

International Falls Area Transportation Plan  
Steering Committee Meeting #4  
April 26, 2021, 2:00 p.m.  
Zoom Video/Audio Conference

## SUMMARY

### Introductions

Attendees: Bryan Anderson (MnDOT District 1), Tara Besch (Koochiching County Public Health), Ted Brokaw (City of International Falls), Kevin Grover (International Falls School District), Lori Lyman (PCA), Seth Nelson (Voyageurs National Park), Alex Peritz (MnDOT District 1), Dave Reimer (Koochiching County Highway Department)

Project Team: Russell Habermann (ARDC Planning), CJ Fernandez (Aune Fernandez Landscape Architects), Alex Heid (Aune Fernandez Landscape Architects)

### Public Feedback Review/Finalize Plan Document

Russell Habermann, Senior Planner at ARDC Planning, led a review of comments received during the public review period. Discussion about three themes brought forward from the comments are outlined below:

- TH 11/71 Road Diet: The steering committee noted that they would depend on the expertise of highway engineers to know what's best for safety and efficiency of the roadway. In response, the MnDOT District One engineer noted that a road diet outlined in the plan should be part of the conversation; the engineer also noted that this plan is conceptual and that MnDOT will conduct more community engagement when a construction project provides the possibility of roadway changes.
- Roundabout at U.S. Hwy 53/CSAH 332: A study is currently underway for a roundabout at this intersection. After the study is complete, there will be a public meeting to discuss the findings. Public comment will be welcome at that time.
- TH 11/71 Cripple Creek Culvert: MnDOT, Koochiching County, and other agencies are in contact with the property owners. A note will be added to the schematics about concerns about the culvert and further conversations that are needed.

Only 11 responses were submitted during the public review period, and the steering committee asked if this was too few responses. In consideration of the quality of the public review responses and the 62 responses submitted during the public input opportunity in December 2020, the steering committee agreed that the level of engagement throughout the planning process was sufficient.

A part of the public review survey asked respondents to identify the importance they attribute to each project category listed in the plan document. Habermann shared these results from the survey and explained that the responses were coded on a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being "Very Unimportant" and 5 being "Very Important"). A list of the projects and the average number attributed to their importance is included below.

- Street Lighting: 4.4
- Walking & Biking Network: 4.3
- Trunk Highway 11 Paved Trail: 4.1
- Uncontrolled Intersections: 3.9
- Van Lynn Road Access: 3.7
- Wayfinding Signage: 3.666
- Road Crossings: 3.6
- City Trail Loop: 3.6
- Trail Crossings: 3.5
- Trunk Highway 11/71 Redesign: 3.5
- 11th Street Rerouting: 3.2
- Skewed Intersections: 3.1
- Freight Route: 3

When asked if this list reflects the community's priorities, the steering committee noted that it seems to represent priorities accurately. Habermann noted that this list would provide the order in which the projects appear in the plan document, though a disclaimer will be added to the section introduction stating that projects will be addressed as opportunities arise.

The steering committee requested that a statement about the plan being conceptual also be added into the introduction section of the plan document, in addition to the disclaimer already included on the inside cover of the plan.

### **Next Steps**

Habermann asked the steering committee to look into the future, after the planning process has officially been completed, and share what they feel their role and involvement will be in the implementation of the ideas in the plan. The responses are as follows:

- Dave (County Highway): Follow progress and give input, participate
- Kevin (School): Follow progress and advocate on behalf of school district and public
- Seth (Voyageurs): Follow progress and represent Park in discussion, be part of conversations about Dark Sky work and lighting
- Lori (PCA): Stay involved and monitor for freight needs into mill, monitor walking and trail needs into the future
- Ted (City): Be involved, particularly with utilities needs, and keep aware of paved trail requests
- Tara (County Health/Human Services, SHIP): Stay involved, advocate for trails and lighting, direct SHIP funding to transportation work when able, look at trail counting schedule
- Bryan (MnDOT): Work with Alex Peritz on scoping for TH 11/71, connect community with funding sources
- Alex (MnDOT): Manage upcoming TH 11/71 project

ARDC Planning will prepare meeting notes and distribute them to the steering committee. It will also make requested changes to the plan document. Aune Fernandez Landscape Architects will also make a note about the Cripple Creek culvert in their schematics for the final document. ARDC Planning will email final materials from the planning process, once fully completed, to all members of the steering committee for their reference and use going forward.



The International Falls Area Transportation Plan project is being facilitated by ARDC Planning, a division of the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission (ARDC).

Please direct any questions to:

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