

# Agenda Topics and Project Updates

August 15, 2007



Annual Joint Meeting of the  
Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council  
and the  
Transportation Advisory Committee

\* = APPROVAL ITEM

## 1. INTRODUCTIONS / AGENDA REVIEW

## 2. GUEST SPEAKER: ROB WEST, CEO, APEX

Rob West, CEO of Area Partnership for Economic Expansion (APEX) in Duluth, will be present to discuss the many economic initiatives currently underway within the metropolitan area. A focus will be on transportation measures associated with these economic development projects. Please come with your questions for Rob.

## 3. 2008-2011 DRAFT WISCONSIN TIP \*

At the August 15 joint meeting of the MIC and TAC a draft Superior Urbanized Area Transportation Improvement Program will be presented. I will distribute copies and review the draft document. Action requested will be to release the draft plan for the required 30-day public comment period.

If you have you comments or questions, please contact Sheldon Johnson at (715) 635-2197, ext. 228 or at [sjohnson@nwrpc.com](mailto:sjohnson@nwrpc.com).

## 4. PROCTOR MASTER TRAIL PLAN

The final Master Trail Plan will be presented for approval at the MIC and TAC meetings. MIC staff will provide an overview of the trails routes, including the type of trails. The biggest component of the trail plan is the creation of a paved trailway connection from the Munger Trailhead on 75<sup>th</sup> Avenue West to the Proctor Community Center. The trail, called the "Proctor Spur" will follow along 75<sup>th</sup> Ave West and then follow the Cloquet Waterline Easement up the hill to Boundary Avenue. From there the trail will cross I-35 and run through open land and eventually connect to the Proctor Community Center parkland. More trail info will be provided at the upcoming meetings.

If you have any comments or questions, please contact James Gittemeier at (218) 529-7556 or [jgittemeier@ardc.org](mailto:jgittemeier@ardc.org).

## 5. ENDION LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The fourth steering committee meeting was held on July 30<sup>th</sup>. At this meeting, URS staff revealed key transportation modeling findings. MIC staff reviewed the results of the London Road Business Survey and assessment of land use along the corridor. At the August meeting, I'll go through the major transportation modeling findings and will review the scheduled public outreach efforts for this study.

If you have you comments or questions, please contact Holly Butcher at (218) 529-7548 or [holly.butcher@ardc.org](mailto:holly.butcher@ardc.org).

## 6. NW SUPERIOR TRAFFIC CIRCULATION PLAN

URS Consulting has recently completed trip generation and traffic forecasting for the northwest Superior area. The City of Superior sent URS future development scenarios as a base for this modeling effort. MIC staff also conducted turning movement and truck counts as further inputs to the model. The next step in this planning process is to meet with steering committee members from WisDOT, City of Superior and MIC staff to review the results of the modeling and identify stakeholder input methods.

If you have any comments or questions, please contact Robert Herling at (218) 529-7572 or [rherling@ardc.org](mailto:rherling@ardc.org).

## 7. DULUTH HEIGHTS TRAFFIC CALMING UPDATE

MIC staff working with the City of Duluth Engineering Department has conducted traffic counts in the same locations that were counted prior to the Duluth Heights Traffic Circulation Study. The counts were conducted to identify the impact on traffic after the installation of the temporary half closure at Swan Lake Road and Eklund Avenue this past May. We are also working on a survey to send to area residents to gather their input regarding the half closure.

If you have any comments or questions, please contact Andy McDonald at (218) 529-7514 or [amcdonald@ardc.org](mailto:amcdonald@ardc.org).

## 8. PROJECT UPDATES

### **Traffic Systems Management (TSM) Status Report** *Robert Herling*

The analysis phase of the TSM study is now complete. The results are being compiled into two separate documents, one for MN locations and another for WI locations. As drafts are finalized, they will be distributed to the engineers and planners of each jurisdiction. The MIC staff will then arrange a meeting with the jurisdictions to discuss possible TSM solutions for the locations identified in the reports.

### **Oversize Load Route** *Andy McDonald*

MIC staff met with Duluth Seaway Port Authority, MnDOT and local economic development officials to view a proposal by Suncor (Canadian oil company) representatives involved in further developing the Oil Sands in northern Alberta to establish an oversize truck route from the port terminal area to the Minnesota border near Manitoba. Suncor is considering shipping components of oil sands processing equipment to Duluth by water and assembling the large modules in this area before transporting them by highway to Alberta. A follow-up meeting was also held with St. Louis County Public Works to view the same proposal. Suncor has been working with MnDOT permitting staff in St. Paul for the past year or so as they identify the potential route. All bridges, power

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continued

lines and other obstructions have been measured and surveyed along the potential route.

### **On-Street Bike Routes** *James Gittemeier*

This project is out for bid. A sign installation contractor will be picked in the next month by the City of Duluth. MIC staff will be working with Duluth and the selected contractor on any last minute adjustments and/or changes over this time. The signs are scheduled to be installed in September.

### **DTA Route Analysis—City of Superior** *Holly Butcher*

Future efforts with this study will include analyzing summer DTA ridership counts, identifying a future transit service model for Superior, examining the need for a more substantial transit hub for Superior, and meeting with key city staff.