



# Northeast Minnesota Area Transportation Partnership Meeting

October 9, 2019 @ 10:00 am  
Beaver Bay Community Center  
711 McDonald Ave, Beaver Bay, MN 55601

## Meeting Summary

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

Members in Attendance: Bryan Anderson, Louise Anderson, Ron Chicka, Bobby Deschampe, Kate Ferguson, Jim Foldesi, Rick Goutermont, Karin Grandia, Steve Hallan, Duane Hill, Andy Hubley, Holly Kostrzewski, Jack Larson, John McDonald, JinYeene Neumann, Gary Peterson, Bill Pratt, Cindy Voigt

Guests in Attendance: Robert Ege, Shannon Foss, Russell Habermann, Scott Johnson, Jeff Madill, John Minor, Jake Rueter, Michelle Pierson, Maren Webb

2. Approval of Meeting Summary - July 10, 2019

**A motion to approve the meeting summary from the July 10, 2019 NEMNATP meeting was made by Steve Hallan/Bill Pratt. Carried unanimously.**

3. Approval of Agenda

**A motion to approve the agenda for the October 9, 20219 meeting was made by Karin Grandia/John McDonald. Carried unanimously.**

4. Comments from Citizens Present - None

5. Presentations

- a) Transportation Asset Management Planning

Shannon Foss, MnDOT Central Office, presented on the benefits of developing a Transportation Asset Management Plan (TAMP). MnDOT has developed its plan, which includes 12 assets totaling \$48.7 billion. She presented the benefits a proactive approach to asset management, rather than reactive. Foss posed questions regarding development of a TAMP for local governments. Meeting attendees noted that costs, software costs, and staff time were barriers to developing a good inventory of priority

lists. Attendees also noted that more severe and more frequent storm events have had an impact on jurisdictions' abilities to perform preventative maintenance when they must instead perform emergency reactive maintenance. Foss shared that some states are requiring local jurisdictions to develop a TAMP, though this is not yet the case in Minnesota. Foss recommended that communities implement robust asset management programs to better prioritize limited funding and make smart decisions.

b) Statewide Pedestrian System Plan Survey Results

Jake Rueter, MnDOT Central Office, presented about the Statewide Pedestrian System Plan public input process. He shared that 1,800 surveys have been collected to date; these responses came from 800 in-person interactions at 25 events across the state and from 1,000 online surveys. Additionally, Rueter guided meeting attendees through an exercise to collect responses to priority questions. Rueter shared that the first engagement phase of the project would wrap up at the end of October and that a draft of the plan will be developed over the winter months with a second public engagement phase anticipated in spring 2020.

6. Unfinished Business - None

7. New Business

a) Mesabi Trail Project (SP 069-090-033) Change of Scope Request

Russell Habermann, ARDC Planning, directed meeting attendees to refer to Attachment #1 in their packets. The members reviewed a letter from Bob Manzoline, St. Louis & Lake Counties Regional Railroad Authority, requesting a project scope change for Mesabi Trail Project (SP 069-090-033). Due to an unexpected increase in costs, Manzoline requested the project change from a 5.6-mile segment to a 2.7-mile segment, with one terminus remaining at the Hwy 1/169 underpass and a new terminus added at the intersection of CSAH 88 and Highway 1/169. Members asked if other funding was available for the remaining project mileage. In Manzoline's absence, Lake County Commissioner Rick Goutermont shared that he believed LCCMR funding would fund the remaining project segment.

**A motion to approve a scope change to Mesabi Trail SP 069-090-033 reducing the project length from 5.6 miles to 2.7 miles was brought forward by Jack Larson/Jim Foldesi. Motion carried unanimously.**

b) Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program Task Force Member Appointments

Russell Habermann reviewed the procedures for appointing members of the Transportation Alternatives Task Force. Wade Pavleck, Annie Harala, Cheryl Erickson, and Cavour Johnson have served on the Task Force and expressed interest in being reappointed. Andrea Orest and Ellen Lynch also expressed interest in filling vacated seats.

**A motion to approve the full ballot was brought forward by Jack Larson/Gary Peterson. Motion carried unanimously.**

c) Moving Federal Funding Solicitations A Month Earlier

Bryan Anderson, MnDOT D1, proposed the NEMNATP prepare a letter in support of moving the Federal funding solicitation schedule up by one month. This would mean the Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program solicitation would open at the beginning

of September, with full applications due in early December. He explained this timeline would drive less conflict with the holidays for applicants and allow more time for MnDOT staff to develop the Area Transportation Improvement Program after project selection. He noted this letter would be sent to the State, which would ultimately decide to make the change, and asked if there was any hesitation from potential federal funding applicants. None came forward.

**A motion to write a letter in support of moving the federal funding solicitation schedule up a month was brought forward by Karin Grandia/Cindy Voigt. Motion carried unanimously.**

d) CY 2020 Officers

Chair Neumann reminded the membership about the officer selection process. Chair Neumann will end her term as chair at the end of 2019, and Jason Holliday, the current vice chair, will become the CY 2020 chair. Neumann asked for volunteers or nominations for a new vice chair. Duane Hill volunteered.

**A motion to approve Duane Hill as the NEMNATP vice chair for CY 2020 was brought forward by Jim Foldesi/Karin Grandia. Motion carried unanimously.**

e) CY 2020 Meeting Schedule – February 12, April 8, July 8, October 14

Russell Habermann requested that the membership consider the above meeting dates for calendar year 2020. He noted these proposed dates are in keeping with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of February, April, July and October.

**A motion to approve February 12, April 8, July 8, and October 14 as NEMNATP meeting dates in 2020 was brought forward by Kate Ferguson/Cindy Voigt. Carried unanimously.**

8. Program and Workplan Updates

a) ARDC Regional Planning Workplan Updates

Russell Habermann presented updates of ARDC's transportation planning workplan, including items about development of ARDC's pavement condition data collection bike, active transportation development, and the pedestrian/bicycle counter program. Questions about what is included as components on the data bike and how the data will be used were fielded by ARDC's Michelle Pierson. Habermann noted the likelihood of the data bike being on hand at a future meeting so people can test it in person.

b) DSMIC Transportation Advisory Committee Updates

Ron Chicka noted thanks to Shannon Foss for presenting on asset management and discussed that the MIC has entertained ideas on how to develop a consistent database. He also provided updates regarding an upcoming planning process in the development of a transportation plan in the city of Proctor. Planning efforts are also underway regarding safety measures in the Hwy 53/Midway Road area. Chicka looks forward to work with MnDOT Central Office and the FHWA to enhance transportation planning processes, particularly with design and engineering.

c) MnDOT STIP, CHIP, and Local Updates

John McDonald updated the membership about several projects that were wrapping up, including Hwy 53 and Maple Grove Road, two off-system bridge replacements, and six

highway safety improvement projects. He then directed people to refer to the handout D1 Local Federal Aid Projects: Year 2020. McDonald reminded membership that final reviews for project memos begin April 1, 2020 and the State would appreciate those being submitted sooner.

Bryan Anderson showcased some slides showing draft targets for FY 2024 coming in at \$8.8M. He noted that the approximate \$4M for Cities/Counties outside of the MPO/\$2.6M for within MPO are lower figures than last year. The total also includes \$900,000 in TA and \$1.3M in HSIP projects. However, these are draft targets, with the final numbers coming out in December. He went over the timeline for projects and noted eligible applicants would be notified about their projects on November 18. Final applications will be due January 3, 2020. This schedule aligns with the Transportation Alternatives process.

Anderson also presented on several other MnDOT grant programs, including those for SRTS planning assistance, SRTS non-infrastructure (Boost grants), and SRTS engineering studies. He shared that MnDOT has requested \$3M for SRTS infrastructure projects in the bonding bill.

Anderson also provided an update about a Transportation Economic Development program application in Cloquet on Highway 33, gave an update about the status of the D1 Freight Plan, and mentioned the public comment period remains open. Learn more at <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/ofrw/freight/districtfreightplan/d1.html>

Anderson provided updates about the Two Harbors Transportation Planning process and noted there are many “urban” planning projects coming up in the next 10 years. Anderson gave a short update about the TH 2 Corridor Study, which is just kicking off, and provided an update about Advancing Transportation Equity, a project that aims to help MnDOT better understand how transportation systems, services, and decision-making processes help or hinder traditionally underserved or under-represented communities. Learn more at <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/planning/program/advancing-transportation-equity/>

Rob Ege referred meeting attendees to a handout detailing 2020 STIP projects. He called attention to some local partnership projects, including signal projects on TH 53. He also pointed out some large projects on the Twin Ports Interchange, Highway 61, and in International Falls.

9. Open Discussion / Member Concerns

Chair Neumann shared that a presentation about the Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program solicitation would take place on Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup> at 10am at ARDC.

10. Adjourn

**A motion to adjourn was brought forward at 11:30am by Bill Pratt/Duane Hill. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Bold print denotes need for action.**

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