



MEMORANDUM

TO: Douglas County Comprehensive Plan Task Force

FROM: Dan Jochum

DATE: January 25, 2010

RE: Douglas County Task Force Meeting #4 Summary
SEH No. DOUGM 109637

The following document summarizes the fourth Task Force meeting for the Douglas County Comprehensive Plan; it is not meant to be a complete record of discussions which took place, but rather a summary of the various topics and issues raised and discussed.

Date of Event: January 14, 2010, 2:00pm – 4:00 pm

Location: Douglas County Public Works Facility

Agenda

- 1) Introductions
- 2) Overview of Alexandria Area Transportation Study
- 3) Discussion of multi-modal transportation
- 4) Discussion of transportation outside of Alexandria Area
- 5) Questions and Adjourn

Meeting Summary

- Shiloh Wahl, Planning Director of MnDOT District 4 Detroit Lakes, discussed the Alexandria Area Transportation Study. The study will look at transit, bikes, pedestrians and the airport. The future needs are projected and studied.
- Jessica Peterson, Active Living Coordinator of Douglas County, discussed the 2008 Blue Cross Blue Shield communities in motion grant and the strategies and work plans that have been established by the group.
- Dan Jochum of SEH facilitated a discussion regarding transportation issues outside of Alexandria. The following were discussed:
 - Desire to establish an 'Interconnected Network' of ped./bike trail corridors.
 - Currently lacking a north-south trail corridor that would also connect to the Central Lakes Trail.

- Suggestion to begin planning for a north-south bypass.
- Need to identify where the growth boundary is and a proposed road would go so the land can be preserved.
- Pedestrian Safety - State Hwy 29/Broadway because it is unsafe to walk. – Shiloh Wahl stated the intersections will be looked at in 2012.
- Discussion on the likely improvements in the Greater Alexandria Area (4-lane along TH 29 south of I-94, replacement of the I-94 overpass bridges and possible modifications to the interchange, CR 42 near 3rd Avenue may need capacity expansion, etc).
- Suggestion to include natural resource planning as part of the transportation planning efforts.
- Comments acknowledging the benefits of the CR 45 and CR 46 'bypass' alignments.
- Plan will include documentation/recommendations for functional classification changes, revised access management guidelines, and possible jurisdictional changes (turnbacks).
- Concern was expressed regarding the potential impacts on the Agricultural community with the identification of new alignments and/or improvements to existing facilities.
- Need to integrate land use changes with transportation improvements.
- Desire to see improved/expanded on-road bicycle routes through paving of shoulders and/or widening of existing facilities.
- Concern with the impacts to local roadways due to mining operations.
- DNR is working on an aggregate resources map but it is about 5 years till it will be done.
- Suggestion to consider boat traffic between waterways and the possibility of providing passage under roadways (span bridge vs. box culvert) when existing infrastructure is replaced.
- Desire for expanded transit services such as more fixed routes.
- Existing fixed route transit service in Alexandria is currently receiving low ridership.
- Township road standards will eventually be required to consider other requirements such as stormwater management infrastructure.
- Future improvements in rural areas need to be compatible with agricultural activities to reduce the conflicts between farm equipment and general traffic.

- These topics were discussed in various levels of detail, but a lot of the discussion continued to focus around the improvements needed in the Greater Alexandria Area.

Next Steps

The next task force meeting will be held in late February. The tentative topic is land use.