



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council
MEETING SUMMARY
Wednesday, April 16, 2008, 7:00 PM

Meeting Location	Canal Park Lodge, Duluth, MN	
Meeting Chair	Andy Peterson	
Note Taker	Rondi Watson	
Members Present	Broc Allen	Douglas County
	Nick Baker	Douglas County
	David Brenna	City of Proctor
	Earl Elde	St. Louis County Townships
	Jay Fosle	City of Duluth
	Keith MacDonald	City of Hermantown
	Kay McKenzie	Douglas County
	Nick Milroy	City of Superior
	Cindy Moe	St. Louis County Townships
	Steve O'Neil	St. Louis County
	Andy Peterson	City of Duluth Citizen Rep
	Tari Rayala	Duluth Transit Authority Board
Members Absent	David Bilden	City of Superior Citizen Rep
	Mike Coyle	Douglas County
	Garry Krause	City of Duluth
Others Present	Warren Bender	Superior Common Council
	Holly Butcher	ARDC / MIC Senior Planner
	Fred Baldwin	NADO
	Ron Chicka	ARDC / MIC Director
	Andrea Grygo Diamond	ARDC / MIC GIS Specialist
	Sheldon Johnson	ARDC / MIC Deputy Director
	Robert Herling	ARDC / MIC Associate Planner
	Rondi Watson	ARDC / MIC Secretary
	* Alternate	

1. Introductions and Agenda Review

MIC Co-Chair Andy Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and meeting attendees introduced themselves. No changes to the agenda were put forward.

2. Committee Business – Meeting Summary of March 19, 2008

Chair Peterson called for amendments or corrections to the previous month's meeting summary. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve.

Motion and Discussion Broc Allen/Earl Elde moved to approve the meeting summary from the March 19, 2008 meeting. There was no discussion and the motion was approved unanimously.

3. Committee Business – Hermantown-Section 13 Internal Traffic Circulation Analysis

Ron Chicka reported that the City of Hermantown had requested that MIC staff follow up with some additional modeling work for the 2005 Hermantown-Section 13 Circulation Analysis. The MIC will team up with the URS Corporation to conduct a number of traffic modeling scenarios for a proposed large expansion of a multiple family residential development along Westberg Road. The City has a short timeframe in which to decide the appropriate action to take relative to the planned expansion. Therefore this project will take priority with MC staff time, with major work activities to be concluded by the end of May. Ron added that the City of Hermantown has agreed to contribute to the cost of this study.

4. Endion Land Use and Transportation Plan – FINAL

Holly Butcher presented the final version of the Endion and Land Use and Transportation Plan for approval. She reviewed the plan's content, recommendations and implementation strategies. The final document can be viewed at www.dsmic.org/Endion.

Motion and Discussion

Nick Baker/Broc Allen moved to approve the Endion Land Use and Transportation Plan as presented. *Andy Peterson and Steve O'Neil thanked Holly for her hard work on this plan and for encouraging good public participation and leading an active steering committee. Ron commented on the new look of the plan and its improved presentation of information and thanked MIC staff for their hard work in formatting, editing and producing it.* There was no further discussion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

5. City of Superior – Local Enhancements Project Application

Ron Chicka announced that the City of Superior is preparing an application for consideration by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation for funding under the FY 2009-2011 State Multi-Modal Improvement Program (SMIP), which includes the Transportation Enhancement (TE) and Bicycle & Pedestrian Facilities Program (BFPF). The proposed project would construct a paved, non-motorized Moccasin Mike Bypass Trail, connecting the Osaugie trail (tri-county corridor trail system) out to Wisconsin Point. This project is included in the City's overall trail plan, and the estimated cost is approximately \$560,000.

He added that the SMIP process requires a review and ranking of all applications submitted to WisDOT from within the metropolitan planning area and the application due date is 04-18-08.

Motion and Discussion

Nick Baker, with a second from David Brenna, moved to recommend that the City's application be forwarded to the state of Wisconsin with the MIC's recommendation that the project be ranked 1 of 1. *Discussion among committee members centered on concerns about the trail alignment being constructed in an area with the potential for negative wetland and hydrological impacts. The question was also raised about why this project was being put forward instead of other potential bike routes within the city, such as along 28th Street.* Based on this discussion, Nick Baker

withdrew his motion to recommend and rank the project for submission.

Rondi Watson reported that her notes from the previous day's TAC meeting indicated that City Planning Director Jason Serck had stated that this project had been previously submitted a few years prior and had been turned down, and subsequently the project was scaled back a bit and the trail alignment was reconfigured to minimize wetlands impacts. Sheldon Johnson added that if the project is awarded, it must first undergo an environmental review prior before it can be constructed per federal statutes. Ron stated that the application could be considered again for approval at the May 21st MIC meeting, when Jason Serck might be able to attend to respond to committee member concerns. Sheldon noted that although the SMIP application deadline was April 18, it might be a viable application if WisDOT allows it to be submitted late.

6. Downtown Duluth Modal Connections Study – Scope of Work *

Holly Butcher presented the Scope of Work for the Downtown Duluth Modal Connections Study for approval. She explained that MIC staff had recently convened a meeting with stakeholders including the Duluth Mayor, Greater Downtown Council President, LHB engineering, City Planning and Engineering staff, and the Duluth Transit Authority. The group agreed that MIC's role in this study would be to provide technical analysis to support a broader community vision that will be devised by the Greater Downtown Council and city staff.

Motion and Discussion Steve O'Neil/Broc Allen moved to approve the Scope of Work for this plan as presented. There was no discussion and the motion was approved unanimously.

7. Minnesota State Transportation Plan Update

Ron Chicka announced that Mn/DOT is currently undertaking an evaluation of its statewide policy plan covering all modes of transportation. The MIC is assisting this effort by sitting on the overall plan committee and a number of subcommittees as well. He touched upon the considerations that are shaping the direction the plan will take, specifically some of the trends and demographic shifts taking place over the next 30 years. As one example, he noted that for the first time, VMT (Vehicle Miles Traveled) has begun to level off or even decrease in some parts of the state. Up to this point, VMT has steadily increased each year since the 1960's. If this trend continues, assumptions about needing to accommodate greater and greater traffic volumes may prove incorrect, and available revenues from gas taxes and vehicle registrations are projected to decrease as well. Another notable fact is that by the year 2030, one in five persons in the state will be 65 years or older.

He added that the updated plan is likely to place a big emphasis on system preservation—lots of aging infrastructure to take care of—with challenges that include maintaining bridges (3500 structures) and pavement quality, while heavy commercial truck traffic is projected. Construction costs are forecasted to increase significantly.

He noted that every other state is facing similar challenges and limitations. The basic task for the advisory group is to decide whether to maintain the existing vision for transportation that is more of a wish list that does not fully consider funding limitations, or to adopt a more modest approach to project development that is more in line with realistic funding mechanisms.

8. Duluth SRTS Funded Projects Update

Holly Butcher presented an update on the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) projects currently being implemented in Duluth. These include Lincoln Park School non-infrastructure and infrastructure projects, a Congdon Elementary School infrastructure project, a District-wide non-infrastructure project, and infrastructure improvements for Stowe Elementary School for a total of about \$400,000. She noted that the Lincoln Park plan is moving forward despite the closing of the middle school; it's still worth doing to improve needed pedestrian infrastructure for access to Lincoln Park destination. The district-wide non-infrastructure grant will establish a committee of teachers to devise age-appropriate curriculum. At the public meeting about the Stowe grant, many frustrations were expressed about the lack of snow removal along the recommended walking routes. Some modifications will need to be made to the planned sidewalk construction for Congdon Elementary, based on the overall "Red Plan" for reorganizing the schools, but she noted that the SRTS group is working actively with Johnson Controls and they are open to our feedback. Half of the work is slated to be completed this summer and half to be completed next summer. In regard to planned improvements at Lester Park Elementary, the state SRTS coordinator has expressed some reservations, to be continued.

9. Project Updates

2008 Bike to Work Day

Ron announced that the MIC is participating again to promote Bike to Work Day on Friday, May 16. MIC staff, along with the YMCA, the DTA, and the Greater Downtown Council are putting together a morning commute event for bicyclists. The event will be held at the Lake Superior Plaza adjacent to Minnesota Power at the corner of Lake Avenue and Superior Street from 7am to 9am. There will be refreshments, bicycle safety checks, and more as details come together.

2009-2012 MN TIP Update

Ron reported that MIC staff is compiling the Draft FY 2009-2012 Duluth Metro TIP. Each jurisdiction sponsoring a project in the TIP will receive a project status report, with a request for the latest updates. In addition, staff will begin air quality conformity consultation with FHWA, MPCA and MnDOT Central Office. A draft TIP will be released for public comment after the May TAC and MIC meetings, with a final TIP scheduled to be completed in July.

Public Meetings for UMD-CSS Transportation Study

Ron reported that on Wednesday April 2nd, MIC staff hosted a public meeting at UMD's Kirby Ballroom, designed as an issues identification meeting for campus stakeholders and area residents to tell us their transportation issues and concerns. We had a small but enthusiastic turnout that provided us with a lot of information about transportation issues in the area. He added that we will be hosting a similar meeting at 7pm on April 29th at Mitchell Auditorium at CSS.

10. Adjournment

With no further agenda items or announcements, Chair Peterson adjourned the meeting at 8:27 pm.