Transportation Agencies and Programs

The following list of transportation agencies and programs is focused on agencies that serve the State of MN and the NE Arrowhead region. At the bottom of the list, please also find links to County and local agencies and programs.   Please feel free to contact Arrowhead Regional Development Commission (ARDC) Regional Planning Division with questions about any of the following programs. Phone: 218-722-5545 www.arrowheadplanning.org

Minnesota Department of Transportation (MN DOT)
http://www.dot.state.mn.us/

District 1 — Northeast Minnesota

District 1 serves Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, Pine, and St. Louis counties. These eight counties in northeastern Minnesota comprise as District 1 of MnDOT. The MnDOT team in District 1 plans, designs, constructs and maintains the state and federal highway systems within district boundaries. We also manage the aid and assistance given to county and city systems that qualify for state and federal dollars. District 1 provides transit, trail and rail transportation services as well.

- District 1 map showing tentatively scheduled 2014 to 2017 construction projects. Project scheduling is subject to change due to funding or other factors.
http://www.dot.state.mn.us/d1/

District 1's top priority is to preserve the existing transportation system. Our construction program emphasizes pavement replacement, drainage improvements, intersection upgrades, and bridge rehabilitation and replacement. In order to attain our priority, nearly all of the state road construction funds allocated to District 1 for the next 10 years will be directed to these preservation projects.

MN DOT Policy Complete Streets

In November 2013, MnDOT adopted a Complete Streets Policy that directs our planners and engineers to address the needs of people who walk, drive, use transit, and ride their bicycles as well as large commercial trucks and emergency vehicles on every project.

MnDOT's Complete Streets Project Report is now required for all MnDOT construction projects beginning with the 2015 construction season. The report will document how we're considering each transportation user group on every project. www.mndot.gov/completestreets

Contact: Chris Berrens, chris.berrens@state.mn.us or 651-366-3755

Context Sensitive Solutions

Context sensitive solutions (CSS) is a collaborative, interdisciplinary approach that involves all stakeholders in providing a transportation facility that fits its setting. It is an approach that leads to preserving and enhancing scenic, aesthetic, historic, community, and environmental resources, while improving or maintaining safety, mobility, and infrastructure conditions.

MN DOT Context Sensitive Solution E-Learning Program
http://www.dot.state.mn.us/onlinelearning/engineeringservices/css/

Contact: Scott Bradley, FASLA, Director of Context Sensitive Solutions

Minnesota Dept. of Transportation, Office of Environmental Stewardship
395 John Ireland Blvd. - MailStop 686, St. Paul, MN 55155-1899
(Office) 651-366-3302, scott.bradley@state.mn.us

Safe Routes to School (SRTS)
http://www.dot.state.mn.us/saferoutes/

Safe Routes Minnesota provides funding to community and school groups to make improvements to the routes your children use to walk and bike to school and get the exercise they need.

In order to increase opportunities for children to walk and bicycle to school safely, the 2005 federal transportation bill, SAFETEA-LU, provided funding for Safe Routes to School in all 50 states. The federal Legislature created SRTS, in part, to help reverse the alarming nationwide increase in childhood obesity and inactivity. The program has numerous benefits to local communities including reducing traffic congestion, improving air quality and helping kids arrive to school focused and ready to learn.

Six steps to getting started with Safe Routes
http://www.dot.state.mn.us/saferoutes/communitygrps.html
- Step 1: Bring the right people together - Community groups are not eligible to apply for funds on their own. But you can work with appropriate governmental agencies to apply for funds. In your community, that might be the department of roads, the city planning office, the local school board, or even the mayor. You may also want to involve principals or teachers at local schools.
- Step 2: Read the application instructions
- Step 3: Identify problems
- Step 4: Develop a plan
- Step 5: Apply for funds
- Step 6: Implement your program

Contact: ARDC Regional Planning has years of experience in gaining SRTS funding. Please contact us to talk more about how we can help. SRTS has a steering committee which includes other organizations and Minnesota state agencies.

Railroads in Minnesota
http://www.dot.state.mn.us/aboutrail/

Webpage provides information and plans relevant to the railroads in Minnesota including the State Rail Plan, Freight Rail, Passenger Rail, and Light Rail Transit.

Arrowhead Regional Development Commission (ARDC)
- Regional Sidewalk Inventory – ARDC has taken inventory of 19 cities and towns (2014) within the Arrowhead Region – including all major cities in Carlton County and Iron Range cities. Information was collected regarding existing sidewalk conditions in order to identify aspects including areas that require improvement and missing connections.
  http://www.arrowheadplanning.org/regionalsidewalkinventory

- Regional Transportation Advisory Committee
  - The Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) is a forum for transportation officials and elected officials from the Arrowhead Region to discuss regional transportation issues and set regional priorities. The Arrowhead Regional Development Commission staffs the RTAC. In addition to being a regional forum, the RTAC advises ARDC on its transportation planning projects and helps to prioritize applications to the RTAC In-Kind Transportation Planning Grant for funding.

- In-kind Grant Program
  - Each Year, the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee awards up to four communities up to $10,000 worth of ARDC's planning services to complete transportation-related planning processes. Successful applicants are required to fund at least 20% of ARDC's project costs, while ARDC contributes the remaining amount. Past awardees have completed trail plans, road network plans, and road realignment assessments. If you are interested in planning assistance through this grant program please contact Jon Mason at 218-529-7513.

University of Minnesota Center for Transportation Studies

Traffic Calming Measures
http://www.minnesotatzd.org/topics/engineering/

The term "traffic calming" is often applied to any physical changes to the roadway intended to reduce speeds or promote safety for pedestrians and other nonmotorized road users. However, traffic calming can also include a variety of strategies for educating drivers and making people aware of unsafe driving behavior.

Minnesota Local Road Research Board published a report on effective traffic calming applications and implementation in October 1998. The report includes the following: Traffic Calming Applications including: Street Width Adjustments, Traditional Traffic Control Techniques, Vertical or Horizontal Realignments, Route Modifications, Perceptual Enhancements, and Technology, and Examples of Traffic Calming in Minnesota.

Context Sensitive Solutions
http://www.contextsensitive.umn.edu/

Context sensitive solutions (CSS) is a collaborative, interdisciplinary approach that involves all stakeholders in providing a transportation facility that fits its setting. It is an approach that leads to preserving and enhancing scenic, aesthetic, historic, community, and environmental resources, while improving or maintaining safety, mobility, and infrastructure conditions.

Resilient Communities Project
http://www.cts.umn.edu/Publications/catalyst/2013/december/resilient/

Across Minnesota and throughout the country, there is a growing interest in new approaches to community sustainability related to a wide range of local issues, including transportation. A new

program at the University of Minnesota aims to build the practice of sustainability through deeper and broader community connections.

"Each year, we work intensively with one Minnesota community in order to advance its sustainability and resilience," says Resilient Communities Project (RCP) director Carissa Schively Slotterback. "This sustained and collaborative process fosters the development of a meaningful relationship between the University and the community and provides benefits to everyone involved."

Apply to RCP: http://rcp.umn.edu/home/communities/apply-to-rcp/

Minnesota Transportation Alliance
http://www.transportationalliance.com/

The Minnesota Transportation Alliance is a statewide coalition of organizations advocating for a safe and effective transportation system that works for all Minnesotans.

Mission: To coordinate and educate diverse groups statewide to effectively advocate for a safe, efficient transportation system that works for everyone.

Originally organized back in 1893, the Minnesota Transportation Alliance is a statewide coalition of organizations advocating for a safe and effective transportation system that works for all Minnesotans. Our Alliance includes local governments, businesses, labor, the transportation industry, transit systems, rail, waterways, and airports. In short, our members are on the front lines, planning, designing, building and operating Minnesota's transportation system every day.

Contact: Margaret Donahoe, Executive Director, Margaret@transportationalliance.com
525 Park St Ste 240
Saint Paul, MN 55103-2106
Phone: (651) 659-0804
Fax: (651) 659-9009

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR)
MN DNR State Trails
http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_trails/index.html

- Maps of State Trails
- Resources for all types of trails including: Bike, Cross-country ski, Cuyuna mountain bike, Horse, Long distance trails, Off-highway vehicle, Snowmobile

MN DNR Parks and Trails Division
http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/parks_trails/index.html

Plans and administration - Our vision is to create unforgettable park, trail, and water recreation experiences that inspire people to pass along the love for the outdoors to current and future generations. The division is responsible for development, administration, and management of:

- 25 multi-use state trails, 21 of which are developed

- 75 state parks and recreation areas, 8 waysides, and 56 state forest campgrounds and day use areas
- Over 1,500 public water access sites
- 355 fishing piers and shorefishing sites
- 33 water trails with over 4,500 miles of paddling opportunities

In addition to natural resources restoration and management, the division administers grants-in-aid to local units of government who partner with local volunteer clubs to maintain snowmobile, off-highway vehicle, and cross-country ski trails. It is also responsible for Lake Superior Safe Harbors, and stewardship programs for the state's lakes, rivers and trails.

MN DNR - Federal Recreational Trail Program
http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/recreation/trails_federal.html

Program purpose: To encourage the maintenance and development of motorized, non-motorized, and diversified trails by providing funding assistance.

Eligible projects: Motorized and non-motorized trail projects; maintenance/restoration of existing recreational trails; development/ rehabilitation of recreational trail linkages, including trail side and trail head facilities; environmental awareness and safety education programs relating to the use of recreational trails; and redesign/relocation of trails to benefit/minimize the impact to the natural environment. Application materials for 2015 will be available early December 2014 with a deadline date of February 27, 2015.

Related DNR programs:

- All-Terrain Vehicle, Off-Road Vehicle and Off-Highway Motorcycle Grants-in-Aid Programs
- Cross Country Ski Trail Grants-in-Aid Program
- Snowmobile Grants-in-Aid Program
- Local Trail Connections Program
- Parks and Trails Legacy Grant Program
- Regional Trail Grant Program
- Outdoor Recreation Grant Program

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Minnesota Green Step Cities Initiative http://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bestPractices.cfm

During fall 2007, Minnesota's Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs) held regional listening sessions around the state to discuss community-based energy opportunities and the state's Next Generation Energy Act of 2007. The idea was raised of creating a sustainable cities program, free to cities, that would challenge, assist and recognize cities that were "green stars." This idea was taken up by the 2008 Legislature, which directed the MPCA, the Division of Energy Resources at the Minnesota Department of Commerce, and CERTs to recommend actions cities could take on a voluntary basis.

Specific to Transportation

a. <u>Living Streets Best Practices (Includes traffic calming measures)</u>
   http://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bestPracticesDetail.cfm?bpid=11
b. <u>Mobility Options</u>
c. <u>Efficient City Fleets</u>
d. <u>Demand-Side Travel Planning</u>

David Larson, Landscape Architect, Office of Environmental Stewardship, MN Dept. of Transportation: 651/366-4637

Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB)

Community Infrastructure Grant

The Development Infrastructure Grant Program helps cities and townships fund community related infrastructure projects located within the IRRRB service area to support economic development.
http://mn.gov/irrrb/community/grant-programs/communityinfrastructure.jsp

Development Infrastructure Grant

The Development Infrastructure Grant Program helps cities and townships fund development related infrastructure projects located within the IRRRB service area to support economic development.
http://mn.gov/irrrb/community/grant-programs/developmentinfrastructure.jsp

Contact: Chris Ismil, IRRRB, 218-735-3010, Chris.Ismil@state.mn.us

Culture and Tourism Grant

The Culture and Tourism Grant Program assists non-profits in supporting projects that stimulate tourism, enrich communities and generate economic impact through arts, culture, heritage and recreational activities within the IRRRB service area.

Contact: Mary Somnis, 218-735-3040, Mary.Somnis@state.mn.us

Minnesota Regional Railroads Association

MRRA is devoted to explaining the importance of Minnesota's railroads and how the operations of railroads improves Minnesota's economy and transportation systems. Maps, policy issues, and links.

Members: Railroads with links to sites and contacts
http://www.minnesotarailroads.com/members/railroads.html

BNSF Railway	Northern Plains Railroad, Inc.
CN	Otter Tail Valley Railroad
Canadian Pacific Railway	Progressive Rail
Minnesota Commercial Railway	Red River Valley & Western Railroad
Minnesota Dakota & Western Railway	St. Croix Valley Railway
Minnesota Northern Railway	TTX
Minnesota Valley Regional Railroad Authority	Twin Cities & Western Railroad
North Shore Scenic Railroad	Union Pacific Railway
Northern Lines Railway	

Arrowhead Transit

http://arrowheadtransit.com

Arrowhead Transit has been a public transportation service since 1974. It was originally created to provide low-cost transportation for poor, disabled and elderly. With nearly 70 routes in and around arrowhead region, it is the largest rural public transportation system in the United States. There are no age or income guidelines and all of the busses are handicap accessible and the drivers are trained. Arrowhead Transit provides several routes to and from Grand Rapids.

Active Transportation

Active transportation refers to any form of human-powered transportation – walking, cycling, using a wheelchair, in-line skating or skateboarding. The goal of active transportation policy is to make it easier for people to choose active modes of transportation. Active transportation has many benefits listed below.   More information about active transportation and specific Cook community goals can be found in the Transportation Section of this Comprehensive Plan.

Benefits of Active Transportation

1) Provides an opportunity to be physically active on a regular basis which contributes to individual health by increasing levels of exercise to burn calories
2) Connects people with surrounding neighborhoods and community amenities
3) Provides an opportunity to recreate and enjoy nature and can stimulate recreation tourism
4) Provides an opportunity to increase social interactions
5) Reduces road congestion
6) Is environmentally-friendly and can contribute to reductions in greenhouse gas emissions
7) Saves money on gas and parking
8) Provides an opportunity to experience nature and neighborhoods at an appropriate pace (i.e. 1-5 miles per hour versus 55 mph)

County Agencies and Local Programs

Aitkin County Highway Department
http://www.co.aitkin.mn.us/Departments/Highway/highway.html

The Aitkin County Highway Department is dedicated to maintaining and improving a safe and effective transportation system for its residents and visitors.

The department is responsible for:

- Recommending changes in technical policies and operating procedures as they relate to the design, construction, maintenance and operation of County Roads, County State-Aid Highways and Bridges.
- Obtaining right-of-way in accordance to Minnesota state rules and regulations.
- Performing preliminary and design engineering on over 510 miles of roadway and 111 bridges and culverts.
- Overseeing the construction of federally, state, and county funded projects.
- Assist townships and cities with material purchases and maintenance of contracted roadways.
- Oversight of road usage including: issuance of permits for utilities within the county's right-of-way, oversize loads, and approach applications.
- Monitor road conditions for seasonal road restrictions.
- Provide technical assistance to townships, cities, and other governmental departments.
- Provide maintenance to roadways, bridges, and ditches throughout the county.

Carlton County Transportation Department
http://www.co.carlton.mn.us/index.asp?SEC=C4EEB938-3CC9-4D09-AB89-DFD5333676D6&Type=B_BASIC

The mission of the Carlton County Transportation Department is to provide and maintain a safe and efficient transportation system to meet the current and future needs of Carlton County residents and system users.

The Department is responsible for approximately 485 miles of county roads, 91 county bridges, 341 miles of township roads, 43 township bridges, several pedestrian/bicycle routes and 2 municipal airports. We provide for the efficient planning, design, construction and maintenance of these roads, bridges, trails, and airports and over all management, direction, coordination and budgeting of these modes of transportation.

County Engineer, Mike Tardy
Phone 218-384-9150
Transportation Department
1630 County Road 61,
Carlton, MN 55718

Cook County Highway Department

http://www.co.cook.mn.us/index.php/government/departments/highway

The Highway Department is responsible for the efficient planning, design, construction and maintenance of the county highway system. The Department oversees the budget that provides overall management and coordination of 304 miles of roadways and 77 structures.

County Engineer, David Betts
Cook County Highway Department
609 E 4th Avenue
Grand Marais, MN 55604
PHONE: (218)387-3014
FAX: 218-387-3012

Itasca County Highway Department

https://www.co.itasca.mn.us/Home/Departments/Transportation/Pages/default.aspx

The Itasca County Highway Department is responsible for maintaining approx. 1,800 miles of roadway, including contracted township roads and 140 bridges. The department also can be directly or indirectly involved with the maintenance of roadways under the jurisdiction of the 15 cities, 42 organized townships and the 37 unorganized townships in the county.

The County Engineer is responsible for the administration of both the highway maintenance division and the highway construction division. The maintenance division consists of approx. 90 employees, divided between 5 maintenance districts and a central purchasing and repair garage. These employees are responsible for graveling, grading, drainage, signing, snow removal, ice control, equipment repair and minor road improvements. The construction division consists of approx. 10 employees and is responsible for the design and construction administration of all contracted road and bridge improvement projects.

Itasca County maintains and updates a 5-year Capital Improvement Plan (PDF pages 16-end includes maps and lists of projects). The 5-year CIP is available online. Contact (From 2014 5-year CIP): Karin Grandia, Itasca County Engineer, 218-327-2853

Koochiching County Engineer

http://www.co.koochiching.mn.us/dept/engineer/engineermain.htm
Joseph Sutherland - Engineer
      Phone: 218 283-1186
      Email: joseph.sutherland@co.koochiching.mn.us

Lake County Highway Department

http://www.co.lake.mn.us/departments/highway/index.php

The mission of the Lake County Highway Department is to provide a continuously improving, safe, cost-effective and efficient road and bridge system so as to enhance the quality of life for Lake County residents and visitors and to promote the economic vitality of the area.

Lake County Highway Department Main Office
1513 Hwy 2 Two Harbors MN 55616
Phone 218-834-8380 Fax 218-834-8384

St. Louis County Transportation

http://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/TRANSPORTATION.aspx

St. Louis County Transportation division is responsible for the following services: Drivers Licenses, Vehicle Tabs, Freight-Passenger Rail, Motor Vehicle and DNR Licenses, Off Road - Public Boat Ramps and State ATV Trails, Road Maintenance, Bridges, Traffic Control, and Volunteer Services - Adopt-a-Highway and Volunteer Drivers.

Mesabi Recreation Trail

http://www.mesabitrail.com/

Located in northeastern Minnesota between the cities of Grand Rapids and Biwabik, the Mesabi TrailTM is a premier bicycle trail winding through some of the state's prettiest regions. When completed, the trail will travel to Ely, traversing 132 miles and connecting 28 communities. A superior paved bike trail that is well-mapped and well-maintained, the Mesabi Trail also makes an interesting walking path.

Partially built on old railroad beds, old logging and mining roads, guests will find a 10 foot wide bituminous surface (asphalt paving). Great for summer activities such as biking, inline skating or walking. Winter activities may include cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and winter hiking.

A Wheel Pass is required if you are age 18 or older and use wheels on the Mesabi Trail.

There are three different ways to purchase your wheel pass:

- Stop by and visit one of our wonderful vendors who sell passes all across the Mesabi Trail - and thanks for patronizing their businesses!
- You can buy your wheel pass online.
- There are self-pay boxes (for 3 day passes) at entry point kiosks in these communities (from west to east) - Grand Rapids, Bovey, Calumet, Keewatin, Hibbing, Buhl, Mountain Iron, Virginia, Eveleth, Giants Ridge (near Biwabik).