



Improvin' Movin' in the Arrowhead

Winter 2010

"Working to guide transportation decisions in Northeast Minnesota"

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Next RTAC Meeting

The next RTAC meeting will be on January 25 in the Mn/DOT Conference Room at 1123 Mesaba Ave., Duluth. Lunch will be provided at 12 noon, immediately following the ATP Steering Committee meeting, the meeting will begin at 12:30 PM.

Agenda items will include

- Update on current RTAC projects
- Lake Co. Functional Classification Change
- Cook Co. Highway Safety Improvement Projects.



Next MEETING DATE AND LOCATION:

12:30 PM on January 25 in the Mn/DOT Conference Room-Duluth

RTAC In-Kind Grant Projects

The four in-kind projects for 2009-2010 are underway. The Mille Lacs Reservation Transportation Plan was not able to move forward; the Big Falls Trails Plan was added in its place.

➤ *Highway 169 Completion Coalition*

Itasca County requested 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 facilitated this process, assisting the Coalition and Mn/DOT with concerns, information sharing and clarification of issues. A final report is being prepared.

➤ *Mt. Iron Non-Motorized Trail Plan*

ARDC began the Mountain Iron SRTS and Trail Plan with site visits to the Mountain Iron - Buhl High School and Merritt Elementary School in October with a follow-up in December. ARDC evaluated existing conditions for pedestrians and bicyclists around both schools including talking to school officials and recording the conditions with GPS, photography, and video. ARDC is in the process of analyzing the data and geo-coding the addresses of students so that density and transportation route maps can be made. ARDC is also working with the school district and city to put together a steering committee to help make decisions and implement recommendations that arise from the planning process. The first steering committee meeting will be held at the end of January.

➤ *Cook County State-Aid Non-Motorized Priority Projects*

ARDC will soon begin working with Cook County to provide non-motorized transportation education and guidance to agencies, groups, and the public within the County and assist the County with the development of a project priority list for non-motorized facilities on County State-Aid roadways. The plan will result in a list of priority projects and possible funding sources. This planning process is expected to take six months to complete.

➤ *Big Falls Trails Plan*

The first meeting of the Big Falls Trails Plan Committee is scheduled for January 14th. This project will develop a plan for the construction of a trail system in and around the city that will connect popular destinations such as the downtown, campground, parks, and businesses. Currently there are few non-motorized trail facilities within the City of Big Falls. The planning process is expected to take six months to complete.

FY 2014 Enhancement Projects

ARDC will facilitate the Enhancement's Task Force meeting on February 3rd. This meeting will rank the 11 Enhancement applications that were received requesting FY 2014 funding. The projects include:

- *Duluth Lakewalk East Extension Phase VI*
- *Munger Trail to Lakewalk Connection Phase III*
- *Koochiching County Bike Trail between International Falls and Ranier*
- *Feely Township Sand Lake Trail*
- *Mesabi Trail – Soudan to Ely*
- *HelmetHero Bicycle Education*
- *Chisholm Longyear Lake Trail*
- *Carey Lake Shared-Use Path*
- *Beaver Bay Trailhead*
- *International Falls Area Gateway Corridor Improvement Project*
- *Ely Mesabi Trail Connection*



SHIP Technical Assistance

In the fall of 2009, ARDC partnered with the Carlton-Cook-Lake St Louis Counties Community Health Board to provide planning expertise to nine communities for a two-year period under the State Health Improvement Program (SHIP). ARDC is working with each SHIP community coordinator and their local coalition to implement policies and practices that create active living communities. The nine communities include: Aitkin, Moose Lake, Silver Bay, International Falls, Duluth, Grand Rapids, Grand Marais, Hibbing, and Thomson Township. Active living promotes increased opportunities for non-motorized transportation (i.e. walking, biking) and accessibility to community recreation facilities.



Bryan Anderson, Planner
banderson@ardc.org
218-529-7529

Arrowhead Regional Development Commission
221 West First Street
Duluth, MN 55802
Fax: 218-529-7592
www.arrowheadplanning.org