



Improvin' Movin' in the Arrowhead

Fall 2008

"Working to guide transportation decisions in Northeast Minnesota"

Inside this issue:

Ely Safe Routes to School Plan	1
Ely Safe Routes to School Plan continued	2
Aitkin Access Management Plan	2
Squaw Lake Trails Plan	2

Next RTAC Meeting

The next RTAC meeting will be held in Carlton on January 8th. The meeting will begin at 10:00 AM and will be held at the Carlton County Transportation Building, 1630 CR 61, Carlton. Lunch will be provided.

The agenda will include

- Membership Review
- Project Updates
- Rail Progress Report
- Freight Study Update
- Port Activity Overview



NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION: JANUARY 8TH

CARLTON TRANSPORTATION CENTER, CARLTON

In-kind Project Updates

Ely Safe Routes to School Plan

The Ely School District and the City have teamed up with ARDC to work together on the Ely Safe Routes to School (SRTS) plan. Ely received one of three grants that were awarded by the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee.

A steering committee has been formed and is made up of representatives from ISD #696, the City, St. Louis County, the health field, parents, and residents. The Committee has been overseeing the community planning process, which has identified safety issues that are current barriers for



students biking and walking to school. The SRTS program is designed to work with school staff, students, and parents to evaluate the school's surroundings, educate on the SRTS concept, enforce safety-related policies, and encourage participation. The key areas of focus have included evaluation, education, enforcement and encouragement that help create a community where students can travel to school on their own and parents and school staff feel comfortable about their safety.

ARDC has worked with the Committee to survey parents and students about barriers and obstacles they face walking or biking to school. The survey was developed by the National Center for Walking and Bicycling and this organization will be tabulating all of the data from the surveys. The survey return rate was excellent with over 200 surveys returned. A public meeting is scheduled in January to review the results of the survey with community residents.

During the planning process ARDC also assisted the City of Ely in applying

for Safe Routes to School funding to construct a bicycle/pedestrian route from the school to the neighborhoods to the northeast and to the Mesabi Trail. The grant application requested \$79,000 for these walking/bicycling improvements. ARDC also assisted the School District in applying for \$12,500 to hire a part time SRTS coordinator. The Coordinator will work to increase the number of students traveling to school by developing and implementing the safe routes to school program. The Coordinator will be responsible for putting on special community events to educate parents, students, and school faculty about the importance of walking and biking to school. For more information visit the website: <http://www.arrowheadplanning.org/Default.asp?PageID=530>

Aitkin Access Management Plan

The Aitkin Access Management Plan is underway. The initial input meeting was held with a variety of partici-



pants attending including local law enforcement, state patrol, city council, businesses, public utilities, Mn/DOT, fire department, County engineer, planning commission, and city staff. This wide contingent of partners offered great input into the process and have helped to set a solid list of issues that will be addressed throughout the planning process. ARDC will meet with the Planning Commission to review the issues and begin developing solutions in late December. For a more in depth update go to <http://www.arrowheadplanning.org/Default.asp?PageID=531>

Squaw Lake Trails Plan

On December 16th, the Bimose Trail Committee had their first meeting. Led by Kara Kent, they kicked off the project by discussing the planning process, timeline and expectations of the trail plan. A feedback session was held to have the committee identify potential problem areas for the trail. On a large format GIS map the committee drew possible alignments of the future Bimose Trail next to Trunk Highway 46.

Tentatively “the vision of the Bimose Trail Committee is to establish a paved trail from the Boys & Girls Club in the City of Squaw Lake to the Community Center on East Nature’s Trail road for public safety and to be used as an alternative mode of transportation to serve recreation users.”



For public feedback and to provide access to the draft trail plan, a postcard will be mailed to the people in Squaw Lake in early March. The postcard will provide information on how to access the plan online or review printed copies that will be available the post office, local store or Eagle View. The Bimose Trail Plan will be complete by June of 2009. Additional information can be found at <http://www.arrowheadplanning.org/Default.asp?PageID=529>



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