



Snowmobile Advisory Council Infrastructure Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 16th, 2024

via Zoom

Committee Members Present: Gary Hilgendorf - Chair, Joel Enking, Bob Lang, Andy Malecki, Dale Mayo, Don Mrotek

Other Council Members Present: Lynsey Burzinski, Abby Haas, Mike Holden, Sam Landes, Sue Smedegard, Holly Tomlanovich

DNR staff attendance: Jillian Steffes, Chris Halbur, Pat Anderson, Kurt Byfield, Jeremy Holtz, Annie Loechler, Jeff Pennucci

Public attendance: Dave Kafura (WCFA), Brent Sisko, Clint Meyer, Drew Koenigs, Eric Peterson, Gary Wagner, Max Blackbourn, Nate Beaver, Pat Daoust, Rod Polk, Scott Tracy, Susan Tollander, Tara Krall, Todd Bierman, and other members of the public

1. Call to Order

2. Acceptance of minutes of previous meeting

Motion to approve August 2023 minutes by Andy, 2nd by Dale. MOTION PASSED

3. Committee Chair Comments

- **Gary Hilgendorf** – The south is enjoying their snow! We're here today to take a look at the ranking tools.

4. Public Comments

- Tara Krall – Iron County. The draft ranking tools do not utilize the mean snowfall points that the New Miles tools use. Any consideration to adding them to the bridge and reroute drafts?

5. Information & Action: Review of Bridge Ranking Tool Recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee

- An ad hoc committee was formed and met Nov 30th. The members of the ad hoc included Dale Mayo, Bob Lang, Gary Hilgendorf, Sue Smedegard, Eric Rady (Oneida Co), and Susan Tollander (Burnett Co). The 2018 version of the of the Bridge Ranking Tool was reviewed and discussed, and new questions and points suggested.
- Suggestion to add the phrase “certified bridge inspector” to Question 1. Would culverts need an inspection report to earn these points? (Yes, if inside diameter greater than 24 inches. If less than, the project is trail rehab not bridge rehab). Copy of the report would need to be included to earn these points. Would the inspection report need to be within a certain date? Not really, if the inspection report identified problems and they were never addressed, then they still need to be addressed.
- County coordinators should reach out to their highway departments to coordinate bridge inspections. Highway bridges must be inspected regularly, and it's very effective to roll recreation bridges into the mix. Can space them out so they aren't all inspected in one year, and can use maintenance funds for the inspection. Multiple counties report an expense of approx. \$350 to \$500 per bridge inspection. Recommend inspections every 4-5 years to ensure structure is safe and repairs happen promptly.

- Comment from Dave Kafura that, if replacing a bridge in kind, permit not needed/already issued. WMS's don't have time to provide initial comments. Suggest by Bob Lang (?) to add points for 'permit in hand' to cover those already permitted/replacement-in-kind.

Motion to recommend to the full Council the amended bridge ranking tool. Motion by Dale and 2nd by Andy. MOTION PASSED

6. Information & Action: Review of Reroute Ranking Tool Recommendations of the DNR

- DNR staff reviewed the 2017 relocation/reroute ranking tool and drafted revisions that mirrored the bridge ranking tool where appropriate, and also gave priority points to maintenance-only requests, and highway rec wings, as these have been high priorities of the Council in the past.

Motion to recommend to the full Council adopting the proposed changes to the reroute ranking tool. Motion by Andy and 2nd by Dale. MOTION PASSED

7. Committee member reports, comments and items

None

8. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Andy, 2nd by Bob. MOTION PASSED

Guidelines for Applicant

Complete this form for each bridge structure you are submitting a grant application for. Provide any additional documents not requested on application checklist to substantiate your points, including actual deeded easements.

Category		Possible Points	Actual Points
1	Condition of the Structure (max of 10 points)		
	Has a certified bridge inspection report that supports the project & demonstrates need (see example, must provide copy of report by August 1 for 2024 only)	10	
2	Permits (maximum points 4)		
	Consultation with DNR Water Mgmt Specialist has occurred & permit is likely, if needed	1	
	Permit in hand / Bridge already permitted	3	
3	Funding (maximum points 2) Are other funds already committed?		
	50% or greater from other funding source(s)?	2	
	11% - 49% from other funding source(s)?	1	
4	Length of Written Easements or Land Use Agreement (max points 5)(ch. 23.09(26)(am)1 WI Stats)		
	On public land (County, State, Federal)	5	
	10 or more year deeded easement on private land or other public land, for <u>all portions of that trail to the nearest road on each side of the bridge</u>	5	
	3-9 year deeded easement on private land or other public land, for <u>all portions of that trail to the nearest road on each side of the bridge</u>	4	
	10 or more year deeded easement on private land or other public land, for <u>just the bridge site</u>	3	
	3-9 deeded easement on private land or other public land, for <u>just the bridge site</u>	2	
	10 or more year land use agreement (LUA, not deeded) on private land or other public land	1	
	3-9 year land use agreement (LUA, not deeded) on private land or other public land	0	
5	Miles Impacted – How many miles will need to rerouted if the structure is not replaced? Measured from nearest intersection on both sides of the bridge. (max 4 points)		
	Less than 20 miles	1	
	20 miles or more	3	
	No other snowmobile trails connect. Explain:	4	
DEDUCTIONS			
6	County Active Project Deduction (maximum deduction 1 point) A snowmobile active project is one that has exceeded it's initial grant period.		
	Two or more active projects - deduct 1 point	-1	
GRAND TOTAL			

Comments/Notes:

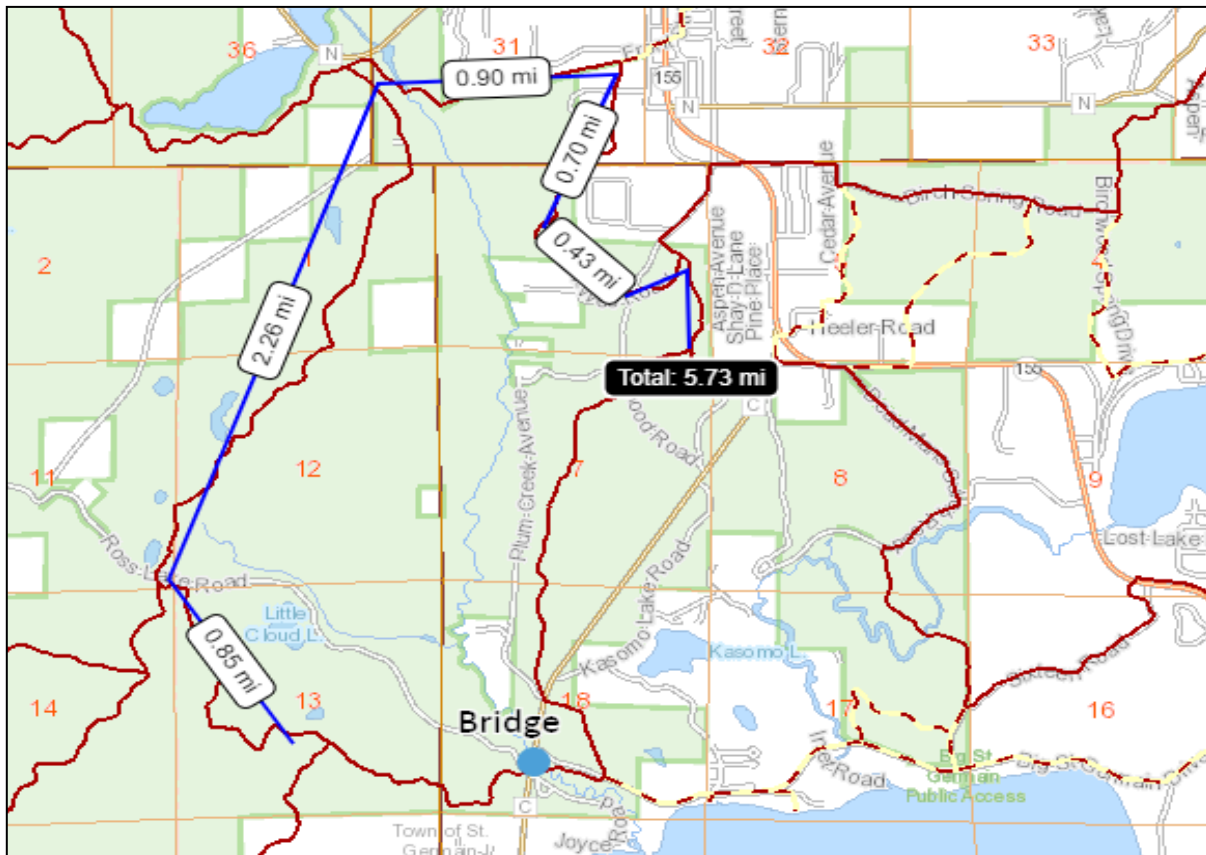
1) Example of Bridge Inspection Report

Report Summary	
<u>NBI Ratings: 9-7 Good, 6-5 Fair, 4-3 Poor, 2-1 Critical, 0-Closed</u>	
Deck	# 6
Superstructure	# 6
Substructure	# 4
Channel	# 8
Overall Condition	Poor
<u>Recommendations/Maintenance Items:</u>	
***Keep the deck and superstructure and plan to replace the pier as soon as it can be planned and funded. This bridge should be inspected every 24 months or less. The bent should have diagonal bracing on it.	
Fill the approaches in.	
Replace West bridge ahead sign.	

6) Example of Intersection to Intersection Measurement

If this bridge is closed due to unsafe conditions, how far around would riders need to travel?

In the example below, to bypass the bridge in question, riders would need to travel 5.73 miles on a trail to the NW.



Guidelines for Applicant

Complete this form for each relocation you are submitting a grant application for. Provide any additional documents not requested on application checklist to substantiate your points, including actual deeded easements.

Mandatory or Discretionary? (no points)	
A) Trail is already closed or will be closed for the upcoming season. = Mandatory	
B) Trail won't be closed for the coming season, but relocation is preferable for landowner request. to avoid road use. etc = Discretionary	

Category		Possible Points	Actual Points
1	Maintenance Increase Only		
	New trail footprint has already been cleared/constructed, application is requesting only a maintenance increase	2	
2	Dedicated Highway Rec Wing		
	An opportunity to develop a dedicated rec wing on a highway will allow for increased safety of trail users by getting them off of a shared highway bridge.	2	
3	Funding (maximum points 2) Are other funds already committed?		
	50% or greater from other funding source(s)?	2	
	11% - 49% from other funding source(s)?	1	
	0% - 10% from other funding source(s)?	0	
4	Length of Written Easements or Land Use Agreement (max points 4) (ch. 23.09(26)(am)1 WI Stats)		
	On public land (County, State, Federal)	4	
	10 or more year deeded easement on private land or other public land, for all portions of that trail segment to the nearest road on each side	3	
	3-9 year deeded easement on private land or other public land, for all portions of that trail to the nearest road on each side	2	
	10 or more year land use agreement (LUA, not deeded) on private land or other public land	1	
	3-9 year land use agreement (LUA, not deeded) on private land or other public land	0	
5	Miles Impacted – How many miles will need to rerouted if the trail is shut down? Measured from nearest intersection on both sides of lost segment. (max 4 points)		
	Less than 20 miles	1	
	20 miles or more	3	
	No other snowmobile trails connect. Explain:	4	
	DEDUCTIONS		
8	County Active Project Deduction (maximum deduction 1 point) A snowmobile active project is one that has exceeded it's initial grant period.		
	Two or more active projects - deduct 1 point	-1	
GRAND TOTAL			

Comments/Notes:

5) Example of Intersection to Intersection Measurement

If this trail is closed and a relocation not funded, how far around would riders need to travel on existing trails?

In the example below, to bypass the trail segment that is closing, riders would need to travel 5.73 miles on a trail to the NW if the reroute is not approved.

