



Improvin' Movin' in the Arrowhead

Summer 2009

"Working to guide transportation decisions in Northeast Minnesota"

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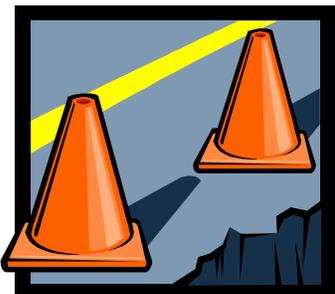
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Next RTAC Meeting

The next RTAC meeting will be on June 25 at the Biwabik City Hall "Pavilion, ". The meeting will be at 10 AM with lunch provided. A tour will follow the meeting.

Agenda items will include

- Review and ranking of RTAC In-kind Grant applications.
- Overview and tour of Gilbert OHV Park



Next MEETING DATE AND LOCATION:

10 AM on June 25, 2009 in Biwabik at the Pavilion (City Hall)

RTAC In-Kind Grant Applications

The RTAC received four in-kind grant applications for FY 2010 consideration (Mountain Iron non-motorized trail planning, Cook County future Enhancement projects, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Long Range Transportation Plan, TH 169 Completion Task Force facilitation). These project applications will be discussed and scored at the June 25th meeting.

➤ **The Mille Lacs Reservation Transportation Plan**

The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe is seeking assistance to complete a long range transportation plan for the Reservation. The plan would evaluate the transportation needs of the Band including vehicles, pedestrian, and transit. The plan would be used to communicate the Band's transportation needs to multiple jurisdictions and would address the transportation needs of the Reservation for the next twenty years.

➤ **Highway 169 Completion Coalition**

Itasca County is requesting RTAC assistance to facilitate a coalition of stakeholders that would work to move the Cross Range Expressway towards completion as a four-lane highway. ARDC and Itasca County would create a line of communication with Mn/DOT and other officials, including Congressman Oberstar, and to develop a list of critical actions that can be implemented in order to move the highway closer to completion. ARDC would then assist in implementing the actions.

➤ **Mt. Iron Non-Motorized Trail Plan**

The City of Mt. Iron has expressed an interest in developing a trail system in the City that would connect important local destinations. Currently there are few bicycle and pedestrian facilities in the City and TH 169

separates the City, creating an obstacle for non-motorized uses. Bicyclists and pedestrians now must use the shoulders of the local highways to local destinations. This trail system would provide safer routes for bicyclists and pedestrians and ensure better safety for automobiles and non-traditional transportation users alike.

➤ Cook County State-Aid Non-Motorized Priority Projects

Cook County is seeking RTAC assistance to provide Enhancement Program education and guidance to agencies, groups, and the public. The County is also seeking assistance with the development of a project priority list for non-motorized facilities on county State-Aid roadways. The plan would result in a list of priority projects, and possible funding sources, for enhancement projects along State-Aid roads in Cook County.

FY 2009 In-kind Project Update

Ely Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

ARDC completed work on the Ely Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. A final presentation was given to the Ely School Board on June 8th. The Plan will be implemented by the City of Ely, St. Louis County and the Ely Safe Routes to School Committee. As part of this project, ARDC obtained Safe Routes to School funding to hire a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Coordinator to work part time with the Ely School District and the Community to implement the Ely Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan to encourage walking and biking within Ely.



Application Update

Regional Trails High Priority Funds Application

In April 2009, ARDC applied for \$10 million in high priority transportation funding to assist community trail development. This application was submitted to Congressman Oberstar for his consideration in the re-authorization of the Transportation Bill. Unfortunately, ARDC was notified in May that the project will not be included in the re-authorization.



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