

Duluth-Superior  
Metropolitan Interstate Council  
**HARBOR PLANNING**  
**2011 WORK PROGRAM**  
January 1, 2011 - December 31, 2011



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



## **2011 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 2011-2012 Unified Transportation Planning Work Program and Budget as well as funding 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 and federal agencies, local units of government, maritime interests, and environment organizations and staffed by MIC, the HTAC is an established forum for discussing transportation and environmental 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 2011 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 (it is in the process of being updated) 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.

**Coordination, Information Exchange and Group Facilitation**

**\$17,500**

## 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

#### **Partnering Agreement**

This subcommittee has mostly completed their work and is waiting for signatures from participating agencies. The subcommittee identified participating agencies, developed a statement of purpose, compiled goals and objectives, and documented accomplishments of the HTAC over the past ten years. The updated Partnering Agreement will be presented to the HTAC after all signatures are received.

#### **Advocacy**

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. Members of the Advocacy Coalition were encouraged to join the Great Lakes Maritime Task Force since their policies and positions are very similar to the Coalition's mission.

#### **Dredging**

The Dredging Subcommittee is looking at short and long term strategies for dredge material management. Short term strategies include developing Erie Pier as a recycling and reuse 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 implementation of the Erie Pier Management Plan.

The Dredging Subcommittee completed the Erie Pier Management Plan in 2007 and will be updating the plan in 2011. The subcommittee will be reviewing the plan to identify areas where new information is available and should be included in the plan.

Other efforts related to dredge material management include working with the Army Corps Detroit District as they develop the Dredged Material Management Plan update for the Duluth-Superior harbor and coordinating the 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue West Scoping Committee to continue to gather information related to creating beneficial habitat in the 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue West area.

**Modeling**

The Modeling Subcommittee has not met in a number of years and this text will function as a place holder if information becomes available to facilitate development or improvement of existing hydrological models of the St Louis Estuary. MIC staff can assist this subcommittee by performing meeting facilitation and bringing relevant issues to the attention of the subcommittee.

**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.

**Subcommittee Facilitation and Coordination**

**\$19,000**

### 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. The MIC working with MnDOT, WisDOT and other partners has completed the Northern Minnesota – Northwest Wisconsin Freight Plan. The study documented the existing freight system in Northeast Minnesota and Northwest Wisconsin, identified deficiencies, described current programs and produced recommendations. The MIC has budgeted direct funds to work with freight stakeholders to implement this plan. MIC staff will make sure that the HTAC is well informed of implementation activities and any other freight related initiatives.
- B. Work with port stakeholders as projects identified in the DMMP update move toward implementation.
- C. Staff Duluth Brownfields Advisory Board. Also monitor brownfield issues on the Superior side of the harbor. Bring brownfield issues related to the harbor to the attention of HTAC stakeholders.
- D. Assist with development and review of the Lower St. Louis River Sediment Management Plan and any remediation activities.
- E. 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.
- F. Promote HTAC as a model that other ports could use for port planning activities.
- G. Participate with port stakeholders in promoting development of research activities that promote and improve maritime transportation technologies.
- H. Advocate for port development activities on a state and federal level.

**Program Development / Other Activities**

**\$8,700**

#### 4. Work Program Funding

The budget for the 2011 harbor work program is \$45,200. The MIC has committed to this amount in its approval of the 2011-2012 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 Duluth-Superior Port Land Use Plan and Erie Pier Management Plan as well as past larger events have been funded solely from MIC planning funds.

The MIC has shown recent support for harbor planning by maintaining 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 2011. The MIC currently has agreements from some of agencies to provide funding support, and will be following up with other agencies on our prior requests. 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.

Coordination, Information Exchange and Group Facilitation	<u>\$17,500</u>
Subcommittee Facilitation and Coordination	<u>\$19,000</u>
Program Development / Other Activities	<u>\$8,700</u>
<b>2011 Total HTAC Funding</b>	<b><u>\$45,200</u></b>

