



Northeast Minnesota Area Transportation Partnership Meeting

July 10, 2019 @ 10:00 am
Mountain Iron Community Center
8586 Enterprise Drive S, Mt. Iron, MN 55768

SUMMARY

1. Meeting called to order at 10:04 am by Chair Neumann, who requested attendees introduce themselves.

Members in attendance: Bryan Anderson, Wayne Boucher, Ron Chicka, Robert Deschampe, Jim Foldesi, Karin Grandia, Steve Hallan, Duane Hill, Jason Hollinday, Andy Hubley, Gary Johnson, Holly Kostrzewski, Dan Larson, Jack Larson, Bob Manzoline, JimYeene Neumann, Bill Pratt, Jeff Rypka, Penny Simonsen, Tony Swader, Davin Tinquist, Cindy Voigt, John Welle

Guests in attendance: Brian Bluhm, Robert Ege, Chelsey Hendrickson, Russell Habermann, Scott Johnson, Michael Kalnbach, Jeff Madill, John Minor, Justin Otsea, Hollie Parsons, Michelle Pierson, Sierra Saunders

2. Approval of Meeting Summary - April 10, 2019

A motion to approve the April 10, 2019, Meeting Summary was made by Jim Foldesi/Jason Hollinday. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of Agenda

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

4. Comments from Citizens Present

None brought forward.

5. Presentations

a) Toward Zero Deaths (TZD) in the Northland – Holly Kostrzewski, MnDOT D1

Holly Kostrzewski, Northeast Minnesota TZD Coordinator from MnDOT D1, was joined by Captain Engeldinger of the Minnesota State Patrol and Vic Lund of St. Louis County to present about the TZD program in our area. This presentation gave background information about the program, reviewed statistics which showcase the effects of the program, and highlighted the program's focus on the four "E"s (Education, EMS, Enforcement, and Engineering) and its programs. The group also provided updates regarding Minnesota's Hands-Free legislation, which will go into effect on August 1. Learn more about Toward Zero Deaths in the Northeast at <http://www.minnesotatzd.org/initiatives/regions/northeast/>. Learn more about Minnesota's new Hands-Free legislation at <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ots/hands-free/Pages/default.aspx>.

Kostrzewski also requested that members share information about the location of Click-it or Ticket/Safe & Sober signs throughout the region, as there is not a current sign inventory. Email Holly Kostrzewski with sign locations at Holly.Kostrzewski@state.mn.us.

b) MnDOT Statewide Pedestrian System Plan – Sierra Saunders, Alta Planning, and Chelsey Hendrickson, Kimley-Horn

Consultants Sierra Saunders and Chelsey Hendrickson presented the process and desired outcomes of the Statewide Pedestrian System Plan. This plan will expand upon the information gathered during the 2015-2017 Minnesota Walks project. Presenters noted that walking is a key element in our state's transportation system and that results of this process will assist MnDOT in developing an understanding of walking along and across the trunk highway system. Public input is being sought at events across the state. A survey has also been developed.

Consultants asked several questions about challenges that jurisdictions face when planning, designing, or constructing walking improvements. A lack of funding for maintenance, maintaining curb cuts and ADA improvements in the face of weather, and pavement maintenance were brought forward.

6. Unfinished Business – None

7. New Business

a) Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program FY 2024 Application for Approval

Russell Habermann gave background information about the Transportation Alternatives FY 2024 application. He said the TA Task Force provided feedback on the FY 2023 application at the end of last year's solicitation. Suggested changes were highlighted and distributed to members for their review in a handout.

A motion to approve the suggested changes to the TA Program FY 2024 application was made by Duane Hill/Bob Manzoline. The motion carried unanimously.

- b) Community Transportation Planning for Scheduled MnDOT Projects - Bryan Anderson, MnDOT D1, and Justin Otsea, ARDC

The Arrowhead Regional Development Commission (ARDC) recently facilitated the completion of a transportation plan for the Two Harbors community. A key component of this effort was the analysis and potential redesign of Trunk Highway 61 through the city. The plan created a vision for the Two Harbors transportation system's future and enabled stakeholders to identify and prioritize development directions, make strategic long-term investment decisions, and position the City and the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) to apply for or access available funding.

MnDOT is proposing a highway improvement project through the city and would like to ensure that the project meets the needs of citizens and visitors to the community by working with ARDC and the City of Two Harbors on this plan. Results from this process may benefit the other 14 communities who have upcoming urban highway improvement projects in the CHIP. Duane Hill noted that many times when scoping an urban project, it is beneficial to look ahead at potential needs cities have during a reconstruction process, such as utility updates, drainage and more. Bryan Anderson will be reaching out to all the communities with similar projects.

Justin Otsea from ARDC provided background on the planning process, working with a landscape architect to develop designs for potential improvements, and showcasing the online story map that was developed during this project.

Additional information about the Two Harbors plan is available at <https://ardc.org/twoharborstransportationplan>.

8. Program and Workplan Updates

- a) ARDC Regional Planning Workplan Updates

Russell Habermann, Planner at ARDC, provided a final report for ARDC's FY 2019 regional transportation planning workplan items: Two Harbors Transportation Plan, Safe Routes to School, Scenic Byway Organizations, Lake Vermilion Trail Work Group, Trail Counter Program, and Trail Pavement Conditions. Michelle Pierson provided a report on Gitchi-Gami Trail Technical Assistance and Gitchi-Gami State Trail Lutsen Redesign.

- b) DSMIC Transportation Advisory Committee Updates

Ron Chicka, Director of the Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council (DSMIC), gave updates about the agency's Long-Range Plan, the I-35/Bayfront Area Traffic Modeling and Special Event Traffic Control Plan, and the Pedestrian Plan.

- c) MnDOT STIP, CHIP, and Other Updates

Bryan Anderson gave a brief update regarding the Capital Highway Investment Plan (CHIP). The entire CHIP is mapped out and available online. Comments regarding projects in the STIP are open until August. Robert Ege presented updates on the State

Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). He noted that, due to over-programming, \$3.5M in projects were being pushed to the future.

9. Open Discussion / Member Concerns

None brought forward.

10. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:00pm was made by Cindy Voigt/Bill Pratt. The motion carried unanimously.

Bold print denotes action taken by membership.

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Next NEMNATP Meeting: October 9, 2019 @ 10:00 a.m. in the Beaver Bay Community Center
(711 McDonald Ave, Beaver Bay, MN 55601)