



# Northeast Minnesota Area Transportation Partnership Meeting

April 8, 2020 @ 10:00 am  
Zoom Video/Audio Conference

## Meeting Summary

1. The Zoom conference line was open at 9:30 am to give participants time to get settled prior to the meeting start. Participants were encouraged to log or call into the meeting by 9:55 am. Russell Habermann, Senior Planner at ARDC Planning, greeted participants as they entered the meeting and gave a brief statement regarding processes and formats of this meeting held on Zoom, including the need to hold roll call votes by voting members. Chair Jason Holliday called the meeting to order at 10:02am. He noted that NEMNATP staff would be calling roll call for attendance and for all subsequent votes.

Michelle Pierson, Planning Assistant at ARDC Planning, took roll call attendance.

*Members in Attendance:* Kevin Adee, Bryan Anderson, Ken Anderson, Ron Chicka, Robert Deschampe, Beth Drost, Kate Ferguson, Jim Foldesi, Krysten Foster, Karin Grandia, Steve Hallan, Duane Hill, Jason Holliday, Andy Hubley, Holly Kostrzewski, Gary Johnson, Dan Larson, Bob Manzoline, Susan Michels, Mike Moilanen, JinYeene Neumann, Gary Peterson, Bill Pratt, Dave Reimer, Penny Simonsen, Cindy Voigt, John Welle

*Guests in Attendance:* Brian Bluhm, Todd Campbell, Rob Ege, James Gittemeier, Russell Habermann, Scott Johnson, Michael Kalnbach, John Minor, Tina Neary, Michelle Pierson, Voni Vegar, Rondi Watson

2. Approval of Meeting Summary - February 12, 2020

**A motion to approve the February 12, 2020 meeting summary was made by Kevin Adee/Jack Larson. The motion carried unanimously.**

3. Approval of Agenda

**A motion to approve the agenda was made by Steve Hallan/Bill Pratt. The motion carried unanimously, with JinYeene Neumann not responding.**

4. Comments from Citizens Present - None

5. Approval of MnDOT D-1 Area Transportation Improvement Program (ATIP) FY 24

Bryan Anderson, Planning Director at the Minnesota Department of Transportation District 1 (MnDOT D-1), went over two slides showcasing local project funding breakdowns of the FY 2024 ATIP program. He noted that the NEMNATP had voted and approved in February to add five local projects and three Transportation Alternatives to the draft ATIP. He requested that county engineers and city engineers make sure dollar figures and project descriptions are correct. Anderson also requested that Mark LeBrun from Pine County and DNR reach out to him to clarify project numbers.

Rob Ege, Capital Projects Program Engineer at MnDOT D-1, went over some notable State Program 2024 projects with the help of a handout. He noted some of the larger projects and some that are in coordination with MnDOT D-3.

**A motion to approve the MnDOT D-1 Area Transportation Improvement Program (ATIP) for FY 2024 was made by Kate Ferguson/Krysten Foster. The motion carried unanimously, with Bob Manzoline not responding.**

6. ARDC Regional Transportation Planning Workplan FY 21

Russell Habermann, Senior Planner at ARDC Planning, noted that he asked the group to brainstorm ideas for ARDC's FY 21 workplan at the NEMNATP's most recent meeting. He noted that the ideas brought forward were valuable and, though they may not align with services ARDC can provide, that those topics will inspire partnerships and presentations to the NEMNATP during FY 21.

Habermann then presented the following items as the proposed workplan:

- Assist the Avenue of Pines Scenic Byway group
- Assist the Gitchi-Gami Trail Association
- Assist the North Shore Scenic Drive Council
- Manage the MnDOT trail counters program
- Pilot pedestrian data collection practices for project scoping in Chisholm
- Other activities as identified

**A motion to approve the ARDC Regional Transportation Planning Workplan FY 21 was made by Bob Manzoline/Steve Hallan. The motion carried unanimously.**

7. MnDOT Program Updates

John Minor, Engineering Specialist with MnDOT D-1 State-Aid, presented 2020 local project updates with the help of a handout. He called special attention to the first project on the list, project number 099-090-005, a trail project funded by the Transportation Alternatives Program in the City of Scanlon that had been dropped; funds were transferred to four other projects. Minor noted that most projects were authorized, awarded, or in review.

8. Open Discussion - How is COVID-19 impacting transportation systems in NE MN?

Duane Hill, a representative of MnDOT D-1, noted that 155 of MnDOT's 400 employees were telecommuting. Special care is being extended to maintenance crews. Employees are driving separately to work sites. For the most part, projects are moving ahead. Some slowdowns regarding right of way acquisition are occurring as the justice system is only currently hearing criminal cases.

Jack Larson, representative of rural transit and Arrowhead Transit, mentioned that Arrowhead Transit is experiencing 60-70% decline in ridership. They are a designated essential service. Work is being done to see how Arrowhead Transit fits in with grocery delivery and special medical transport. Larson mentioned that people who have transit considerations they'd like to discuss regarding Arrowhead Transit should reach out to him.

Holly Kostrzewski, representative of Toward Zero Death (TZD), shared that vehicular travel in Minnesota is way down but that roadway fatalities are way up, having doubled for the two-week period of March 16 to April 3 compared to the last five-year average. The previous statewide average for this two-week period was 12 fatalities, and this year's count is 24 deaths at a statewide level. DWIs are also down this year in comparison to previous years.

Kate Ferguson, representative of seaway ports and the Duluth Seaway Port Authority, noted that shipping opened mid-March. They are seeing containers continuing. There is a trend noting slowing of the U.S. steel market that may impact port tonnage. For international ships, the Coast Guard, CDC, and U.S. Customs are handling protocols of crews visiting the port. Business is almost as usual.

9. Member Concerns - None brought forward

10. Adjourn

**A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jack Larson/Karin Grandia. Hearing no nay votes, the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:50am.**

**Bold print denotes an action item.**

###

Next NEMNATP Meeting: July 8, 2020 at 10am in the  
St. Louis County Public Works Building (7823 Highway 135, Virginia, MN 55792)