



Improvin' Movin' in the Arrowhead

Summer 2008

"Working to guide transportation decisions in Northeast Minnesota"

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Next RTAC Meeting

The next RTAC meeting will be on **June 26** at the **Country Inn and Suites** located on Haines Road. The RTAC meeting is scheduled from **2:00 PM to 3:00 PM**.

The agenda will include

- Grant Applications review
- Freight Study Overview
- Project Overviews



Finland Area Trails Plan

Crystal Bay Township has been working on developing a Trails Plan for the Finland Area. This project looks to make several connections in the area that provide space for pedestrians and bicyclists to use. The Township, has planned and funded a new Intermodal Community Center building that will be a place for meetings as well as to collect information for the area's trail facilities. At the new building site there are connections to several trails motorized and non-motorized. Connections that are being identified through this planning process include; connecting the Intermodal Center to Downtown Finland, connecting the campground to downtown, and tying the businesses and



residential areas together.

The Township has identified the need for a separate non-motorized trail to parallel Highway 7, this will provide a vital connection from the Intermodal Center into Finland. Also, the paving of Pebbles Lane and advocating for wider shoulders along Highway 1 and Highway 6 will provide other important safety connections for the citizens and visitors of the area. These four important modifications will provide pedestrians and bicycles a safe way to move about the area and gain access to important community assets. The Trails Committee is currently working to finalize the draft plan. It is also available at: <http://www.arrowheadplanning.org/rtac>.

International Falls Area Gateway Corridor

ARDC, on behalf of the International Falls Area Gateway Corridor Task Force, has developed a unique mapping tool that shows the Task Force's recommended improvements to Highways 53 and 11 from International Falls to

Rainy Lake and Voyageurs National Park. The interactive map is located at www.arrowheadplanning.org/gateway. The presentation includes architectural renderings of the improvements. The Task Force is set to

Northeast Minnesota and Northwestern Wisconsin Freight Study

Funding has been secured to complete a comprehensive freight study for NE Minnesota and NW Wisconsin. This study will be multimodal and include (commercial vehicle operations), rail, waterway, air cargo, and intermodal transportation. Building upon prior planning activities by the MIC, ARDC, Mn/DOT District 1 and District 2 Offices, and Mn/DOT's

Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations, the study will provide a better understanding of the demands from freight placed on the regional transportation infrastructure and provide a framework for planning freight movements throughout the region. The study is anticipated to begin in August 2008.

RTAC Planning Grant Applications



The RTAC received three grant applications for FY 2008 (Squaw Lake Trails Plan, Aitkin Access Management Plan, and Ely Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan). These project applications will be discussed and scored at the June 28th meeting.

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 travel. This trail system would provide a safer route for bicyclists and pedestrians and ensure better safety for automobiles and nontraditional transportation users alike.

Aitkin Access Management Plan

The City of Aitkin would like to develop an access management plan. Trunk Highway 210 and 169 both intersect in downtown Aitkin, with TH 210 running east and west through Aitkin and TH 169 running north south. This plan would create a tool to address existing unsafe situations

and guide future development in a way that protects the safety and functionality of these important corridors. Recommendations addressed in the Access Management Plan would be incorporated into the City's zoning ordinance.

Ely Bicycle/ Pedestrian Plan

The purpose of the Ely Bicycle/ Pedestrian Plan is to identify barriers and unsafe conditions for residents and visitors walking and biking in Ely. This plan would also create a Safe Routes to School Plan for the Ely School District. 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. The 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.

District/ATP Transportation Stakeholders Meeting

District 1 will be holding a stakeholders meeting before the June 26th RTAC meeting. Starting at 9:30 AM and ending at 12:30 PM, there will be a presentation and discussion of the update to the Statewide Transportation Plan and Districts plans. Additionally the funding/investment direction as related to the new state transportation funding bill (HF 2800) will be covered.

This will be an opportunity to meet the new leadership at Mn/DOT and provide early input into the statewide and district transportation planning processes.

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