



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

June 26, 2008

**Hermantown, MN
Meeting Summary**

<u>Meeting Attendees</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Meeting Attendees</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Tom Peterson	Mn/DNR	Jack Larson	Arrowhead Transit
Bob Manzoline	Reg. Rail Authority	Dennis Jensen	DTA
Wayne Olson	Carlton County	Steve Kniefel	SLC Townships
William Whiteman	Bois Forte	Walter Leu	MN/DOT
Denny Johnson	Mn/DOT	John Welle	Aitkin County
Pete Eakman	St. Louis County	Cindy Voigt	City of Duluth
Ron Johnson	Duluth Port Authority	Catherine McLynn	Itasca County
Ron Chicka	MIC	Bryan Anderson	ARDC Staff
Doug Grindall	Koochiching County	Ben VanTassel	ARDC Staff
Andy Hubley	ARDC	Andy McDonald	ARDC/MIC
Liz Sarabia	ARDC		

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 1:56 PM by Chair Tom L. Peterson.

Introductions were given.

Tom gave his goodbye as outgoing chair; Mike Forsman will serve as chair.

2. Committee Business

Walter Leu requested that an item be added to the agenda - A Functional Reclassification in Lake County. Doug Grindall/Denny Johnson made a motion to approve the agenda. Unanimous approval, motion carried.

Call for discussion/changes to the January 1st meeting summary; none heard. Motion for approval without changes by Doug Grindall/Denny Johnson; passed unanimously.

Call for discussion/changes to the April 3rd meeting summary; none heard. Motion for approval without changes by Steve Kniefel/Doug Grindall; passed unanimously.

3. Freight Study Overview

Dave Christianson, Manager of Freight Planning & Programs, State of Minnesota, presented "Northern Minnesota & Wisconsin Freight Study – A Proposal to Profile and Forecast the Impacts of Goods Movements via all Modes in the Region."

Christianson stated that there have been studies done in the past - statewide, regionally and locally looking at various aspects, but not always presenting a complete transportation/industry picture. In the proposal he was suggesting a study for northern Minnesota and northern Wisconsin in which there would be direct industry involvement. The aim of the study is to have outreach opportunities with the result of practical workable recommendations for the present and the future. Northern Minnesota and northern Wisconsin are unique because of the ports, mineral, timber, and paper resources available in the area with the added factor that a portion of the business/industry is international. It also has the potential for future growth; some of which is seen in the large projects developing on the Range.

The study will be designed very similarly to the one completed for District 7 in southwestern Minnesota. The recommendations from that study resulted in improved inter-agency communication, intermodal cooperation and planning, and identified agriculture as much greater contributor than previous thought.

At this time, the funding for this proposal is pending. The budget right now is small, but they still want to move ahead with hopes that additional funding will come available. Christianson feels confident that this is a very viable study. Ron Chicka, ARDC's Metropolitan Interstate Council director, stated that MIC would be very involved in this study and would be looking to both states for support (monetary, studies, data, etc.). Additionally, Christianson stated that they will be looking to RTAC for help with contacts, development of steering and advisory committees, as well as industry information.

4. RTAC in-Kind Grant Applications

Bryan Anderson reported that 5 applications had been received for the in-kind grant program; two did not qualify- City of Ely and City of Effie which were road plans and did not meet the RTAC criteria for transportation projects.

The annual work plan was included in the RTAC materials; however, due to time constraints Anderson asked RTAC members to review it on their own.

Anderson reminded members that the in-kind budget is \$23,000 for FY 2009. The three projects that have been proposed require \$25,000 in funding. The Ely project requested \$10,000 (the full amount) with no match. Ely stated that the School District and the City didn't have funds to match. There is the possibility that \$1,000 could be given toward the match from the RTAC Administrative budget.

Moving forward, Anderson presented the Aitkin Access Management Plan. The need for this plan was prompted by the City of Aitkin's recent Comprehensive Land Use Plan and traffic estimates that indicate traffic will be increasing significantly in the future. The plan would consist of three steps - Step 1: Corridor Review - Highways 210, 169 & 47; Step 2: Recommendation Development; Step 3: Document Development. The project would be completed by June 30, 2009. Costs would be \$11,000 (\$8,800 RTAC funds, \$2,200 match funds). There were no questions or concerns for this project.

The next project was the Squaw Lake Trails Plan. The objective would be to provide the city with connections within the city, move the pedestrian bike traffic from along the shoulders of Highway 46 and determine if there are trail opportunities in and around the city. Step 1 would be ARDC assisting in forming project goals. Step 2 will be an inventory of the current transportation network. Step 3 is the development of recommendations, estimation of costs for changes/improvements followed by Step 4 which is the implementation of the plan. The cost

would be \$8,000 and the City of Squaw Lake is requesting \$6,400 from RTAC with \$1,600 coming from the city as local match.

The third project discussed was the Ely Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan (Ely SRTS Plan). This plan would include working with the school district in identifying barriers and unsafe conditions for children coming or going from school. It would entail similar participation as other SRTS plans. It is also a possibility that this plan would include connections to the Mesabi and Trezona Trails. Extensive discussion followed regarding the request for the full amount without any match funds. RTAC requires 20% match and it was strongly felt that this should be required for this project as it has for previous ones.

Motion was presented to approval all three projects with the stipulation that the Ely project must come up with their match funds. Motion by Doug Grindall/Steve Kniefel; passed unanimously.

5. Project Updates

A CD was provided to RTAC members. The CD contained all of the FY 2008 In-kind grant projects (Grand Portage Trails, Finland Trails and Bovey-Coleraine Trails) except for the International Falls Gateway project. This project is still ongoing and a formal presentation will be given in October.

Anderson reported that there is now a SRTS coordinator for Bovey-Coleraine (Greenway School District) and the contract is in place.

The Finland Trails document is finished and on the ARDC website as well as on the CD provided.

Crystal Bay Township applied to connect multi-use trails from the Community Center to the downtown area. The final plan recommends a separated paved trail. ARDC will assist in looking for resources to implement this project.

Andy Hubley reported on the International Falls Gateway project. He began with a short overview of the project which started 2 years ago in an effort to make a seamless connection between the city and the park. With support from the Park Service and the City of International Falls, everyone worked with the architect (LHB) going through revisions and reviews, cost estimates, looked at other options that would work. A power point presentation is available where the recommendations can be reviewed and the architectural drawings can be seen.

6. Additional Agenda Item

Request for a functional reclassification due to the functional classification updates are being presently done. Lake County found one road that goes around Two Harbors that wasn't put on the change for the GIS map updates. It is a 1.65 mile segment on the northeast side of Two Harbors. Request that this segment be changed to a Minor Collector. Motion to approve changing CSAH 28 to a Minor Collector by Jack Larson/Doug Grindall; passed unanimously.

7. The October meeting will be in International Falls