



Northeast Minnesota Area Transportation Partnership Meeting

February 13, 2019 @ 10:00 am
Carlton County Transportation Building
1630 Co Rd 61, Carlton, MN 55718

Summary

1. Meeting called to order by Chair Neumann at 10:00am and requested attendees introduce themselves.

Members in attendance: Louise Anderson, Joel Astleford, Brian Bluhm, Bryan Anderson, Chris Belden, Ron Chicka, Kate Ferguson, Jim Foldesi, Rick Goutermont, Karin Grandia, Jason Holliday, Andy Hubley, Gary Johnson, Dan Larson, Jack Larson, John McDonald, JinYeene Neumann, Jeff Rypka, Joe Sutherland, Davin Tinquist, John Welle

Guests in Attendance: Rob Ege, Russell Habermann, Scott Johnson, Holly Kostrzewski, Jeff Madill, John Minor, Charlie Moore, Tina Neary, Cari Pedersen, Michelle Pierson

2. Approval of October 10, 2018 Meeting Summary

A motion was made to approve the October 11, 2018, meeting summary by Jim Foldesi/Karin Grandia. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made to approve the meeting agenda by John McDonald/Jack Larson. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Comments from Citizens Present

5. Presentation

- a) Northeast Minnesota Paved Trail Economic Study - Charlie Moore, ARDC
Moore presented key findings from a study that combined trail use counts and surveys distributed to trail users on four trails in the Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Zone.

The study's aim was to evaluate the economic impact of paved trails. Moore distributed an infographic highlighting key findings. The infographic distributed and the study document can be found in its entirety at <https://ardc.org/pavedtrailstudy>.

6. Unfinished Business

a) Annual Evaluation of the NEMNATP

Russell Habermann presented findings from a survey distributed to ATP members in January 2019. The survey aimed to evaluate how the first year as the NEMNATP (following merger of ARDC's RTAC and the former NEMNATP) went. Habermann distributed a summary of the survey findings and noted that respondents looked forward to constructive, concise, and accessible meetings in the future.

7. New Business

a) Amendments to Operating Guidelines

Habermann noted this was an informational agenda item and no action would be taken today. He asked attendees to consider what is working about the new format of the NEMNATP and what items in the guidelines require revisions a year after its adoption. It was noted the NEMNATP will consider changes, including additions to membership, a change in coordination with alternate and substitute members, a change in eligibility requirements for officers, and an update to when the ATP Work Group meets. Habermann asked the membership to review the standing Operating Guidelines and submit changes for consideration at the April meeting.

b) Regional Transportation Coordinating Council

Andy Hubley, ARDC, presented information about the Regional Transportation Coordinating Council, a regional council of transit stakeholders in northeast Minnesota. The email distribution lists for this task force/steering committee includes 300 people, including several members of the NEMNATP. Jack Larson added this process pertains to mobility management, which connects to social workers and caretakers coordinating transit for clients or loved ones. Hubley noted the process is recommending that the new RTCC be an independent body. The steering committee may suggest to this group that ARDC serve as a fiscal agent for the group but that the RTCC become a sub-committee of the NEMNATP. More on this project will be presented at a future NEMNATP meeting.

c) Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program Solicitation Update

Habermann distributed a map highlighting the distribution of six applications received for Transportation Alternatives funding in FY 2023. The TA Task Force will meet on February 28th to discuss and rank projects for recommendation of programming of \$900,000 in federal funding. The total request between the six projects totals over \$2.3 million. It was noted that two proposed projects this year are repeat applicants. The NEMNATP will consider the Task Force's award recommendations at its April meeting.

d) ARDC Regional Transportation Planning Workplan FY 2020

Habermann noted the ARDC and MnDOT District 1 will be looking at the ARDC's regional transportation workplan for fiscal year 2020 and asked the membership if they have ideas for projects the ARDC should consider. No questions or suggestions for workplan items were brought forward by the membership. Bryan Anderson noted that there is flexibility to look at a variety of projects.

8. Program and Workplan Updates

a) ARDC Transportation Planning Updates

Habermann provide updates on Safe Routes to School planning in Cloquet, Corridor Management Plan Updates on four scenic byways in our region, the Two Harbors Transportation Plan, and corridor design in Lutsen Township. Regarding the Two Harbors Transportation Plan, Bryan Anderson added that this process has helped MnDOT get ahead of urban reconstruction, and it has been a good opportunity to engage the public and city and county officials.

b) DSMIC Transportation Advisory Committee Updates

Ron Chicka noted the DSMIC's metro bicycle plan will be approved soon. He also noted road projects were due two weeks ago for the Duluth-Superior metro area with four projects in Minnesota's portion of the Duluth metro area. A draft of the TIP will be developed in May and finalized in June for FY 2023. Chicka noted that he would appreciate future opportunities to present and engage the NEMNATP membership regarding a modeling project being conducted for the Bayfront/DECC area of Duluth, and input for the MIC's Long-Range Plan and presentation of the survey efforts that have been undertaken in recent months.

c) MnDOT State and Local Programs Updates

John McDonald presented an update about 2019 local construction projects using federal funds. In going through the list, John Welle noted several projects had the funding label 'demo'. He inquired if this is old funding, or if the source still exists. It was confirmed that these are old funds that need to be programmed to ensure they are not pulled. The demo or HPP (High Priority Project) label are carry-over projects.

Rob Ege presented an update about 2019 State construction projects using federal funds. He then presented a tentative update on the FY 2023 projects and noted \$20M in overprogrammed funding that will need to be addressed.

Bryan Anderson presented the FY 2023 federal funding targets and distributions. He noted, in the past, MnDOT District 1 has had \$9M in programming funds and \$900,000 in August Redistribution funds. Connecting to Ege's comments about over-programmed funds, it was noted the August redistribution funds will not be available to the District beginning in FY 2020. Anderson noted this cut pertains to the Federal Transportation Bill, which drops Minnesota's 93% obligation rate to a projected 91% obligation rate. The next Federal Transportation Bill could lead to changes.

At present time, the state DOT anticipates taking \$900,000 back from each ATP to add to the general fund and help close the funding gap. Jim Foldesi inquired how a 2% change in obligation rate could reflect in an 11% reduction in funds to D1. If the district were to incur the same reduction, D1's budget should only be reduced by \$200,000. Bryan Anderson said they asked the same question and have yet to hear back from MnDOT Central Office.

Anderson then asked county engineers to discuss their candidate projects for FY 2023 federal aid. Projects in Aitkin County, Itasca County, St. Louis County, and the MPO area in Duluth were presented. Projects in the MPO area will be rolled into the DSMIC's public engagement process.

Bryan Anderson also provided updates about the District Freight Plan, discussing data accumulated and results of a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) analysis conducted with the steering committee and stakeholders. Anderson gave thanks to the many folks in the ATP membership who are serving on the advisory committee. More information about the district freight plan may be accessed here: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/ofrw/freight/districtfreightplan.html>

d) MnDOT District 1 Bicycle Plan

Russell Habermann provided updates regarding the District 1 Bike Plan, including how and why the process began, its recommendations for short- and long-term planning/programming and bikeway maintenance. When asked why the plan focuses on bikes and not other non-motorized transportation options, Bryan Anderson noted statewide pedestrian planning would begin when the district bicycle planning wraps up. Habermann noted that the MnDOT District 1 Bicycle TAC members are currently reviewing a draft plan.

9. Member Concerns

10. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was brought by John McDonald/Jim Foldesi at 11:40am. Motion carried unanimously.

###

Next NEMNATP Meeting: April 10, 2019 @ 10:00 a.m. in the St. Louis County Public Safety Building
(2030 N Arlington Ave, Duluth, MN 55811)