

# **Advocacy Council for Tribal Transportation**

## **Final Meeting Minutes**

Mn/DOT District 2 – Bemidji, MN, Friday, July 11, 2008  
9 AM – 2 PM

A meeting of the Advocacy Council for Tribal Transportation (ACTT) was held on July 11, 2008 at 9:00 AM at the Mn/DOT Mn/DOT District 2 – Bemidji, MN.

Marc Mogan, Co-Chair, ACTT (Prairie Island Indian Community), called the meeting to order and welcomed the ACTT members and guests to the meeting. Introductions were made around the table.

### **Members Present:**

Jason Hollinday, Fond du Lac  
Marc Mogan, Co-Chair, Prairie Island  
Jim Walker, Red Lake  
Sam Strong, Red Lake  
Cheryl Martin, FHWA – MN Division  
Linda Aitken, Mn/DOT  
Dave Trooien, Mn/DOT  
Tom Fronk, BIA (Alt)

Millie Baird, USFS (Alt)  
David Enblom, Cass County  
Evelyn Howard, Leech Lake  
Mike Moilanen, Mille Lacs  
Beth O'Keefe, Lower Sioux  
Burny Tibbetts, White Earth

### **Members Absent:**

Donald May, Red Lake  
Travis Leenerts, Upper Sioux Community  
Lester Morris, Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux  
Community  
Mike Robinson, Mn/DOT

Annamarie Hill, MN Indian Affairs Council  
Marty Connor, Bois Forte  
Dave Danz, Grand Portage

### **Guests Present:**

Hope Jensen, Mn/DOT Civil Rights  
Adelbert Batica, Mn/DOT Civil Rights  
Michael Plumley, Mn/DOT Civil Rights  
Larry Nickaboine, Mille Lacs TERO  
Ashley Robinson, Leech Lake TERO

### **Review & approve agenda**

A request was made to move some of the agenda items to accommodate presenters who were not able to stay for the entire meeting. Motion – Dave Trooien, second – Mike Moilanen. Carried

### **Review & approval of the January 18, 2008 meeting minutes**

Motion – Jason Hollinday, second – Cheryl Martin. Carried

### **Review of ACTT Mission Statement: Linda Aitken, Mn/DOT**

The ACTT purpose, mission statement, goals and objectives were reviewed for the benefit of new and old ACTT members, since this had not been done since the Council was organized in

September 2006. Also reviewed was the issues brought to the ACTT which have either been resolved or are still current issues for the Council: Reservation Road Signs; Roadside Vegetation Management; Toward Zero Deaths (Road Safety); and the National Environment Policy Act Training (NEPA).

## **New Business:**

### **Mn/DOT Civil Rights Office - Update & Discussion: Hope Jensen, Director, Addi Batica, Contract Compliance, and Mike Plumley, Disadvantage Business Enterprise.**

Hope Jensen provided an overview of the Civil Rights Office and their proactive goals of expanding the number of DBE contractors on Mn/DOT projects.

Issues presented or discussed:

- Tribal Government – Summer Institute: A program for 65 – 70 Jr. High school kids about careers in transportation. Currently programs at tribal colleges - Fond du Lac, Leech Lake, Red Lake, and White Earth
- Pilot project at Detroit Lakes to train 10-15 people to get their CDL
- Civil Rights Office seeks stronger relationships with TEROs
- CRO seeks to expand the DBE program throughout the state.
- OJT Fed Mandate program – objective is to work minorities/women into journeyman positions. OJT is possible on contracts that are in excess of \$1 million and not less than 100 working days. It also depends on nature of the project – needs to be labor intensive. OJT is specified in contract – contractors who bid on projects know of this requirement.
- Question – is there a location on Mn/DOT's website that TEROs can access to know of projects that include OJT requirements.
- How can Mn/DOT share enough information that TEROs can project skills needed to have workforce prepared
- Mn/DOT is being required of the Legislature to report what Mn/DOT spends on training & success rate.
- DBE – goal setting process: Contractors know at time of bid what DBE goals are for project – at this time it must be good faith effort to comply – no punishment/sanction if goals are not met.
- Question by ACTT members – should this be developed into an issue paper

### **Section 106 – Tribal Programmatic Agreements: Cheryl Martin, FHWA**

Cheryl presented an overview of FHWA's responsibility under the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106. Because Mn/DOT is the primary recipient of the Title 23 Federal Aid Highway Funds, FHWA has requested that they provide assistance in complying with NEPA, NHPA and other similar laws. Cheryl explained that to carry out the responsibility of consulting with tribes, FHWA has developed programmatic agreements with several MN tribes, with Mn/DOT as concurring agency. Cheryl also provided a status of programmatic agreement with the tribes.

## **Old Business:**

### **NEPA Workshop: Issue - Discussion for NEPA Training**

Update by Cheryl Martin. The group designated to work on coordinating this training to coincide with the 2009 Tribes & Transportation Conference have not met, but will be meeting prior to the next ACTT meeting. She will invite Jenny Roth, Mn/DOT Environmental Services to the planning team.

**Tribal Safety Summits:** Update by Cheryl Martin and Linda Aitken

The MN Tribal Road Safety Summit will be held on October 29 and 30 (noon to noon) at the Fortune Bay Casino, Tower, MN. The tribes who were contacted expressed their concern over safety issues on roads on/near their reservations and were supportive of holding the summit. Chairman Kevin Leecy offered to host the meeting at Fortune Bay. A planning committee is being established and requests are being made to tribes for participation on this planning committee.

**Toward Zero Death:**

Information was provided regarding the TZD coalitions in Districts 2, 6, and 8. Meetings held have been attended by Leech Lake, Red Lake, White Earth, Lower Sioux and Upper Sioux. Information was also provided about the annual TZD conference on October 7 & 8 at Rochester.

**Roadside Vegetation Management:** Discussion by ACTT members

Scott Hanson has been meeting with District 3 staff and is currently working with Mn/DOT Central Office to conduct an inventory of invasive species on Mille Lacs trust land. Fond du Lac and District 1 – Duluth have been working together for a number of years on control of Roadside Vegetation Management and most recently regarding the possibility of “No Chemical Spraying” areas. It is possible the FDL and D1 may take up the Act’s issue of developing an MOU for a communications plan and management process.

**New Business**

**IRR BIA Roads Maintenance Reports:** Marc Mogan, PIIC

Marc brought the concern to the meeting of the methods used for tracking expenditures for quarterly BIA Roads Maintenance Reports. Discussion centered on not wanting to create a process that was already being used successfully by other tribes. Beth O’Keefe said Lower Sioux had developed a reporting process that could be shared with other tribes.

**Statewide Transportation Plan:**

Update – The Mn/DOT is currently in the process of updating MN’s Statewide Transportation Plan. This two-year process is anticipated to be completed early in 2009. Mn/DOT is seeking input from stakeholders through the face-to-face scheduled outreach sessions Outreach meetings have been and will be scheduled during all phases of the effort -- from sessions in each MnDOT district that were completed in Spring 2007, through a formal review period prior to plan adoption.

A schedule of statewide Outreach meetings was distributed. Public comment will be taken at the meeting, or can be sent via email to Mn/DOT - Peggy Reichert at [peggy.reichert@dot.state.mn.us](mailto:peggy.reichert@dot.state.mn.us)  
Presentations by District can be accessed at  
<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/planning/stateplan/outreach.html>

### **Next Meeting**

The next ACTT meeting is scheduled for October 29, 2008 8 AM – 12 PM at the Fortune Bay Resort & Casino. (The meeting is scheduled to coincide with the Minnesota's Tribal Road Safety Summit.)

### **Call for Motion to adjourn meeting:**

Motion - Mike Moilanen, second - Dave Trooien. Meeting adjourned at 1 PM.

### **Handouts:**

- 1. April 18, 2008 meeting minutes**
- 2. ACTT Membership Roster**
- 3. Copies of past issue papers:**
  - **Roadside Vegetation Management**
  - **Traffic Safety in Tribal Locations**
  - **NEPA Training**
- 4. Information Section 106 – status of Programmatic Agreements**
- 5. Towards Zero Death Information**
- 6. Tribal Safety Summit information**
- 7. Statewide Transportation Plan – Outreach meeting schedule**

Minutes were provided by Linda Aitken, Mn/DOT, input from: