



**Arrowhead Regional Development Commission
Regional Transportation Advisory Committee**

April 3, 2008

Hermantown, MN

Meeting Summary

Meeting Attendees

Representing

Tom Peterson	Mn/DNR
Bob Manzoline	Reg. Rail Authority
Wayne Olson	Carlton County
Shae Kosmolski	Cook County
Denny Johnson	Mn/DOT
Don Mohawk	Mn/DOT
Ron Johnson	Duluth Port Authority
Paul Bergman	Lake County
Doug Grindall	Koochiching County

Meeting Attendees

Representing

Mike Forsman	St. Louis County
Al Goodman	Lake County
Steve Kniefel	SLC Townships
Walter Leu	MN/DOT
John Welle	Aitkin County
Bill Bennett	LHB - Chambers
Catherine McLynn	Itasca County
Bryan Anderson	ARDC Staff
Ben VanTassel	ARDC Staff

Welcome/Introductions

Chair Tom Peterson called the meeting to order at 12:30 PM.

Committee Business

Chair Peterson mentioned that the January meeting summary was not attached to the email so the meeting summary will be approved in June.

Finland Trails Plan

Ben VanTassel mentioned that this project has just started up within the last couple of months. Finland has a plan to build new community center this fall to be completed in 2009. It will be a multi-use facility; however, it will be located away from the downtown area. The committee for this project would like to connect the downtown/business district to the multiple trails in the area and include the new community center which is approximately one mile from the center of town.

The next meeting will discuss the various trails, alignment with the highway and the connection to the downtown area. They expect to have feedback from trail representatives. Discussion points will include how to handle populated areas, obstacles such as the river and bridge, wetlands, ownership of the trail, additional needs such as landscaping for the downtown area, land usage and maintenance for trails.

The end of the project will have answered who, what, when, how as well as provide a timeframe, identify movement on and off the trail and provide trail alignment.

Grand Portage

Bryan Anderson mentioned that this project was funded by RTAC. It is currently in draft form and has been submitted for approval to the Tribal Council. A point of concern has been right of ways on Highway 17. The Area Transportation Partnership has approved funding for Phase I of the plan in the amount of \$12,000 for 2012. This phase would have the trail connect the homes on the

south side to the Lodge and the Trading Post ending at the Tribal Center and is considered the most important phase.

Phase II will connect more neighborhoods with another 1.8 miles of trail with Phase III connecting the school. However, Phase III isn't feasible at this time because of the low enrollment, but has potential for the future. This whole project has had very good community support.

At the next Tribal Council meeting, it is expected that they will discuss right of way issues and local match for the project. Once adopted, they will seek Cook County assistance for engineering on the plan or for other assistance.

Bovey/Coleraine Trail

Anderson mentioned that many of the plan recommendation will be completed in 2009-10 as part of the TH 169 turn back project.

The school district has received SRTS funding and will hire a part-time Safe Routes to School Coordinator (\$12,500 with 100% Federal funds).

The Trail Committee is considering extending the current sidewalk (approximately 400 feet) behind the fire hall to the beach area. Right now, 90-100 people walk/hike to area. There is no sidewalk yet because there is a problem with utility access. They are also discussing continuation of current trails.

Anderson has submitted a DNR Trails Grant application for construction of some of the recommended trail sections. Official word on the grant will come in June.

Area Transportation Partnership

ATP has given approval for the completion the following Enhancement projects: the Lakewalk from 60th Avenue East to Brighton Beach, Effie Streetscape, Grand Portage Reservation Trails, and a Gitchi-Gami Trail bridge in Beaver Bay.

Safe Routes to School

Several communities – Grand Marais, Mountain Iron, the Fond du Lac Reservation, Esko, and Bovey/Coleraine have been awarded SRTS dollars. Bovey/Coleraine will be hiring a coordinator.

North Shore Scenic Drive Council

The NSSD Council recently became a non-profit organization and has a Board of Directors. They completed the Split Rock Wayside Design Project which will improve the wayside area and connectivity to the Gitchi-Gami Trail. Hopefully construction can begin in 2010.

The Beaver Bay Conceptual Design Plan is moving ahead and they will be moving forward with building cairn signs.

In-kind Grant Program

ARDC provides assistance to the committee by reviewing grant applications. Grant applications are currently available for FY 2009; the maximum amount for a project is \$10,000 with a minimum of \$5,000. The applications require a Scope of Work and once approved, ARDC will assist RTAC and

entities to find funding under the program. Planning funds are specifically for transportation projects. This is an ideal program for smaller communities.

It should be noted that the budget is \$7,000 less than last year, down from \$30,000 to \$23,000 which is a result in completing a regional trails assessment.

Al Goodman provided a memo to RTAC requesting a historical review of projects on TH 61 along the North Shore and to review the relative decreases in accident rates as well as accidents on the remaining segments of the highway. Denny Johnson felt that Mn/DOT would be able to readily provide the statistics that Al is looking for.

Future RTAC Meetings

June meeting agenda is full due to the review of applications, etc. and it will be held in the area. October's meeting will include roundabouts and its location is yet to be determined.

Suggested locations for meetings:

- I-Falls with the meeting possibly held at Voyageurs Park
- Split Rock after the changes have been made
- The Gunflint Trail with a viewing of the fire areas
- Ely which could include tours or meetings at the Wolf Center and/or the Bear Center