

AREA TRANSPORTATION PARTNERSHIP



MN/DOT DISTRICT 7
501 South Victory Drive
Mankato, MN 56001

October 27, 2009

This letter and attachments sent to:

Transit

Bob Apitz
507-354-8246
Mark Anderson
507-387-8655

Cities

Steve Koehler, P.E.
507-359-8245
Gary Zellmer
507-345-7614

Counties

John McDonald, P.E.
507-526-3291
Joe Doherty
507-665-2828
David Benson
507-683-2853
Mark Sehr, PE
507-283-5010

Region 8 (RDC)

Darrell Holmberg
507-752-7121

Region 9 (RDC)

Jim Broich
507-794-3731

Mn/DOT

Lisa Bigham, P.E.
507-304-6195
Greg Ous, P.E.
507-304-6102
Douglas Haeder, P.E.
507-304-6105
Jim Swanson, P.E.
507-304-6101

District 7 City Engineers and Mayors (cities greater than 5,000)
District 7 County Engineers and County Administrators/Coordinator
District 7 Legislators
District 7 Area Transportation Partnership
District 7 Transit Systems
Metro District, Division Engineer
District 6 Transportation District Engineer
District 8 Transportation District Engineer
Region 8 Development Commission
Region 9 Development Commission
Department of Natural Resources, Commissioner & Regional Director
(New Ulm)
Department of Employee and Economic Development, Commissioner
Department of Transportation - Office of Environmental Services
State Historical Society
Southern Minnesota Regional Tourism Office
Association of Minnesota Counties, Director
League of Minnesota Cities, Executive Director
Association of Minnesota Townships, Director
State Bicycle Coordinator
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Other Interested Parties

This letter announces the solicitation for federally funded **TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT** projects to be considered by the District 7 Area Transportation Partnership (ATP-7) for inclusion in the Fiscal Years 2011-2014 Area Transportation Improvement Program (ATIP). The projects being solicited are primarily for state fiscal years 2013 and 2014.

Transportation enhancement projects must be submitted through a county, city of 5,000 or more population, federal agency or state agency, which agrees to be the sponsoring agency.

WEBSITE

www.dot.state.mn.us/d7/atp

Applicants **must** submit the ATP-7, 2011-2014 Enhancement Application Form (pages 1-4), plus the ATP-7, 2011-2014 Project Identification/Reporting Form. These are available only at www.rndc.org then click on ATP Application Forms. Previous years forms will not be accepted.

To be considered for funding by ATP-7, projects must meet each of the seven Qualifying Criteria (Q1-Q7) outlined in the information package. Qualifying projects will then be ranked by a subcommittee of ATP-7 using the Priority Criteria (P1-P8) on the application form. These priority criteria have been weighed according to ATP-7 investment philosophy. The application should be organized so that the supporting materials for the Qualifying Criteria and Priority Criteria are clearly identified.

The prioritized list will be reviewed by the full ATP-7, which will then select projects for funding in each year of the ATIP based on the ranking recommended by the subcommittee. ATP-7 expects to complete the Enhancement Project selection process and incorporate the projects into the draft 2011-2014 ATIP by mid-April. Although ATP-7 has set \$900,000 as an annual enhancement spending target, the amount programmed each year can vary. ATP-7 has set a maximum of \$400,000 in federal funds per year, per project. ATP-7 further reserves the right not to commit the maximum dollar amount in any one year, especially in later years of the program, to allow the flexibility to fund projects proposed in a future year which may involve a critical time element. Enhancement projects will be competing for funding with other road, bridge, safety and transit capital projects. An estimated target total of about \$25 million of federal funds is available to ATP-7 annually. **Cost estimates are to be submitted in 2010 dollars.**

Applicants are welcome to submit a draft application prior to their final application submittal but this is not a requirement. Draft applications submitted will be reviewed by MnDOT and Regional Development Commission Staff and comments will be provided to the applicant. The comments will be limited to the draft application's clarity, missing information, unaddressed issues, etc. and will not rule on the proposal's merits or eligibility. Draft applications are due by Dec. 14, 2009 and comments will be returned by Dec. 21, 2009. Send the draft applications to Mark Scheidel - see below.

FINAL APPLICATION – Due to MnDOT, District 7 by Dec 31, 2009. [12 hard copies]

Mark Scheidel
Minnesota Department of Transportation
501 South Victory Drive
Mankato, MN 56001-5302

Questions concerning this application process should be directed to Mark Scheidel 507-304-6196.

Sincerely,



Steve Koehler, P.E.
Chair, District 7 Area Transportation Partnership



Jim Swanson, P.E.
Transportation District 7 Engineer