



## Northeast Minnesota Area Transportation Partnership Meeting

February 9, 2022 @ 10:00 am  
Zoom Video/Audio Conference

### SUMMARY

Members in attendance: Kevin Adee, Bryan Anderson, Joel Astleford, Chris Belden, Ron Chicka, Jason DiPiazza, Kate Ferguson, Jim Foldesi, Krysten Foster, Steve Hallan, Robert Hass, Duane Hill, Rick Hogenson (for Rick Goutermont), Jason Holliday, Andy Hubley, Holly Kostrzewski, Dan Larson, Mark LeBrun, Bob Manzoline, Susan Michels, Brian Napstad, JinYeene Neumann, Gary Peterson, David Reimer, Penny Simonsen, Jim Strezishar, Bob Svaleson, Cindy Voigt, John Welle,

Guests in attendance: Brian Bluhm, Sandra Davey, Jason Fisher, Scott Johnson, Michael Kalnbach, Kris Liljeblad, John Minor, Tina Neary, Michelle Pierson, Brad Utecht

#### 1. Call to Order

Vice-Chair Jason DiPiazza called the meeting to order at 10:05 am. Vice-Chair DiPiazza welcomed attendees, reiterated directions regarding voting items. Attendance was taken by attendees typing their name and agency/unit of government (if any) represented in the chat feature.

#### 2. Approval of Meeting Summary – October 13, 2021

**A motion to approve the October 13, 2021 meeting summary was made by Steve Hallan/Brian Napstad. No discussion. The motion carried unanimously.**

#### 3. Comments from Citizens Present

No comments were brought forward.

#### 4. MnSHIP Presentation

Brad Utecht, MnDOT, presented slides providing background information regarding the Minnesota State Highway Improvement Program. MnSHIP guides the planning of projects and improvements on the state highway system. He described the process for determining the 20-Year need calculation, and requested local entities to provide needed information that will help MnDOT accurately assess needs that may not yet be reflected in the CHIP or the STIP, or that maybe haven't been captured in Corridors of Commerce

candidate list, bonding requests or federal/regional solicitation applications. Brad Utecht will work with Krysten S. Foster who will send out an excel tool that local jurisdictions can complete and return so that local priority needs will be better reflected.

5. FY 2026 Targets

Bryan Anderson presented funding targets for Local Projects for Fiscal Year 2026. He noted that the funding program would remain about \$10M, with \$900,000 in Federal Transportation Alternatives funds, \$1.7M in HSIP, \$4.4M to Cities and Counties, and \$2.96M to projects in the MPO region. Anderson anticipates he will seek approval for the projects in the \$4.4 Cities and Counties program in the draft STIP at the April meeting of the NEMNATP.

Anderson then presented on the 2023-2026 MnDOT Targets. He noted that these targets have been about \$100M in the past five years, and that the 2026 targets will be smaller than in past years for our district coming in at about \$60M.

6. Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program FY 2026

Andy Hubley informed the membership that a total of five applications were submitted to the program this year. The Transportation Alternatives Task Force will meet on February 17<sup>th</sup> to review and score projects. The program has \$900,000 to award in federal funds, that require a 20% local match. The total dollar amount requested from the five projects totals about \$2.6M. The Task Force will review and score the projects, ranking them, and make a recommendation to the full ATP at the April 13, 2022 meeting for approval. The five projects submitted include:

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>
City of Chisholm	Bike/Ped Bridge Overpass over 169	\$600,000
Cook County	Gunflint Trail Multiuse Path	\$400,000
City of Duluth	Campus Connector Trail, Segment #5	\$384,091
City of Hermantown	N. Keene Creek Trail	\$585,200
City of Silver Bay	Multi-modal Trail Center Components	\$600,000
<b>Total:</b>		<b>\$2,569,291.00</b>

7. ATV Ordinances in Minnesota

Andy Hubley presented information gathered thus far which includes some policies and ordinances regarding ATV use. Meeting attendees contributed additional resources, and noted the document does not yet address class type of ATVs. It was reiterated that there is a desire to examine signage, or the development of a program for signage to make motorists aware of where they may encounter ATV users to help avoid conflicts. It was noted that a sign program and signage consistency would be beneficial. ARDC will look into next steps and gather resources for consideration of this topic at a future meeting of the ATP.

## 8. Duluth- Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council Updates

Ron Chicka, DSMIC Director, shared updates regarding their Transportation Improvement Project (TIP) process. Additionally, Chicka noted an upcoming project on I-35 is out for proposals to evaluate short and long-term needs of I-35 in the MIC area, with a special focus on what the roadway should look like in downtown Duluth. This will be a two-year project. Chicka also introduced Kris Liljeblad to the Partnership, who has recently accepted a position in the Division.

## 9. ARDC Regional Transportation Planning Workplan

Andy Hubley presented slides showcasing ARDC's work on Transportation Planning updates which include community transportation plans in International Falls, Cloquet, Fond du Lac, Aitkin and the Cross Range Expressway. He also provided updates about work with several Scenic Byway Organizations, and with the Gitchi-Gami State Trail. He touched on work underway pertaining to Transit Trip Connectivity Study which is looking at the first and last mile of transit needs for riders.

## 10. Local Program Updates

Krysten Foster called meeting attendees' attention to the Attachment #1 sent out with the agenda. She complimented City Engineers for submitting documentation ahead of the April 1<sup>st</sup> due date and was pleased to report several projects are out for bid already. She noted the documentation of "AC" refers to projects that are out for advanced construction, which helps ensure project delivery. These projects are highlighted in red. Foster also complimented St. Louis County Engineering for their recent article in the Duluth News Tribune about their recent \$24M bridge contract. Foster requested that ARDC send out the article following the meeting. Michelle Pierson did distribute that information following the meeting, and the article can be found online here: <https://www.duluthnewstribune.com/news/local/st-louis-county-secures-record-24-million-road-bridge-contract>

Foster noted this could be an interesting presentation for a future NEMNATP meeting, and Jim Foldesi noted he would be honored to present about this exciting project.

Bryan Anderson noted that there will be a special Transportation Economic Development (TED) Grant Solicitation released in May or June of 2022, with \$2M available for projects in Greater Minnesota. Anderson also provided updates about the Corridors of Commerce (CEC) solicitation anticipated in August 2022, in which the NEMNATP will score projects and recommend the top five projects to compete statewide. There will be \$100M for the CEC program. Anderson also highlighted upcoming partnerships with the DSMIC regarding the I-35 Corridor Plan and with ARDC regarding the Cloquet Transportation Plan.

## 11. Member Concerns/Meeting Format Discussion/Future Agenda Topics

Andy Hubley opened the floor to questions, member concerns and guided a discussion about meeting format. Commissioner Steve Hallan from Pine County asked a question about to whom he could put farmer constituents in touch with regarding fencing along I-

35. Bryan Anderson noted he would reach out to the project manager and connect that person to Commissioner Hallan.

Holly Kostrzewski informed the NEMNATP that the Toward Zero Death conference would be coming up on May 11<sup>th</sup>. More information can be found here:

<https://www.minnesotatzd.org/events/workshop/northeast/2022>

On discussion regarding the format for the April 13, 2022 meeting of the NEMNATP, members noted the flexibility of a hybrid meeting would be very appreciated. Members noted the Carlton County Transportation Building meeting room works well for hybrid meetings. ARDC will work with the NEMNATP Strategic Planning meeting at the end of March to determine ultimate meeting format for the April meeting, and will try to find a meeting room that can accommodate a hybrid meeting format.

**12. A motion to adjourn the meeting was brought by Cindy Voigt/Jim Foldesi at 11:25am. Carries.**

The next meeting of the NEMNATP will be held on April 13, 2022.