



# *Improv'in' Movin' in the Arrowhead*

Spring 2008

"Working to guide transportation decisions in Northeast Minnesota"

## Inside this issue:

Aitkin Access Plan	1
Bimose (Squaw Lake) Trail	1
Ely Bike & Pedestrian Plan	2
Enhancement Program Trails Map	2
SHIP Funding	2
National Center for Biking & Walking Visit	2

## Next RTAC Meeting

The next RTAC meeting will be on April 2nd at the Hermantown Public Safety Building, 5131 Maple Grove Rd. Lunch will be provided at 12 noon with the meeting immediately following.

The agenda will include

- Program Updates
- RTAC In-kind Grant Program



## Next MEETING DATE AND LOCATION:

April 2nd at the Hermantown Public Safety Building

## In-kind Project Updates

### Aitkin Access Management Plan

ARDC is working with the Aitkin Planning Commission to develop an Access Management Plan for the City of Aitkin. ARDC has attended several Planning Commission meetings and held a corridor review session. Recommendations have been developed to



address the access and traffic related issues in Aitkin. The plan consists of two types of recommendations including physical recommendations and policy recommendations. The physical recommendations address issues that currently exist and cause access, safety, or congestion problems in Aitkin. The policy recommendations identify strategies that Aitkin can use to proactively manage accesses and address issues that may result from development. The Planning Commission is revising the draft plan. Once the draft is finalized, it will be recommended for adoption to the Aitkin City Council. Visit the website at <http://www.arrowheadplanning.org/Default.asp?PageID=531>

### Bimose Trail (Squaw Lake Trail)



The Bimose Trail Plan Committee has met two times and the final meeting is set for mid-April to finalize the plan. Following this meeting, the plan will be presented to the Squaw Lake City Council. Presently a draft of the trail plan is on display for public viewing at the Squaw Lake Post Office, the Squaw Lake Community Center, the Eagleview Community Center, the Max Mini-Store and online at [www.arrowheadplanning.org/bimosetrail](http://www.arrowheadplanning.org/bimosetrail). Public input forms have been mailed out to residents in the Squaw Lake Area to gather public opinion and suggestions for the trail plan. The plan calls for a multi-use, paved trail to be built running parallel to Trunk Highway 46 between the Eagleview Community Center and the Squaw Lake Community Center on East Nature's Trail Road. The trail length is 2.1 miles and the approximate cost of construction is \$500,000.

## **Ely Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan**

ARDC has been working with a Committee to create a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Plan for the Ely School District. Work on this plan is nearly finished and the plan is expected to be completed in April 2009. ARDC also submitted two SRTS grant applications on behalf of the City and School District. The results of these grant requests should be available on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Several SRTS infrastructure and non-infrastructure projects have been developed and a final committee meeting in April will finalize project recommendations. Visit the website at: <http://www.arrowheadplanning.org/Default.asp?PageID=530>



## **Enhancement Program Trails Map**

ARDC has been working to develop a detailed map and list of paved trails that have been funded by the Northeast Minnesota Area Transportation Partnership Enhancements Program. There have been 53 trail related projects funded between 1994 and 2012 through the Enhancement program. These trail projects are located through out northeast Minnesota and range from local connections to segments of long state and regional trail systems. Overall, nearly \$15 million dollars has been spent on trails through the Enhancements process in northeastern Minnesota.

## **ARDC Partners With Regional Community Health Boards for SHIP Funding**

ARDC has been invited to partner with the Carlton-Cook-Lake-St Louis County Community Health Board and the Aitkin, Itasca and Koochiching County Community Health Board as part of a regional \$1.2 million proposal for Minnesota Department of Health *State Health Improvement Program* funding. If the two Community Health Boards are awarded funding, the ARDC would receive \$80,000 to work with local Active Living leadership teams in ten communities throughout the region to perform Active Living Community Safe Routes Assessments. The funding proposal is due mid-April 2009 and awarded in July 2009.



## **National Center for Bicycling and Walking Will Visit**

### **Northeast Minnesota Communities**



Experts from the National Center for Bicycling and Walking (NCBW) will be visiting several northeast Minnesota communities on April 23<sup>rd</sup> and April 24<sup>th</sup>. The communities of Grand Marais, Fond du Lac Reservation and Esko requested technical support in conjunction with the kick off of their respective Safe Routes to School program plans. ARDC provided assistance to each community during the request process. Additionally, Mercy Hospital in Moose Lake will host an Active Living Communities presentation and discussion on strategies for increasing walking and bicycling in their community.



Bryan Anderson, Planner  
banderson@ardc.org  
218-529-7529

Ben VanTassel, Planner  
bvantassel@ardc.org  
218-529-7513

Kara Kent, GIS Specialist  
kkent@ardc.org  
218-529-7539

Arrowhead Regional Development Commission  
221 West First Street  
Duluth, MN 55802  
Fax: 218-529-7592  
[www.arrowheadplanning.org](http://www.arrowheadplanning.org)