



# *Improvin' Movin' in the Arrowhead*

Spring 2012

"Working to guide transportation decisions in Northeast Minnesota"

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## Next MEETING DATE AND LOCATION:

April 5th at Midway Town Hall, 3302 Midway Rd., Duluth

## ***In-kind Project Updates***

### ➤ *Ranier Transportation System Evaluation*

ARDC has been conducting an assessment of the City of Ranier's transportation system. Staff recently met with the City's Steering Committee to confirm preferred future land use options along major transportation routes and to discuss infrastructure needs where growth is likely to occur. More meetings with City engineers and the Steering Committee are planned for this spring. The findings of these meetings will be incorporated into a five year transportation improvement Plan and other policy recommendations.

### ➤ *Orr Transportation Plan Implementation*

ARDC has continued to assist the City of Orr to implement its recommended transportation action steps. ARDC and the City are continuing to seek funding sources to complete the Orr Community Improvement Design project. Several suitable funding sources have been identified and ARDC will assist Orr through the different application processes.

ARDC has also continued its research in assisting the City of Orr's development of a five year transportation investment plan that will identify needed projects within the City and area. Additionally, work on the annual transportation review has continued with the gathering of contact information of needed personnel and the development of an agenda.

### ➤ *Lake Vermilion Trail Plan Implementation*

ARDC staff facilitated the Lake Vermilion Steering Committee meeting on February 15, 2012. Attendees met to learn about recent meetings ARDC held with the DNR and Bois Forte Tribal staff. The Committee also reviewed two Letter of Interest proposals received for completing a Lake Vermilion Trail preliminary engineering study. In March ARDC will assist the Steering Committee to identify funding sources for preliminary engineering. The next Lake Vermilion Steering Committee meeting will be scheduled for May 2012.

## **Next RTAC Meeting**

The next RTAC meeting will be on April 5th at the Midway Town Hall. Lunch will be provided immediately following the ATP meeting. Directions and a map to this new location are included with this newsletter.

The agenda will include

- ◆ Project Updates
- ◆ In-Kind Grant Program
- ◆ FY 2016 Enhancement Recommendations

## ➤ *Beaver Bay Trailhead*

During the early spring of 2012 ARDC will continue to coordinate engagement with stakeholders to advance the Beaver Bay Trailhead project through the preliminary design phase. As part of the project, there will be three interpretive kiosks to help provide information to the visitor on resources and history of the area. One kiosk will be located in the trailhead parking lot area and will be the same four-panel design as at the Split Rock River Wayside Rest. The panels will highlight information on the North Shore Scenic Drive and Superior National Forest Scenic Byway, recreational trails of the area, and the communities of Beaver Bay and Silver Bay. A second kiosk will be vertical in design and will be located at the Beaver Bay Area Historical Society building across the street from the parking lot. It will include information such as a historic profile of John Beargrease and other items of interest. A third kiosk will be located at an overlook of the Beaver River, and will include information about the historic use of the river and early settlement. ARDC will work with stakeholders to compile the interpretive information for each panel, and will provide it to the Lake County Historical Society for graphic design and layout.

## ***Local Human Services Transit Coordination Plan***

ARDC has received additional funding for this project. The funds will be used to reconvene the Steering Committee to discuss outcomes, identify implementation strategies and recommend projects for future federal and state funding applications.

## ***FY 2013 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 Jon Mason at 218-529-7513/ [jmason@ardc.org](mailto:jmason@ardc.org) 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:

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

## Enhancements Projects for 2016

The Enhancement Task Force met on February 13th to review and rank 14 Enhancement applications requesting 2016 funding. The Task Force made the following recommendations:

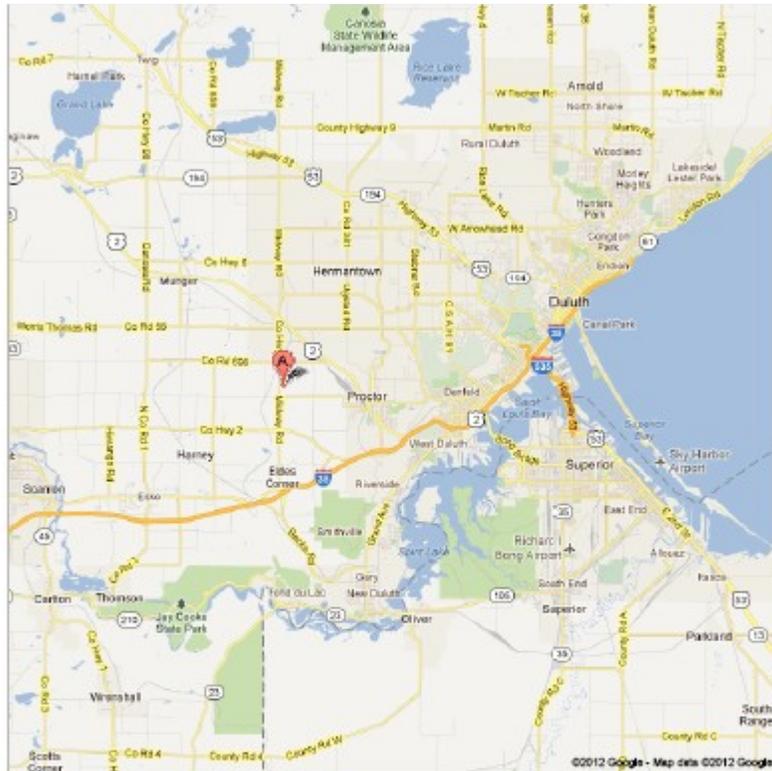
Location	Project Name	Amount Requested	Local Match	Project Total	Project Type
Bigfork	Bigfork RiverWalk Trail: Project will provide non-motorized transport throughout the City and connect residential areas within the City to some of the area's largest employers.	\$275,000	\$275,000	\$550,000	Bike/Ped
North Shore	Gitchi-Gami State Trail-Beaver Bay Bridge and West Road Segment: Project will develop one mile of trail, develop a trail crossing on the Hwy 61 bridge across the Beaver River, and connect the Beaver Bay Trail Head Parking Lot to the City of Silver Bay.	\$500,000	\$340,300	\$840,300	Bike/Ped
Grand Rapids	Grand Rapids Mississippi Riverfront Pedestrian Bridge: Project consists of the construction of a 300 ft. long pedestrian bridge over the Mississippi River and interconnections to existing paved trails.	\$296,696	\$692,289	\$998,985	Bike/Ped
NE MN	Helmet Hero Program: This bicycle education project will continue to educate 3rd 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-Soudan to Ely: This section of the Mesabi Trail will construct 2.5 miles of new trail to complete the 4.6 mile phase that is using a portion of abandoned Hwy 169.	\$394,000	\$100,000	\$494,000	Bike/Ped
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,523,190</b>	<b>\$1,421,963</b>	<b>\$2,955,153</b>	



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The Regional Transportation Advisory Committee is a subcommittee of the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission.

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The recommended directions from the ARDC Building at 221 West First St., Duluth, would be to take I-35 South to US-2 West (Proctor/Grand Rapids). Continue to St. Louis River Road (696), turn west (left) to Midway Road, turn south (left).

Alternate route from south I-35: exit at Midway Road, turn north, proceed past County Highway 45 and County Highway 11.

Town hall is located on the east side of Midway Road.