

**MnDOT's ADA Accessibility Advisory Committee
Room G14
Thursday, July 12, 2012**

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Kristie Billiar, Ron Biss, Lynnette Geschwind, Margot Imdieke-Cross (by phone), Michelle Huettl (by phone), Meredith Biddle, Laurel Janisch, Bruce Lattu, Ken Rodgers, Cindy Tarshish, and Jean Wallace.

APPROVE MINUTES APRIL 22, 2012

Ron moved, seconded by Margot, to approve the April minutes as presented. The minutes were unanimously approved.

APPROVE AGENDA

Ron moved, seconded by Margot, to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

TRANSITION PLAN APPENDIX TEMPLATES

Kristie said that she asked Michelle to prepare a report of the ADA projects that are part of the State Transportation Improvement Plan that have taken place in each district. It includes the amount of money that has been spent by each district.

Bruce said that things which need to be contained within the transition plan are items that need to be modified (repaired, fixed, etc.) and how we will make the improvements. It should identify the barriers that need to be replaced or modified.

Lynette said that because most people will read the report electronically, it should have a link to the STIP.

Ron said that it may be an advantage for people to view the percentages that are actually in compliance.

Ken suggested that he would also prefer percentages be included, rather than just the numbers.

Lynnette agreed that in subsequent years, it would show the improvement that occurred over the course of the year. Kristie said that when we are reporting we tend to focus on what has been

completed. This could be used for the ramps, ped ramps, etc. We have x number of ramps that need to be repaired.

Bruce said he agrees that should be done.

Ken noted that there is something that has question marks.

Kristie said that it concerns slope.

Michelle said that she had a question about that. She noted that the curb ramp template hasn't been revised since 1968. Additional comments can be submitted to Kristie.

Michelle inquired if we want percentages on APS and pedestrian bridges.

Members agreed that they do.

ADA IMPROVEMENTS USING SET-ASIDE

Kristie noted that two and one-half million will be spent during the 2012 construction season. Kristie outlined the improvements that had been made during 2012.

Members discussed announcing this at the ADA celebration. Cindy noted that the agenda has already been created.

Margot said that it could be discussed in only a few minutes. She would like a summary prepared for the State Council's website, and possibly other websites, as well.

Cindy suggested that perhaps a quick summary could be given as part of the closing remarks and we could direct people to your website if they want more information. Cindy said that Craig Dunn should be informed that either Ron or Kristie will discuss this. Kristie can summarize it and prepare it for a website.

ACTION ITEM: KRISTIE WILL PREPARE SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Kristie inquired if the summary should contain the MnDOT logo. Margot said it should.

Committee members suggested the committee should also have a logo.

Kristie said that when we went to formula funding, some districts asked to be able to pool money from another district, and then the other district would get funding from both districts for the next year, so that larger projects could be completed.

Cindy said that she will also put it on the ADA Minnesota website.

Michelle will do this Wednesday when she returns.

MnDOT UPDATES

MnDOT has updated the ADA website. The greatest focus was cleaning up clutter. Please review it and offer any feedback you have. She said that there is a left banner, but we cannot put links in that banner. Bruce said that it allows people to find links, he much prefers the new website. Under contacts there are links to two separate complaint pages (one for ADA, and another for other matters) on the contact page of our website.

Kristie noted that Todd is presenting a webinar on quality plan development. It is archived and can be viewed at your leisure if you are interested. Special provisions have recently been completed that make it easier for contractors to bid appropriately on projects. It was noted that Scott Winley presented at a North Central Transportation Institute. He is reviewing the 600 PROWAG comments. The access board still believes it will be able to complete it in 2013.

Kristie noted that the sidewalk inventories are going very well and almost all should be completed by end of summer. We have hired Andrew Palmgren, an architect recommended to assist with inspection of all smaller airports. He will do site compliance of the terminal that is used to enter the tarmac. Ken inquired if dog relief areas would also be considered. Margot said that he should be sure and use the State code, rather than ADA requirements. Kristie said that she has asked him to do that. At this point we are not considering how pilots can enter. This is also an issue for older pilots who, as they age, are having more difficulty. The buildings are typically owned by the cities and counties. MnDOT is inspecting them to see if they meet flight

obligations. We will cycle through these buildings every three years. Ken said he is looking at ADA requirements versus ADA access. Ken said that it is interesting that these issues are emerging.

Kristie said that we have some exciting news. There has been a policy about signals in Minneapolis regarding signals, which are normally cared for by the City of Minneapolis with regard to Highway 65. An agreement allowing a 50/50 split on cost improvements has been signed. MnDOT believes it will take closer to 5 years, rather than 7 years to actually make the necessary improvements. In addition, this will probably set precedent. A core issue was with regard to how liability was perceived. A city of the first class has a statutory meaning, including eligibility, etc. There was a misguided definition of what a city of first class is.

Ron said that he is representing the TAAC Committee on the Snelling Avenue project. He is concerned about the attention being paid to pedestrian ways. Does MnDOT interact with the project manager for this project. Kristie said that it would depend upon which part of the project you are discussing. Todd has worked on some parts of the project, spending an inordinate amount of time making improvements to curb ramps. It appeared most of the focus was on bicycle pedways.

GROWING MEMBERSHIP AND PURPOSE AND REVISITING MAAAC MEETING STRUCTURE

Ron said that we should be resourceful about who we distribute to. Cindy said wouldn't you want it posted on their website. Ron agreed that is good, but we also must reach other groups we want. Kristie wants it to be a good use of members' time. Ken wants this group to remain for MnDOT's use. He said that if we met more routinely, perhaps bi-monthly they could review additional MnDOT programs. Ken said that he is concerned that they don't have 87 counties that have ADA accessible transportation. Then he found out that rural communities' needs are different, and not all want accessible transportation. Margot said that she recently spent two days working at the Disaster Recovery area at Duluth. She inquired if there is anything we should do regarding this. We need to decide the scope of our responsibility and our roles and responsibilities. She would like to spend a one-half day to focus on where we were a couple of years ago and where we are now. We need to try to redefine who we are, and where we want to be. It should include some intensive discussion. If

we are going to ask others to join to expand membership statewide, we must make certain our “ducks are in a row.” Ken said that with quarterly meetings we have a little less focus, he believes meeting more often would make sense. We would we wise to discuss what kind of a structure we want in the future. We have the ability to determine what we want, but do need a discussion regarding who we are now, and what we want to be.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bruce Lattu discussed the complaints he had received this month.

MEMBER CONCERNS

Ron said that as far as the comfort ride on para transit vehicles, he spoke with NTS in Eagan. Defiance Technologies can simulate different road conditions. Everywhere he talks with people about the rough rides, and everyone says they cannot do anything. Therefore, he believes the ACCESS Board must be involved. He said that it is essential that smoothness be improved on transit rides.

Cindy announced that the 22nd Anniversary Celebration of the ADA will be held July 26, from 1:00-3:30 Urban Research and Outreach Engagement Center at 2001 Plymouth Avenue North, Minneapolis. U.S. Department of Justice attorneys will give updates on 2010 regulations and current implementation, motivational speaker Dana Zimmerman, and entertainment and refreshments. This year's celebration will not have booths. Anyone can attend without charge.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 3: p.m.

**Minutes submitted by
Laurel Janisch
Administrative Assistant**