

Ranier Transportation System Evaluation

Scope of Work

Arrowhead Regional Development Commission



Background & Purpose

In 2010 the City of Ranier expanded its limits through annexation of two residential areas and an industrial park designated a Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ). Ranier nearly quadrupled its population from 173 to 623 and the municipal limits increased from 98 acres to more than 650 acres. With the annexation Ranier gained an extensive network of roads and streets. The city also now contains a state highway and additional rail trackage. Future development in the City, especially in the FTZ, will have significant impacts on the local transportation system and community at large. Ranier has entered into an agreement with Koochiching County to maintain and repair the existing road system in the annexed areas.

Ranier will need to work with residents to prioritize maintenance and improvements and communicate those priorities to Koochiching County. Ranier will also need to plan and budget for future road extensions and major reconstructions. The standards set in the subdivision ordinance universal development code, that is being developed, and a long term Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) can prepare the city for these future needs. The City will also need to address sidewalk and trail use, access, and maintenance ordinances.

The City of Ranier is seeking an RTAC In-Kind Transportation Grant in order to use ARDC staff to assist them with an assessment of the local transportation system to determine existing conditions, needed repairs, and approximate costs of those services.

The purpose of work during FY 2012 will be to provide technical assistance to the City of Ranier to perform an assessment of the local transportation system and develop a Transportation Improvement Plan to set priorities.

Participants

ARDC will work with City of Ranier staff, Citizen Committee for the Development of the New City of Ranier, and the Koochiching County Engineer as necessary. The City will also hire an engineering firm to assist with the evaluation.

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Planning Process

The steps for the Ranier Transportation System Evaluation are as follows:

Step 1

ARDC will request and review the Koochiching County Five Year Transportation Improvement Plan, road condition evaluations for areas covered by joint powers agreement, maintenance, and construction policies. ARDC Meet with the Citizen Committee (M1) to review and approve the work plan, schedule, and identify Committee concerns and goals.

Step 2

ARDC will set the evaluation criteria. Koochiching County's criteria will serve as a base and be expanded to address Citizen Committee concerns and goals, if necessary. Project participants will conduct a driving survey of the road system, culverts, drainage ditches, right of way, and signage. Survey participants will include representatives from Ranier, Koochiching County, a separately contracted engineering firm, and ARDC. ARDC staff will compile the results into a matrix.

Step 3

ARDC staff will develop an evaluation of the existing system including conditions, needs maintenance and repair activities, costs, and impacts on the city. Staff will meet with the Citizen Committee to review, revise, and prioritize projects. ARDC staff will review the evaluation and priority list with Koochiching County. The City may wish to hold a public open house to solicit public opinion on priorities. This can be done at a Citizen Committee meeting or held separately.

Step 4

ARDC staff will work with the engineering firm and Committee to develop an outline of the future transportation system, including road extensions, trails, and sidewalks. ARDC staff will draft a Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) reflecting future system needs. Staff will meet with the Citizen Committee to review and approve the future needs evaluation and TIP. After approval by the Citizen Committee the plan will be forwarded to City Council for approval.

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Public Participation

ARDC staff will work with the *Committee for the Development of the New City of Ranier*. This committee is made up of residents from Old Ranier and the newly annexed areas. It was established to guide the City as it develops and implements plans, policies, and ordinances to effectively administer the City following the annexation. ARDC will work with the City of Ranier to engage the public in the planning process through public comment. ARDC will also continue to maintain an up-to-date project web page at www.arrowheadplanning.org/ranier that will monitor project progress and contain contact information.

Timeline

The planning process is designed to be completed within six months. The beginning date depends on the availability of funds.

Plan Budget and Funding Sources

The cost of this planning process is \$14,780. The City of Ranier is requesting \$8,780 from the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) In-kind Transportation Planning Grant Program.