



Northeast Minnesota Area Transportation Partnership Meeting

April 10, 2019 @ 10:00 am
St. Louis County Public Safety Building
2030 N Arlington Ave, Duluth, MN 55811

Summary

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

Members in attendance: Robert Anderson, Bryan Anderson, Joel Astleford, Brian Bluhm, Ron Chicka, Robert Deschampe, Jim Foldesi, Krysten Foster, Rick Goutermont, Karin Grandia, Steve Hallan, Duane Hill, Andy Hubley, Gary Johnson, Dan Larson, Jack Larson, Mark LeBrun, Bob Manzoline, John McDonald, JinYeene Neumann, Gary Peterson, Bill Pratt, Cindy Voigt, John Welle

Guests in attendance: Rob Ege, Russell Habermann, Scott Johnson, John Minor, Michelle Pierson, Penny Simonsen, Maren Webb

2. Approval of February 13, 2019 Meeting Summary

A motion to approve the February 13, 2019 Meeting Summary was made by Jack Larson/John McDonald. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of Agenda

A motion to approve the meeting agenda was made by Karin Grandia/Robert Deschampe. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Comments from Citizens Present

None brought forward.

5. Presentation - Minnesota Department of Transportation District 1 Freight Plan - CPCS

Erica Witzke, project manager for MnDOT District 1's Freight Plan, presented a project update via Skype showcasing the six main tasks of the plan process. It was noted that a ranking analysis has been completed and that the analysis is intended to serve as a decision-making tool, not as *the* deciding element for project selection. A handout demonstrating a pure rank, safety rank, condition rank, and performance rank was distributed. During a question/answer period at the end of the presentation, Gary Peterson asked what criteria were used for the safety ranking; Witzke responded that sustained crash location (SLC) data provided from MnDOT (i.e. commercial vehicle crashes, county safety plans evaluation data, at-grade rail crossing data) were used to ascertain the safety ratings.

6. Unfinished Business

a) Amendments to Operating Guidelines (Attachment #1)

Russell Habermann from the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission (ARDC) presented several suggested changes to the NEMNATP Operating Guidelines. After outlining the proposed changes, Habermann asked if there were other suggested changes. Hearing none, Chair Neumann asked for a motion to accept and approve amendments to the NEMNATP Operating Guidelines. **A motion to amend the NEMNATP Operating Guidelines as outlined was made by Jim Foldesi/Krysten Foster. The motion carried unanimously.**

7. New Business

- a) Transportation Alternatives (TA) Task Force FY 2023 Project Recommendations
- i. City of Duluth - Cross City Trail Segment III (Recommended for \$600,000)
 - ii. St. Louis County - CSAH 14 (Boundary Avenue) Sidewalk Project (Recommended for \$300,000)

R. Habermann, ARDC, summarized the applicant projects that sought Transportation Alternatives funding and showed elements of the two projects (noted above) the TA Task Force recommended for funding. **A motion to approve the Task Force's recommendations was made by Bob Manzoline/Karin Grandia. The motion carried unanimously.**

- b) Area Transportation Improvement Program (ATIP) FY 2023 / MnDOT Updates (Attachment #2)

Bryan Anderson, MnDOT D-1, noted that \$100M was over-programmed in FY 2022 and will be rolled into FY 2023. Duane Hill, MnDOT D-1, gave context about why this has happened, noting it was beneficial to be over-programmed in the past in case additional funds are released. Rob Ege, MnDOT D-1, gave updates about several of the notable projects for FY 2023. **A motion to approve the projects as emailed out was made by Cindy Voigt/John McDonald. The motion carried unanimously.**

B. Anderson presented information about recipients of the state Safe Routes to School (SRTS) infrastructure program. Of the eight applications submitted from MnDOT D-1, six of them scored in the top ten projects statewide. In an interest of geographic fairness,

only three of those six were awarded, including projects in Moose Lake, Grand Marais, and Deer River.

B. Anderson also noted that a workshop for the Transportation Economic Development (TED) program is scheduled for June 27 at 10am at MnDOT. The TED program provides competitive grants for construction projects on state highways that provide measurable economic benefit. Example projects include signals, interchanges, acceleration lanes, turn lanes, frontage roads, and safety improvements.

B. Anderson also presented the \$9M in FY 2023 Local Funding Targets for Federal-Aid Candidate projects, which include projects along Aitkin County CSAH 11, Itasca County CSAH 7, St. Louis County CSAH 4, and three projects in the MPO area, including projects along St. Louis County CSAH 91, St. Louis County CSAH 56, and City of Duluth 164. Those projects in the MPO region were approved by the DSMIC Board. **A motion to approve the projects brought forward was made by Gary Peterson/Bill Pratt. The motion carried unanimously.**

D. Hill presented information about Governor Walz's transportation funding proposal. He noted that more than half of State roadways are 50 years or older. 35% of State bridges are in the same age range. Without additional resources we will see increased deterioration of pavement and bridges. Hill presented many key figures that show an \$18 billion gap between needs and revenues (list of 600 projects that are not yet funded but needed) over the next 20 years. He also noted the Governor would like to see General Fund transfers go back and that he supports a 20¢ increase in the gas tax, of which 7¢ would go to the general fund transfers, 5-6¢ would help pay off bond debt, 3 ¢ would issue more bonds, and 4-5¢ would be dedicated to the 600 projects in the gap list. The 20¢ increase would be phased in, 5¢ every six months over the next two years. Other increases would include a slight increase in registration taxes and motor vehicle sales taxes.

- c) ARDC Regional Transportation Planning Workplan FY 2020 / ARDC Updates (Attachment #3)

R. Habermann noted that ARDC staff met with B. Anderson to develop a draft FY 2020 workplan. These items include: development of a community transportation plan to inform development of a scheduled MnDOT project in International Falls; collect and assess regional trail pavement condition data; assist with active transportation development across the region; assist the Gitchi-Gami Train Association; assist the North Shore Scenic Drive Council; manage the MnDOT trail counters program; and other activities as identified (SRTS, Lake Vermilion Trail, MnDOT D1 Bike Plan implementation).

A motion to approve the ARDC FY 2020 transportation planning workplan was made by Duane Hill/Bob Manzoline. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Program and Workplan Updates

a) DSMIC Transportation Advisory Committee Updates

Ron Chicka, DSMIC Director, presented updates on the DECC/Bayfront congestion study and noted a possible conversion of 1st Street in Duluth to a two-way. Currently, there are places where First Street moves from a two-way road to a one-way, back to a two-way for a couple blocks, and then turns back into a one-way. A pilot project will be employed to evaluate this option this summer with the City of Duluth. Chicka also noted a corridor study is beginning in the city of Rice Lake and transportation events in Duluth will be highlighted as part of Bus! Bike! Walk! Month in May.

b) MnDOT State and Local Programs Updates (Attachment #4)

John McDonald, MnDOT D-1, referred meeting attendees to the 2019 local projects and noted that Rob Ege had gone over the proposed FY 2023 projects.

9. Member Concerns

None brought forward.

10. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made at 11:35am by Steve Hallan/Bob Anderson. The motion carried unanimously.

Bold print denotes voting member action.

Next NEMNATP Meeting: July 10, 2019 @ 10:00 a.m. in the Mountain Iron Community Center
(8586 Enterprise Drive S, Mt. Iron, MN 55768)