



Improv'in' Movin' in the Arrowhead

Fall 2010

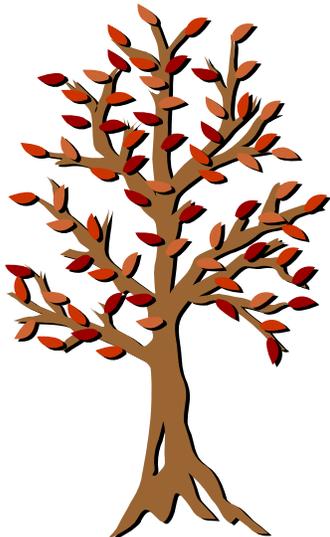
"Working to guide transportation decisions in Northeast Minnesota"

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Next RTAC Meeting

The next RTAC meeting will be in January 2011. Time, location and agenda will be announced in December.



RTAC Funded In-Kind Grant Applications

The RTAC funded four In-kind Grand Projects for FY 2011. They are:

Floodwood Depot Rest Area Study

The Floodwood Depot Rest Area has served both residents and travelers for many years. Currently the City desires to find a sustainable plan which keeps the rest area open or used for other purposes instead of closing the facility. They have requested assistance to help conduct a study on the actual impact the site has on the community and in the region. As the study involves tourism, the economy and transportation, it is possible that the Northwest Minnesota Sustainable Development program would be able to provide a portion of funding. Based upon that possibility, RTAC funding will be in the amount of \$3,800.

International Falls Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

The City of International Falls has been undergoing changes in lifestyles, vehicle usage and the City's layout. Currently the sidewalks are outdated and in need of constant repair, barriers and unsafe conditions exist for pedestrians and bicyclists. The City requested assistance in identifying changes to improve foot and bike travel,- what areas need to be updated, what the barriers are. The plan will also assist the City as well as the County in their participation in the SHIP program. RTAC funding will be \$8,000 with a local match of \$2,000.

City of Babbitt Transportation Action Plan

As the Range undergoes changes with the influx of new industries, the City of Babbitt has become proactive in anticipation of these changes. The City is currently updating its comprehensive plan and has identified a need for an addendum to address economic development, housing and transportation changes. Staff involvement will be directed to the transportation component of the addendum. The transportation action plan component is estimated to cost between \$6—7,000. The City is requesting \$5,823.33 from RTAC. The estimated cost of the total project is \$17,400.

City of Hibbing Transit Study

The City of Hibbing is relatively rural and it is difficult economically to serve the entire city on an effective level. The City is seeking to develop a transit plan that identifies its service area, number and types of vehicles needed, and effective pickup/drop off locations. With an improved transit system serving more residents the City could see a potential increase in economic development. Additionally, with improved access to medical care the overall health of residents would improve which in turn would help the general welfare of the City. Their request was for \$8,000 from RTAC with a \$2,000 match.

Transportation Enhancements

The solicitation for projects was announced on August 23rd followed by an Enhancement Workshop on September 15th in Virginia. Enhancement projects are grouped into three categories: pedestrian and bike; historic; scenic and environmental. This cycle of solicitation is for State Fiscal Year 2015. The process begins with a pre-application which can be downloaded from www.nemnatp.org/enhancements or by contacting Bryan Anderson at 218-529-7529. The pre-applications are reviewed to ensure project qualification and if acceptable are prioritized. Approximately \$1.5 million is available for enhancements in Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, Pine and St. Louis Counties, approximately 1/3 of the proposed projects are funded.

Greater Minnesota Transit Investment Plan Public Open House

The Arrowhead Regional Development Commission is hosting a public open house to gather public input on the Minnesota Department of Transportation's future investment priorities for public transit in Greater Minnesota. The open house will include a presentation highlighting projected future need for transit services in Greater Minnesota, service hours required to meet projected need, and the cost to provide those service hours. Emphasis will be placed on investment priorities for providing service hours in future scenarios with both increased and decreased state and federal funding for public transit.

When: Wednesday, November 10, 2010

Time: 1:00-3:00 pm

**Where: Mn/DOT-Virginia Office
101 N. Hoover Road
Virginia, MN 55792**



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