

Duluth-Superior
Metropolitan Interstate Council
HARBOR PLANNING
2007 WORK PROGRAM
January 1, 2007 - December 31, 2007



"Guiding the Future of Transportation for the Twin Ports Area"

2007 Duluth-Superior Harbor Planning Work Program

The following work program identifies projects and initiatives that support the mission of the Harbor Technical Advisory Committee (HTAC). The Arrowhead Regional Development Commission (Minnesota) and Northwest Regional Planning Commission (Wisconsin) are committed to working cooperatively through the Metropolitan Interstate Council (MIC) to complete these tasks. The funding to implement this work plan will come from the MIC's 2007-2008 Unified Transportation Planning Work Program and Budget. Where applicable, additional funding may be required from HTAC member organizations.

1. Coordination, Information Exchange, and Group Facilitation

MIC staff will continue to promote the HTAC mission, which is to provide a forum for the discussion of harbor related issues and concerns, promote the harbor's economic and environmental importance to the community and provide sound planning and management recommendations to the MIC.

Provide staffing services to HTAC

Comprised of representatives from state agencies, local units of government, maritime interests, and environment organizations and staffed by MIC, the HTAC is an established forum for discussing environmental and transportation issues within the harbor. As an advisory committee of the MIC, HTAC will have the opportunity to forward policy-related motions for the MIC's consideration. MIC has identified the following tasks for the 2007 work program:

- A. Organize and staff quarterly HTAC meetings. The purpose of these meetings will be to report on progress made on the work program activities outlined in this document and to provide a forum for discussing the status of ongoing harbor-related projects and issues.
- B. Implement the objectives outlined in the Duluth-Superior Harbor Partnering Agreement. The Duluth-Superior Harbor Partnering Agreement was established in 1996 as a commitment between federal agencies, state agencies, and local units of government to work cooperatively on environmental and navigation issues in Western Lake Superior and along the St. Louis River. Pursuant to this Agreement,

the MIC will act as a liaison among federal agencies, state regulatory agencies, local units of governments, private business and environmental interests on issues relating to port land use, dredging, habitat creation, marine safety, port security and maritime infrastructure needs. MIC staff will contact signatory agencies of the 1996 Partnering Agreement in 2007 to review and update this agreement.

Staffing and Preparation for HTAC Meetings and Implementing Objectives of Harbor Partnering Agreement	\$16,700
Total	<u>\$16,700</u>

2. Subcommittee Facilitation and Coordination

The HTAC has established a sub-committee process in which a subset of HTAC members convenes between meetings to discuss issues and bring recommendations to the HTAC. Currently, the active subcommittees include Dredging, Modeling, Membership and Bylaws, and Advocacy Coalition.

Staff HTAC Subcommittees

A. Advocacy Coalition

This subcommittee is referred to as the Great Lakes Ports Advocacy Coalition and its mission is to raise awareness about funding Great Lakes maritime infrastructure. Great Lakes ports are currently bearing a larger share of federal budget cuts and receive less federal investment in infrastructure than coastal ports and inland river ports. In the case of the Ohio River ports, organized advocacy groups have been effective at lobbying federal lawmakers in Washington D.C. MIC staff will be assisting this coalition by performing meeting facilitation and developing correspondence materials.

B. Dredging

The Dredging Subcommittee is looking at short and long term strategies for dredge material placement. Short term strategies include developing Erie Pier as a recycling facility. Long term strategies include potential development of beneficial reuse habitat creation projects and continued recycling of dredge materials at Erie Pier. MIC staff will be assisting this subcommittee by performing meeting facilitation and assisting in the development of the Erie Pier Management Plan.

C. Modeling

The Modeling Subcommittee will review models developed for the St. Louis River and work toward identifying data gaps and compiling information to improve existing modeling tools. Topics of focus may include the further examination of the usefulness of modern acoustic methods in modeling the lake or harbor bottom and the Watershed Analysis Risk Management Framework (WARMF) Model. MIC staff will assist this subcommittee by performing meeting facilitation and bringing related issues to the attention of the subcommittee.

D. Membership

The Membership and Bylaws Subcommittee meets annually to review membership issues, attendance information and to discuss any needed changes to the HTAC bylaws. These meetings may be a series of email contacts to better facilitate the review of materials. MIC staff will assist this subcommittee by bringing relevant materials to the attention of subcommittee members.

<u>Staff Subcommittees</u>	<u>\$18,200</u>
Total	<u>\$18,200</u>

3. Program Development/Other Activities

Program Development Activities

In order to allow the HTAC to investigate other harbor issues of concern, MIC staff will seek, as appropriate, additional funds through grants or contracts to fund further studies and plans. Some potential ideas and activities are listed below:

- A. Staff Duluth Brownfields Advisory Board. Bring issues related to the harbor to the attention of HTAC stakeholders.
- B. Assist with development and review of the Lower St. Louis River Sediment Management Plan.
- C. Assist in disseminating and incorporating information from the GIS-based Sediment Quality Database for the St. Louis River Area of Concern into harbor planning activities.
- D. Promote HTAC as a model that other ports could use for port planning activities.
- E. Participate with port stakeholders in promoting development of research activities that promote and improve maritime transportation technologies.
- F. Advocate for the development of an expanded Soo Locks system.
- G. Advocate for port development activities on a state and federal level.

<u>Program Development</u>	<u>\$5,500</u>
Total	<u>\$5,500</u>

4. Work Program Funding

The budget for the 2007 harbor work program is \$40,400. The MIC has committed to this amount in its approval of the 2007-2008 Unified Transportation Planning Work Program and Budget.

In the past, the MIC has asked HTAC member organizations for financial support. Agencies that are members of the Partnering Agreement have been asked to set aside \$5,000; these agencies include the Army Corps of Engineers, Duluth Seaway Port Authority, City of Superior, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Wisconsin DNR. Other HTAC member organizations have been asked to set aside \$1000-\$2,000 or the equivalent in-kind time. Large-scale projects such as the recently completed Duluth-Superior Port Land Use Plan have been funded solely from MIC planning funds. The MIC has shown recent support for harbor planning by increasing the budget dedicated to HTAC activities. To maintain the current level of staffing for harbor planning, MIC will be seeking additional funds from member organizations in 2007. HTAC member organizations should consider budgeting matters for current and future planning efforts. To assist with these efforts, the HTAC Chair will work with MIC staff to contact HTAC member organizations.

