in 2020 was made by Andy Hubley/Jim Foldesi. The motion was carried unanimously.**

- g) 2019 Meeting Schedule - Proposed Dates: February 13, April 10, July 10, October 9

Members present offered no conflicts or alternatives to the above proposed dates. **A motion to approve this meeting schedule was made by John McDonald/JinYeene Neumann. The motion carried unanimously.**

7. Program and Workplan Updates

- a) ARDC Transportation Planning Updates

Habermann provided updates on Safe Routes to School planning projects, Scenic Byway organizations, the trail counter program, and the Two Harbors Transportation Plan.

- b) DSMIC Transportation Advisory Committee Updates

Ron Chicka provided updates on the District 1 Fright Plan, the DSMIC's Truck Route Study, their Long-Range Plan, and work to analyze congestion in Duluth's Bayfront/DECC/Canal Park areas.

- c) MnDOT State and Local Programs Updates

John McDonald reviewed a list of 2018 projects. He noted that first drafts of 2019 Project Memos need to be submitted to him by November 30. He also reminded members that approved plans/permits need to be submitted by April 1, 2019, with a preference for early submission. Late submissions may not be approved.

McDonald entertained questions, and Commissioner Pratt inquired about the Highway 73 project south of Cromwell. It was noted that the project will slightly widen the road (adding a couple feet of shoulder) and add rumble strips. Commissioner Pratt noted this was a dangerous stretch of roadway.

John Welle inquired about when ADA Transition Plans are required to be completed. McDonald noted that he will find out details. Other members suggested the only stipulation was that plans must be in development.

d) MnDOT District 1 Bicycle Plan

Habermann gave an update on this process. A fourth meeting was held in August. Toole Design Group and MnDOT are putting together the draft of the plan document now. The steering committee chose a project to pilot pre-engineering/pre-design and selected a segment of Gitchi-Gami State Trail in Cook County between Lutsen's town center area towards Cascade River State Park. The design consultant will be looking at treatments for a Highway 61 crossing in this segment.

It was noted that another connection in this trail, though outside MnDOT D1, is the James Oberstar Trail gap. Habermann noted this connection will be highlighted in the District 1 plan.

8. Member Concerns

John McDonald announced HSIP applications are due November 21 and that a Doodle poll has been sent. Recipients should fill out the poll to inform a date for a webinar. He noted the appropriate parties should expect to hear from Bryan Anderson in mid-November about the Federal funding solicitation.

Habermann announced that the Transportation Alternatives/SRTS applicant workshop will be held on Friday, October 12, at MnDOT District 1 offices in Duluth.

Penny Simonson noted that the Mille Lacs Lake Scenic Byway will be holding its ribbon cutting on November 1 at the Y Club in Garrison at 11:00am.

9. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made at 11:30 am by Dan Larson/Krysten Foster. The motion carried unanimously.

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Next NEMNATP Meeting: February 13, 2019 @ 10:00 a.m. in the Carlton County Transportation Building (1630 Co Rd 61, Carlton, MN 55718)