



Improvin' Movin' in the Arrowhead

Spring 2011

"Working to guide transportation decisions in Northeast Minnesota"

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Next RTAC Meeting

The next RTAC meeting will be on April 7th at the Hermantown Public Safety Building, 5131 Maple Grove Rd. Lunch will be provided immediately after the ATP meeting.

The agenda will include:

- Project Updates
- In-Kind Grant Program



Next MEETING DATE AND LOCATION:

April 7th at the Hermantown Public Safety Building ~ 12:15 PM
5131 Maple Grove Road, Hermantown

In-kind Project Updates

⇒ International Falls Bike and Pedestrian Plan

ARDC is providing planning assistance to the City of International Falls to complete a Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. A sidewalk inventory was completed in the fall and reviewed by the City. This spring ARDC is assisting the City by facilitating a community walkability workshop which will provide an opportunity for residents to examine what factors are important for a comfortable walking and biking environment and to help prioritize key local connections to be included in the Plan. The input from the workshop will be documented in the Plan. The planning process is scheduled for completion June 30th, 2011.

⇒ Hibbing Area Transit Operations Study

ARDC staff is beginning work on the Hibbing Transit Plan. The Hibbing Transit Plan will investigate ways to coordinate with other transportation providers to bring riders into the Hibbing service area. This plan will look at several modes of transportation including city buses, regional buses, and possible cooperation with automobile transportation and bicycle and pedestrian interests.

⇒ Babbitt Comprehensive Plan/Transportation Component

ARDC held two meetings with Babbitt Comprehensive Plan stakeholders in March. A mobile tour examined current conditions during which the city's transportation system including well maintained streets, sidewalks in all areas of town, and non-motorized trail system were highlighted. The Planning Commission has set a goal to "provide an adequate and safe transportation system that equally serves automobiles, trucks, pedestrians, bicyclists, and those with limited mobility; and links neighborhoods, businesses, and community destinations." Recommendations for specific action steps to achieve those goals will be set in the next phase of the planning process.

⇒ Floodwood Depot Rest Area Impact Project

Work is just beginning on this project. Data has been obtained from the City of Floodwood for their expenses from the last three years; traffic counts have also been found. Additional background information is being gathered.

Local Human Services Transit Coordination Plan

ARDC is currently working to update the Local Human Services Coordination Transit Plan. ARDC is developing a steering committee to guide the planning process. The purpose of the plan is to assess where transit needs in the region need to be improved and where services are duplicated. Transit projects must be listed in the plan in order to receive funding through the 5310 transit program.

FY 2012 In-Kind Grant Program

Please keep projects in mind that will qualify for the RTAC Planning Grant. The RTAC grant solicitation will begin in April and project applications will be discussed at the June RTAC meeting. There will be approximately \$25,000 available this year for local planning initiatives. If you are aware of a local entity interested in applying please have them contact Bryan Anderson to discuss their project.

Eligible Entities

All state and local agencies and governments within the seven-county Arrowhead Region are eligible to apply. Entity eligibility will mirror the Area Transportation Partnership Enhancement guidelines.

Eligible Projects

The RTAC in-kind grant program is available for transportation planning.

Examples include:



- Parking capacity studies
- Highway or railroad corridor safety studies
- Access management planning
- Bike trail or bike route planning
- Pedestrian safety studies
- Enhancement project preparation
- Local road plans
- Transportation/land use interaction plans
- Safe Routes to School Plans/Community walkability assessments

Enhancements Projects for 2015

The Enhancement Task Force met on February 7th to review and rank 13 Enhancement applications requesting 2015 funding. The Task Force made the following recommendations:

Location	Project Name	Amount Requested	Local Match	Project Total	Project Type
Duluth	Cross City Trail Phase IV will finalize the Cross City Trail by connecting the Willard Munger Trail to the Lakewalk Trail.	\$500,000	\$200,000	\$700,000	Bike/Ped
Koochiching County	Koochiching County Bike Trail, Second Creek to Ranier, will widen the existing 8 ft trail to 10 ft.	\$207,720	\$51,930	\$259,650	Bike/Ped
NE MN	HelmetHero Bicycle Education-will continue to education third grade students on safe bicycle techniques and the importance of wearing a helmet.	\$57,494	\$14,374	\$71,868	Bike/Ped
Soudan to Ely	Mesabi Trail Segment, Soudan to Ely, will serve as an alternate transportation corridor primarily for summer biking and walking. The trail will be 4 miles long and 10 feet wide with 2 ft shoulders on each side.	\$394,000	\$98,000	\$492,000	Bike/Ped
Mountain Iron	Mountain Iron Bicycle and Pedestrian Connection will provide a safe bicycle and pedestrian connection using an underpass of Highway 169 to connect two parts of the community.	\$274,560	\$68,640	\$343,200	Bike/Ped
	TOTAL	\$1,583,774	\$462,944	\$2,046,718	



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