



Improvin' Movin' in the Arrowhead

Fall 2012

"Working to guide transportation decisions in Northeast Minnesota"

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In this issue of the newsletter, two key issues are being presented to RTAC members as well as project updates. The first article is *Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century* which affects transportation programs. The second article *NE Minnesota Active Transportation Partnership Formation* presents the purpose and formation of the partnership as a possible subcommittee of the RTAC.

RTAC In-Kind Grant Project Updates

Waters of the Dancing Sky Corridor Management Plan

In cooperation with the Northwest Regional Development Commission (NWRDC), Headwaters Regional Development Commission (HRDC) and the Waters of the Dancing Sky Scenic Byway Council, staff at ARDC will be working on the development of a corridor management plan for the entire Waters of the Dancing Sky Scenic Byway. This byway is located along Trunk Highway 11 from Island View in Koochiching County to Hallock in Kittson County. Working with a CMP Steering Committee representing the entire byway, a uniform byway document will be written and corresponding maps created. The total project is \$47,000; \$3,133 in RTAC funds will be used and \$6,266 will be contributed by NWRDC and HRDC as match to this FHWA grant. Project contracts are pending.

County Service Transit Planning

With the completion of the Local Human Service Transit Coordination Plan in 2011, county human service partners discussed the need for a detailed assessment of each county's transit options and needs. This project will develop a plan to address each county's requirements and resources. It is anticipated that once each plan is completed, regional coordination opportunities will also be identified. The project will be approximately \$28,600; \$14,273 in RTAC funds will be used. The Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging will match the funds. Work is anticipated to start in later this year.

Economic Benefits of Transportation Projects

For FY 2013, this project will be in its preliminary stage. ARDC staff will determine if ARDC is suitable for this type of project or if another entity would be better suited. If ARDC is able to perform this study, staff will continue to research methodology for the project and develop a scope of work for FY 2014. The project will use RTAC funds in the amount of \$1,766. Work is slated to begin this fall.

Next RTAC Meeting

The next RTAC meeting will be in January 2013. Time, location and agenda will be announced in December.



Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (Map-21)

On July 6, 2012, President Obama signed into law the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (Map-21), which funds surface transportation programs at over \$105 billion for Federal Fiscal Years 2012-2014. This new bill restructures core transportation programs and establishes a performance based transportation program. Policy provisions took effect on October 1, 2012.

It is still unclear how the federal law will affect the future of Northeast Minnesota's transportation system. It is anticipated that more information will be available by December. The following resources will provide up-to-date information on Map-21:

- Minnesota DOT's Map-21 page: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/map-21/>
- U.S DOT's Map-21 page: <http://www.dot.gov/map21>
- U.S DOT- Federal Highway Administration's Map-21 page: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/>
- U.S DOT– Federal Transit Administration's Map-21 page: <http://fta.dot.gov/map21/>
- The Northeast Minnesota Area Transportation Partnership (NE MN ATP) will also continue to provide information through its website at: <http://www.nemnntp.org/>

NE Minnesota Active Transportation Partnership Formation

In May 2012, the Arrowhead Region received a 5-year Community Transformation Grant (CTG) from the Minnesota Department of Health. As a CTG partner, ARDC provides technical assistance for the active living strategy which includes transportation and community design planning at the local and regional level. On the regional level, ARDC is tasked with initiating the formation of a Northeast Minnesota Active Transportation Partnership (the Partnership).

Purpose of the Partnership

The Partnership is to be a venue for leaders from throughout the Region to provide guidance, share knowledge and support to local community active transportation efforts. The intended outcome of the Partnership's work is a ***regional coordinated effort towards supporting local communities programs, policies and physical projects to increase opportunities for active transportation within local communities.***

The first task of the Partnership will be to participate in the development and provide guidance for the *Arrowhead Regional Active Transportation Action Plan*. When the plan is completed, the Partnership will implement the Plan with ARDC providing staff support for the next four years with the long term goal to maintain the Partnership into the future.

Formation of the Partnership

ARDC would like to explore forming this Partnership as a subcommittee of the RTAC to allow for an efficient start-up process with Partnership members being invited to join from RTAC, the NE MN ATP as well as representatives from the Arrowhead region's public health, natural resources, and education sectors. ARDC's goal is to convene the first Partnership meeting in January 2013. For more information on CTG and/or the Partnership, contact Ellen Pillsbury, ARDC senior planner, at 218-529-7554 or by email to epillsbury@ardc.org.



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