

Advocacy Council for Tribal Transportation

Meeting Minutes

March 23, 2007 – Mn/DOT Metro Division Office, Roseville, MN

A meeting of the Advocacy Council for Tribal Transportation (ACTT) was held on March 23, 2007 at 9:00 AM at the Mn/DOT Metro Division Office, Roseville, MN.

Mike Moilanen, Co-Chair, ACTT (Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe), called the meeting to order and welcomed the ACTT members and guests to the meeting. Introductions were made around the table.

Members Present:

Mike Moilanen, Co-Chair, Mille Lacs
Carl Dagen, Bois Forte
Dave Danz, Grand Portage
Jody Goodthunder, Lower Sioux Community
Jim Walker, Red Lake
Marc Mogan, Prairie Island Indian Community
Mike Robinson, Mn/DOT
Linda Aitken, Mn/DOT

Steve Kleeberger, Leech Lake
Brian Freeberg, City of Bemidji
Tom Fronk, BIA (Alt.)
David Enblom, Cass County
Tom Sorel, FHWA – MN Division
Cheryl Martin, FHWA – MN Division

Members Absent:

Burny Tibbetts, Co-Chair, White Earth
Teresa Peterson, Upper Sioux Community
Lester Morris, Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux
Community
Donald May, Red Lake
Jason Holliday, Fond du Lac

Annamarie Hill, MN Indian Affairs Council
Dave Trooien, Mn/DOT
Cheryl Cloud, Mich TTAP
Bill Vogel, Grand Portage (Alt.)
Jolynn Shopteese, MIAC (Alt.)
Jeff Tillman, SEH (City Alt.)

Guests Present:

Scott Hanson, Mille Lacs
Jim Henrickson, Mn/DOT OIM
Bonnie Harper-Lore, FHWA

Tour: Regional Transportation Management Center (RTMC) –

Providing the tour was Todd Kramasz, RTMC

ACTT members had the opportunity to tour the Regional Traffic Management Center which manages the freeway system in the Twin Cities metro area. It is one of the most successful and comprehensive facilities of its kind in the country.

Old Business:

Reports from Subcommittees:

Tribal Road Sign Committee – [1/19/07 Action Item](#)

1. Look at Statewide Policy

Presented by Linda Aitken, Tribal Road Signs Committee:

- Committee met on March 15, 2006 at St. Cloud
- Work on guidelines for tribal signing issues across state/county jurisdictions using Mn/DOT's "Managing Traffic in Minnesota" brochure as a model. The Tribal Road Signs committee will bring a draft Tribal Road Signs proposal to ACTT at a future meeting.

Discussion:

- Leech Lake has many reservation boundary signs on hand that should be installed.
- MIAC and Mn/DOT have agreed on the standard sign format for casinos – this will be included in the tribal signs brochure.
- Leech Lake is looking for more control over what signing is allowable on the reservation. This is moving forward on trunk highways and to some extent on county roads.
- Should the standard include the tribal roads that would show the BIA route number? The policy could present a standard size, shape, legend, size, etc. The actual use of those signs would be up to the individual tribes.
- Should there be a policy on using a sign to indicate the motorist is leaving a reservation
- Question: Will this TRS policy apply to the counties? No, counties have their own road sign policies, but they do look to Mn/DOT for guidance.
- Dave E. would like a list of each county that includes a reservation. He would take the signing proposal to those counties for their review. Mn/DOT's State Aid Office should also be brought into this discussion.

ACTION: Tribal Road Sign will continue to meet to develop a brochure & process for tribal road signing and will report back next ACTT meeting. Next TRS meeting is scheduled for April 16, 2007 1:15 PM at Wilmar.

Roadside Vegetation Management – 1/19/07 Action Items

1. Update: Bois Forte and Mille Lacs MOU Pilot Project

- Carl D. has a meeting set up (April 5th) with District 1 maintenance staff to address this topic. Some draft MOU's are being reviewed. The pilot project will result in a workable MOU between Bois Forte and Mn/DOT.
- Scott H. is also interested in developing a vegetative management plan with Mn/DOT.
- Bonnie Harper-Lowe has an MOU from NY State that works well and she'll forward to ACTT.

2. Draft MIAC resolution

- Scott Hanson, Mille Lacs, handed out a draft resolution for MIAC support to developing integrated vegetative management plans.

3. Create Awareness & Educate Committee report on toolbox issue and possible speakers for MN Dept of Ag

- Status report from Cheryl Martin, TTAP (not able to attend because of schedule conflict)
 - ◆ Roadside Vegetation Toolbox – Cheryl has assigned this task to TTAP staff & they are gathering material for it from other federal agencies (Department of Agriculture, DNR, etc.)
 - ◆ Minnesota ACTT Weftab on TTAP website - Should be up and accessible on the ttap website, www.ttap.mtu.edu by Friday's meeting. TTAP can post things as the committee such as - minutes, tools, resources, contacts, discussion forums, etc. Cheryl requests feedback from ACTT regarding utilization of TTAP website.

New Business:

Statewide Transportation Plan – Presentation: Jim Hendrickson, Mn/DOT Office of Investment Management:

- Strategic Highway Safety Plan: A draft will be available in a month. Final is due in July.
- Public Involvement Plan: Also is being updated and due this summer.
- Handout showing phases of the statewide plan update.

Discussion:

- Question: How would the tribes like to be involved in the plan update process?
Involvement needs to be on multiple fronts:
 - ATP participation
 - Individual meetings (most important – honors government to government relationships)
 - E-mail notification
 - Public review meetings
 - MIAC presentation
 - Include tribal long range plans

2007 Tribes & Transportation Conference:

Linda Aitken, Tribal Liaison, Mn/DOT

Announcement:

- 2007 Tribes & Transportation Conference date: October 9-10, 2007
- Location: Mystic Lake Casino & Hotel, Owned & operated by the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community
- Conference Co-hosts:
 - BIA – Midwest Regional Office
 - FHWA – MN Division
 - Mn/DOT
 - Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community
- Major conference focus: Tribal Mobility.

Tribes and Transportation Website

Linda Aitken, Tribal Liaison, Mn/DOT

- Linda introduced the new Tribes & Transportation web pages found on website <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/mntribes/index.html>
- Each T&T webpage was reviewed and discussed.
- The goal for the website is to provide accurate, timely and relevant information.
- ACTT members were requested to review the website and provide feedback for improvements.

Discussion:

- Tom Fronk was requested to review the Funding for the Indian Reservation Road Program page and provide updates & corrections.
- Jim Henrickson will review & comment on the eHandbook page: [Citizen Involvement](#): City, county, tribal and state governments are committed to putting customers first
- Right-of-way issues have been problematic in the past. Mn/DOT people (e.g. Project Development, Permits) need better training about restrictions that apply to various categories (e.g. allotment) of tribal lands.

Next meeting will be held on Friday June 15 at the Leech Lake's Northern Lights Casino. Meeting scheduled to run 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Handouts:

Minutes of January 19, 2007 Meeting
Types of Road Signs – handout
Example of an MOU – handout

Minutes were provided by Mike Robinson, Mn/DOT District 1; and Linda Aitken, Mn/DOT CO.