



Improvin' Movin' in the Arrowhead

June 2007 Volume 5, Issue 4

"Working to guide transportation decisions in Northeast Minnesota"

Inside this issue:

Grand Lake Twp	1
I'Falls Gateway	1
In-kind Grant Apps	1
In-kind Grant Cont'd	2

Next RTAC Meeting

The next RTAC meeting will be at the Marble Town Hall – 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. including lunch and a tour. Lunch will be provided.

The agenda will include a review and ranking of RTAC In-kind Grant applications. We will also include an overview and tour of two large potential infrastructure projects in Itasca County Minnesota Steel, and the Mesaba Energy project. These projects have the potential to create many new jobs and significantly impact the transportation system in Itasca County.

Grand Lake Township Roads Plan

The Grand Lake Road Plan is complete. At the July Town Board Meeting the Board will complete a final review of the document and the Town Roads Map. In the plan several issues were addressed and Grand Lake was provided with a list of accurate road mileages, road locations, and road order summaries. The majority of work completed on this project was the collection and organization of data to facilitate the referencing of information more easily in

the future. The plan also made recommendations on road maintenance and developing road priorities. Grand Lake Township has a document that they can reference for further road inspections and road decisions. Grand Lake also has an accurate map for reference when discussing future issues.

For more information contact Ben at bvantassel@ardc.org or 218-529-7513.

International Falls Gateway

The International Falls Gateway Corridor Task Force has finalized the Gateway Corridor Plan. The Task Force has several recommendations, that include increasing pedestrian and bicycling facilities and connections along the corridor. The main focus of the plan was making the area more attractive. The Task Force advocated for the removal of signs and buildings that are in disrepair and moving the utility wires off of the corridor. The Plan also addresses Airport Road and made recommendations to Koochiching County for reconstruction. The largest recommendation to result from this plan is the hiring of Landscape Architects to continue the process by developing a

design project. This project would include designing a welcome area, possibly south of International Falls, that would welcome travelers to the area. Also, designing an area at the intersection of Highway 53 and Highway 11 East is another focus of the project. This project was especially successful in getting the City of International Falls, Koochiching County, Voyageurs National Park, residents, and business owners working together for a common purpose.

For more information contact Ben at bvantassel@ardc.org or 218-529-7513.

RTAC Planning Grant Applications

The RTAC received seven grant applications for FY 2008. These applications will be discussed and scored at the June 28th meeting.

Bovey/Coleraine SRTS

The purpose of the Bovey/Coleraine Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Plan is to identify barriers and unsafe conditions for children walking and biking to school in the cities of Bovey and Coleraine. The SRTS program is designed to work with school staff, students, and parents to evaluate the school's surrounding area, educate on the

SRTS concept, enforce safety-related policies, and encourage participation. These key areas of evaluation, education, enforcement and encouragement help create a community where students can travel to school on their own and parents and school staff feel comfortable about their safety.

Bigfork Transportation Plan

The City of Bigfork has expressed an interest in developing a transportation plan for the city and surrounding area. Transportation is a priority for the City of Bigfork.

Continued on the next page.

RTAC Planning Grant Applications Continued

A transportation master plan needs to be developed to help the city prioritize needed infrastructure projects. This plan will help provide an overall framework for future development of the transportation system in Bigfork.

An effective transportation system is essential to continued economic growth and development in Bigfork. Providing for the safe, effective, and efficient movement of people and goods is a basic goal of all transportation programs in Minnesota. This plan will be designed to address all modes comprehensively.

Finland Transportation Plan

Crystal Bay Township is interested in exploring and implementing new transportation options and enhancing existing ones. The Township completed a Comprehensive Land Use Plan in 2005 that identified multiple transportation goals. One was a multi-use trail that connects the Community Center to downtown Finland. Another goal was to look at the possibility of connecting Finland to the Gitchi-Gami Trail. Citizens feel a need for safe places to walk and bike. The township would like to have a comprehensive trail system that links key community places, businesses, and neighborhoods so that residents and visitors to the area have motorized and non-motorized choices.

Fond du Lac Trails Plan

The Fond du Lac Reservation has expressed an interest in developing a trail system in the Reservation that would connect important local destinations. Currently there are few bicycle and pedestrian facilities in the Reservation. Bicyclists and pedestrians are currently using the shoulders of the local highways to get around. This trail system would provide safer routes for bicyclists and pedestrians and ensure better safety for automobiles and nontraditional transportation users alike.

This plan will also examine Safe Routes to School (SRTS) and identify barriers and unsafe conditions for children.

Grand Portage Trails Plan

The Grand Portage Reservation has expressed an interest in developing a trail system in the Reservation that would connect important local destinations. Currently there are few bicycle and pedestrian facilities in the Reservation. Bicyclists and pedestrians now must use the shoulders of the local

highways to get around. This trail system would provide safer routes for bicyclists and pedestrians and ensure better safety for automobiles and nontraditional transportation users alike.

This plan will also examine Safe Routes to School (SRTS) and identify barriers and unsafe conditions for children.

International Falls Gateway Phase II

The Gateway Task Force has worked on developing a corridor plan for improving the access to Voyageurs National Park. With assistance from ARDC and the RTAC the Task Force has developed a document that highlights nine recommendations that the community would like to see accomplished. The most significant recommendation of this document is the completion of a Gateway Corridor Design Project. This project would involve hiring a planning agency to coordinate and facilitate the design process and hiring a landscape architect to produce design drawings along the corridor. This project is the next step in implementing the Gateway Corridor Plan.

Squaw Lake Trails Plan

The City of Squaw Lake is interested in planning for a trail system that would connect the city to the Chippewa National Forest. This trail would separate pedestrians and cyclists from vehicular traffic on Trunk Highway 46. This project is needed to promote the health and safety of residents and visitors. Currently there are few recreational trail opportunities in and around the city. Bicyclists and pedestrians now must use the shoulders of the local highways to get around. This trail system would provide a safer route for bicyclists and pedestrians and ensure better safety for automobiles and nontraditional transportation users alike.



Improv'n' Movin' is a quarterly publication of the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC). For more information, please contact:
Bryan Anderson or Ben VanTassel

Bryan Anderson, Planner
banderson@ardc.org
218-529-7529

Ben VanTassel, Planner
bvantassel@ardc.org
218-529-7513

Arrowhead Regional
Development Commission
221 West First Street
Duluth, MN 55802
Fax: 218-529-7592
www.arrowheadplanning