

## **Mn/DOT District 2 ATP Meeting**

**September 27, 2017**

### **Mn/DOT Headquarters Bemidji 10:00 AM**

Tasa called meeting to order at 10:01 AM

**Introductions:** Tasa asked for introductions

**Members Present:**

Lou Tasa, Tim Erickson, Don Jensen, Brian Ketring, Dave Olsonawski . Kent Ehrenstrom, Warren Strandell, Craig Gray, and Earl Haugen

**Staff:** Troy Schroeder, NWRDC, Darren Laesch, Donna Snobl Pence, Jairo Viafara, MPO, Naomi Carlson, HRDC, Jed Nordin, Hubbard County, Laura Carlson, Mn/DOT

**Guest:** Patrick Weidemann, OIM St. Paul

**Approval of Minutes:** Tasa asked for approval of the March 9, 2017 minutes. Haugen motioned to approve the minutes, Jensen second the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

**Transportation Project Selection Process**

Weidemann opened the meeting with a Power point presentation illustrating the project selection process used at Mn/DOT for legislative discussion. The Legislature passed a bill requiring Mn/DOT to score projects by the November 2018 ATP project selection process. The 2020-2024 STIP will be the first with the new scoring principles. Weidemann discussed how the Legislature wants to ensure transparency and make sure the ATP is involved in the project selection process.

Weidemann then asked how projects are selected. Do you have an understanding of the projects? Does Mn/DOT provide enough information about the projects? What would you like to know more about? Has transparency gotten better? Worse? Same?

Olsonawski commented that Mn/DOT has done a better job with transparency and gets out to public meetings to gather input and inform the public of upcoming projects.

Tasa mentioned some of the practices Mn/DOT is doing to be more transparent. Attending County Board and City Council meetings to discuss projects and the 10 year district plan, working with other agencies to best incorporate projects. The STIP and Mn/DOT projects are on the internet. Mn/DOT staff visit with RDC Boards to discuss policy changes or to discuss new plans. There has been increased participation in pedestrian planning and scoping of projects to incorporate pedestrian uses.

Haugen mentioned there is a lack of transparency in transit and rail road project selection.

Weidemann asked what the ATP role should be in the project selection process? Olsonawski remarked to keep it the same. Jensen and Strandell mentioned Mn/DOT District 2 staff do a good job with the project selection process and give ATP members an explanation of projects selected and the reasoning

why those projects were selected over other projects. The District 2 ATP members are confident the district is doing a good job with project selection and serving constituents well.

**Freight Program Applications** – Laesch discussed the freight program projects . \$90 million is available over the next 4-years for freight improvement projects. The Thief River Falls project would qualify under the last mile connection for freight generator. Mn/DOT values the Thief River Falls TED project because it will reduce the amount of heavy commercial vehicles traveling downtown and it will provide a 3-mile shortcut to the industrial park where Digi-Key and Arctic Cat are located. ATP members discussed the Digi-Key expansion and how this would be a good project for TED funding. Olsonawski motioned to move forward with the proposed road alignment on CSAH 8 and new bridge over the Red Lake River. Gray second the motion. Laesch discussed other ATP partnership project opportunities that would be available if the TED funding application didn't receive funds. The project is seeking \$3M in Freight funds and \$1M in TED funds. Motion approved unanimously.

Laesch discussed the Kittson County project on Highway 75 at the Northstar Agriculture Canola Plant. State Patrol has discussed a visibility issue when trucks are stacking on highway 75 waiting to unload at the plant. The County has also reported safety concerns with trucks and turning lanes. A frontage road has been recommended to alleviate the safety concerns at this intersection. Cost of the project is \$450,000, Cenex Harvest States (CHS) will provide 30% matching funds. The TED project has an 80/20 split on funding. Kittson County will provide engineering. Jensen motioned to support the Kittson project as presented. Strandell second the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

**Chapter 3 Bonding Projects**~~Local Program Status Update~~ – ~~Laesch~~~~Tasa~~ presented Chapter 3 bonding projects and distributed a map with the projects highlighted. Weidemann discussed the chapter 3 ~~future~~ bonding projects in District 2. Mn/DOT saved \$200 million in 2017 construction costs. The money saved will be used towards additional bonding projects mentioned the Blackduck and Red Lake Nation enhancement projects planned for 2016 construction were delayed. The Red Lake Nation non-motorized ped/bike trail phase 1 will be constructed with the Mn/DOT TH 1 project in 2019. The state is bonding \$1 billion for construction projects, \$53 million of that will come to District 2 in 2018. Projects identified to use these funds include concrete replacement from TH32 to Erskine. \$23.7 million being let in 2020. Concrete replacement from .5 miles east of USTH59 to the west limits of Fosston \$18.3 million letting in 2021. Other projects include urban reconstruction in Redby \$3.2 million letting in 2021. USTH75 concrete rehab on USTH75 bypass in Crookston and bridge rehab. \$3.7 million. Signal and light replacement Beltrami/Hubbard County line. \$800,000, letting in 2018. Refer to the map for more details.

**Transportation Alternatives Program** – Laesch discussed the programmed TAP projects. 9 letters of intent were submitted to the RDC's for review and consultation. Beltrami County and Waskish withdrew request. Laesch commented that ATP members will get the TAP applications in the mail for review before the February 2, 2017 meeting. Funds available in 2019, \$130,000, \$400,000 in 2020, \$400,000 in 2021.

Laesch also discussed the Highway 59 passing lane study that recommended a tier 2 passing lane between Thief River Fall and Plummer.

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**Other Business (None)**

Jensen~~Ketring~~ motion to adjourn, Ehrenstrom~~Strandell~~ second, motion passed unanimously.

Minutes submitted by the NWRDC