



Northeast Minnesota Area Transportation Partnership Meeting

SUMMARY

Members in attendance: Brian Anderson, Ron Chica, Jason DiPiazza, Kate Ferguson, Jim Foldesi, Krysten Foster, Rick Goutermont, Karin Grandia, Steve Hallan, Robert Hass, Andy Hubley, Mark LeBrun, Bob Manzoline, Susan Michels, Mike Moilanen, Brian Napstad, JinYeene Neumann, Gary Peterson, Dave Reimer, Penny Simonsen, Bob Svaleson, Davin Tinquist, Cindy Voigt, Matt Wegwerth, John Welle

Guests in attendance: Sarah Ciochetto, Sandra Davey, Jason Fisher, James Gittemeier, Richard Haney, Scott Johnson, Michael Kalnbach, Paige Melius, Gary Nelson, Joshua Pearson, Michelle Pierson, Hally Turner, Brad Utecht

1. Call to Order

Chair Karin Grandia welcomed attendees in person and via zoom and called the meeting to order at 10:02am. Chair Grandia reiterated directions regarding voting items. Attendance was taken by attendees typing their name and agency/unity of government (if any) represented in the chat feature.

2. Approval of Meeting Summary – April 13, 2022

A motion to approve the April 13, 2022, meeting summary was made by Jim Foldesi/JinYeene Neuman. No discussion. The motion carried.

3. Comments from Citizens Present

No comments were brought forward

4. Presentation 1: Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan

Hally Turner, MnDOT, joined the meeting via Zoom and presented a series of slides highlighting updates on the Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan (SMTP). Items of note included that the public comment period on the plan will be happening shortly, and it is anticipated that the public hearing will be held in September. Turner discussed changes to the plan from its past 2017 iteration which include a new focus on Climate Action, and more attention to Healthy, Equitable Communities. Turner will send the draft

plan to ARDC staff with newsletter content, and dates, to be shared with NEMNATP members so that they can share with their constituencies and circles. Turner thanked members for sharing this news and public comment opportunities and noted that they have already seen 6500 touchpoints of public input. Hally Turner can be reached with further questions at: hally.turner@state.mn.us

5. Presentation 2: MnSHIP Update

Josh Pearson, MnDOT, attended the meeting in person and presented a series of slides and used interactive web-based tools to engage the NEMNATP membership in updates about the MnSHIP Plan. MnSHIP is a 20-year planning document, which sees updates and shifts every 5 years. The document identifies investments by category, but not specific projects. Pearson presented slides showcasing the current focus point, which was an outcome of the 2017 plan, which prioritized pavement condition. He then presented 5 new categories which could guide future investments. He used several interactive tools to gauge NEMNATP meeting attendees in categories where they thought investment from which investment should be directed, with the goal of staying in the \$30-33B budget. Pearson used an online web tool called Menti to poll attendees, and also showcased a tool that MnDOT has been working on with a consultant to allow citizens and stakeholders around the state to offer feedback and look at how the budget would work. This tool can be found at: www.minnesotago.org/investment/ Pearson noted that there will be a series of input strategies at events around the state this summer, and anticipates that the draft investment direction will be rolled out this fall, with a 2nd round of input in winter 2023, and a goal of final plan adoption in late summer 2023.

John Welle inquired about the categories and how they were developed and decided upon. He noted that none of the categories address what he sees to be a significant need. The last plan focused on pavement condition, but didn't allow for substantial "new" pavement, meaning that systems in some of the greater Minnesota counties did not get to see safety measures like expanded shoulders or road widening happen. He doesn't see one of the categories in this cycle that could impact the needs he sees. He sees a Transportation Safety as an important consideration.

Karin Grandia asked if Josh would send out a list of the community events. Cindy Voigt queried if the budget calculation tool would give more feedback? Pearson demonstrated where users could find that information on the tool. He was also asked about the planning budget for this process and plan.

Pearson noted further questions could be directed to him at Joshua.pearson@state.mn.us or to Brad Utecht at Bradley.utecht@state.mn.us .

6. Presentation 3: NEMNATP Local Distribution

Krysten Saatela Foster presented informational slides, noting that no action would be necessary until the October meeting of the ATP.

Foster reviewed the history, local distribution formula, proposed distribution for the 2023-026 IJJA/BIL funds, 2027 local distribution recommendations. She showcased figures

from the past 15 years and noted how the NEMNATP's practices of cooperative projects. Foster focused on recent past processes and noted this is a good time to assess and affirm NEMNATP goals about a formula based distribution of funds. She noted that she will be looking for direction for 2027 and several options are available including: 1) maintaining current practices (60%rural/40%MPO distribution), 2) Updating the formula to some other figure (perhaps 70%rural/30%MPO which could potentially add another county to the rural distribution), or 3) a Fixed MPO target (ie. \$2million, instead of percentage based). Foster called people's attention to a handout with showcasing local distribution history.

Foster noted that due to IJJA/BIL there is potential to increase the 2024 TA projects selected as they were all underfunded.

Steve Hallan asked if it was possible to leverage TA awards with legacy funds to combine efforts. Sarah Ciochetto from the Regional Rail authority noted the legacy applications are due July 29th.

Mark LeBrun asked about what other ATPs are doing? Foster noted it varies greatly. NEMNATP does dedicate a higher % of distribution to the MPO than other ATPs with a metropolitan area.

Foster noted that she will report back about other ATPs and MPOs allocation of formula funds.

Foster invited questions to be directed to her at Krysten.SaatelaFoster@state.mn.us .

7. MnDOT Update

Bryan Anderson updated the membership on several items including that NEMNATP had one submitted application for the TED solicitation, from Koochiching County. He noted that he had presented in April that the NEMNATP membership may be asked to score Corridors of Commerce (CoC) applications but that to permit that would have required legislative approval. That requested was part of the legislature's unfinished business at the end of the session, so instead, MnDOT is following the normal process. Anderson anticipates this will occur before the October meeting of the ATP.

Anderson also noted that MnDOT is kicking off a Hwy 48 corridor study in the Hinckley area. A corridor study will also evaluate Hwy 169 in Hibbing where there have been substantial signalized intersection crashes. A study will be kicking off on Hwy 73 north of Kettle River to Cromwell to study removal of the significant s-curves on this stretch of highway. D3 will be doing an 169 study, and a Transportation Plan in Aitkin has been awarded funds and will kick off this fall.

8. Member Concerns/Future Agenda Topics

Brian Napstad from Aitkin Co. noted he had brought this up at a previous meeting but is looking for a highway signage for ATV users/notifications to motorists that ATVs are

allowed, or may be crossing state highways as a topic. ARDC's Paige Melius assured Commissioner Napstad that this is on the running list of meeting topics and she hopes she can gather experts and protocols for a future meeting.

9. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Krysten Saatela Foster/Cindy Voigt at 11:54. Carries.

The next meeting of the NEMNATP will be held on Wednesday, October 12, 2022. Format for the meeting will be decided in late September 2022.

Bold print denotes need for action.