



# *Improvin' Movin' in the Arrowhead*

Fall 2011

"Working to guide transportation decisions in Northeast Minnesota"

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## Next RTAC Meeting

The next RTAC meeting will be in January 2012. Time, location and agenda will be announced in December.

## RTAC Funded In-Kind Grant Applications

The RTAC has funded four In-kind Grand Projects for FY 2012. They are:

### **Lake Vermilion Trail Plan**

In January, 2011, the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission (ARDC) and the Lake Vermilion Resort Association commenced an eight-month planning process for the future development of the Lake Vermilion Trail—a trail facility connecting the lake and its residences and businesses to the communities of Cook and Tower. This project will provide technical assistance to the Lake Vermilion Trail Plan Steering Committee to advance identified priority action items of the Lake Vermilion Trail Plan for implementation (funding, trail routing/engineering and organizing a trail management entity). The cost of the project is \$7,000 with \$5,600 in RTAC funds and a \$1,400 match.

### **Orr Transportation Implementation**

The City of Orr will be seeking to implement several recommended action steps regarding transportation from their comprehensive plan, including

- design and construct a paved, non-motorized trail that connects the City Hall, Tourist Information Center, and the Bog Walk as well as the City Park and Beach to downtown Orr and the Pelican Lake public access. Trail length would be about 1.3 miles.
- develop a five year transportation investment plan that lists needed projects, their costs, and their priority level. Priority pedestrian improvements would be included.
- hold an annual transportation review in Orr that includes St. Louis County and Mn/DOT maintenance staff and other pertinent personnel.

The purpose of this project will be to provide technical assistance to the City of Orr to advance the transportation action steps from the Orr Comprehensive Plan. The cost of the project will be \$8,750, using \$5,000 in RTAC Funds and the match coming from the current funding of the Comprehensive plan.

### **Beaver Bay Trailhead Development**

Lake County is the sponsor for Enhancement funds to construct the Beaver Bay Trailhead Center in Fiscal Year 2014. The development of this facility will require



multi-agency agreements and coordination with local citizens, organizations, and private property owners. The North Shore Scenic Drive Council, staffed by ARDC, was instrumental in organizing the various entities and individuals for the initial development and approval of this Trailhead Center proposal. The purpose of the work by staff will be to advance the project from concept to preliminary design level (with Lake County and its consultant) and to provide necessary project agreements. The RTAC fund amount is \$5,000 with \$1,250 in local match.

### **Ranier Transportation System Evaluation**

In 2010 the City of Ranier expanded its limits through annexation of two residential areas and an industrial park designated a Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ). Ranier nearly quadrupled its population from 173 to 623 and the municipal limits increased from 98 acres to more than 650 acres. With the annexation Ranier gained an extensive network of roads and streets. The city also now contains a state highway and additional rail trackage. The purpose of project will be to provide technical assistance to the City of Ranier to perform an assessment of the local transportation system and develop a Transportation Improvement Plan to set priorities. The RTAC will provide \$10,000 in funding with \$4,780 match.

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### ***Mn/DOT Road Data Verification Effort***

ARDC is working on a Mn/DOT data verification effort with counties and cities throughout the region to verify data related to 1,488 road miles in the state that have been added to the Mn/DOT database since 2007. To complete this effort, ARDC has compiled the questioned data into spreadsheets, created maps for each road segment, and sent those needed materials to the local government staff where those roads are located. ARDC requested the cities and counties confirm the data or make changes to the spreadsheets and return them to ARDC where they will be compiled into the region's spreadsheet and sent back to Mn/DOT.

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### ***Transportation Enhancements***

The solicitation for projects was announced on August 19th followed by the Enhancement Workshop on September 21st in Duluth. This year the workshop was attended by 12 people, some were new attendees to the presentation. This cycle of solicitation is for State Fiscal Year 2016; a pre-application can be downloaded from [www.nemnatp.org/enhancements](http://www.nemnatp.org/enhancements) or by contacting Jon Mason at 218-529-7513. Enhancement projects are grouped into three categories: pedestrian and bike; historic; scenic and environmental. Pre-applications are reviewed to ensure project qualification and if acceptable are prioritized. Approximately \$1.5 million is available for enhancements in Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, Pine and St. Louis Counties. Funding is available for about one-third of the projects.



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