



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council
MEETING SUMMARY
Wednesday, June 18, 2008, 7:00 PM

Meeting Location	Public Safety Building Training Center, Hermantown, MN
Meeting Chair	Andy Peterson
Note Taker	Rondi Watson

Members Present		
	Nick Baker	Douglas County
	Steve Baker	Douglas County
	Warren Bender	City of Superior
	David Brenna	City of Proctor
	Earl Elde	St. Louis County Townships
	Garry Krause	City of Duluth
	Keith MacDonald	City of Hermantown
	Kay McKenzie	Douglas County
	Cindy Moe	St. Louis County Townships
	Steve O'Neil	St. Louis County
	Andy Peterson	City of Duluth Citizen Rep
Members Absent	Broc Allen	Douglas County Suburban Townships
	Ed Anderson*	City of Superior
	Mike Coyle	Douglas County
	Jay Fosle*	City of Duluth
	Kevin Norbie*	City of Superior Citizen Rep
	Dan Olson*	City of Superior
Others Present	Deb Battuello	Superior School District
	Holly Butcher	ARDC / MIC Senior Planner
	Ron Chicka	ARDC / MIC Director
	James Gittemeier	ARDC / MIC Planner
	Robert Herling	ARDC / MIC Associate Planner
	Kris Leopold	Superior School District
	Jay Mitchell	Superior School District
	Corey Olson	Superior School District
	Rondi Watson	ARDC / MIC Secretary
	* Excused	

1. Introductions and Agenda Review

MIC Co-Chair Andy Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. and meeting attendees introduced themselves. No changes to the agenda were put forward.

2. Committee Business

August and September Meetings Rescheduled for September 3, 2008

Ron Chicka announced that the MIC meetings on August 20 and September 17th were being cancelled due to staff unavailability both months, and rescheduled for a single meeting on Wednesday, September 3rd. This will be the annual joint MIC and TAC meeting, held at the Proctor Community Center at 7:00 pm, preceded by a catered picnic supper at 5:30 pm.

MN MPO Summer Workshop – Invitation to Attend 8/12/08 Open Session

Ron announced that the MIC is hosting the annual Minnesota MPO Summer Workshop for Directors and Planners, an annual three-day forum for MPO and MnDOT planning staff from across the state. This year, MIC Board and TAC members are invited to attend the sessions on Tuesday, August 12 at no charge. The topic for the morning session is Community Sustainability, featuring a keynote address by Hennepin County Commissioner Peter McLaughlin, who will speak to the importance as well as the process of regional planning and investment for transit. Congressman Jim Oberstar has been invited to participate as part of the afternoon session covering the upcoming federal transportation bill. He added that Rondi Watson would be contacting MIC and TAC members by email with registration information.

3. City of Superior – SRTS Implementation Activities

Holly Butcher introduced Deb Battuello, Kris Leopold and Corey Olson, physical education teachers for the Superior School district. They presented information about their recent bike safety initiatives that were funded by the non-infrastructure Safe Routes to School curriculum grant they were awarded last year.

They admitted to being a little nervous at first about developing this addition to the P.E. curriculum, but after brainstorming and talking to students, parents and other teachers, the idea of holding a “bike rodeo” event began to take shape, as a fun and interactive way to teach bike safety skills to elementary and middle school students. They also attended a WisDOT training session to learn about common crashes and safety skills training, and collaborated with Ski Hut to identify the best equipment to use. The district used some of the funding to purchase bicycles and helmets and Ski Hut, in turn, agreed to assist with this and future bike rodeos. Each teacher held a rodeo event at their own school which included a series of stations covering helmet use, braking, road hazard training, avoiding cars, practicing skills, a slalom course and a “slowest race” which tested balance and control by trying to be the last person to cross the finish line.

Another successful activity was a group bike ride for all the kids in 5th grade at the end of the school year. They rode from school to the Osaugie trail, then to Bear Creek for activities and a picnic. The purpose of this outing was to put the kids’ new skills to use, show them a safe place to ride, have fun and ultimately to promote a lifetime activity.

They reported that the response to these events was very enthusiastic by kids, teachers and parents alike. Their intent was to start small and keep building on this program. Next year, they will expand this curriculum element to the 4th grade. Additionally, many parents have expressed interest in participating next year, and a dialogue has started about initiating activities

such as escorting trips to school, etc. They closed by thanking Holly for all her work in developing Superior's Safe Routes to School Plan and shepherding the funding application through until it was ultimately funded. Holly in turn praised the local district's participation in these same efforts.

4. Committee Business – Meeting Summary of May 21, 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 Nick Baker/Earl Elde moved to approve the meeting summary from the May 21, 2008 meeting with no changes. No discussion, motion approved by unanimous vote.

5. Amendment #5 to 2008-2011 Superior Area TIP

James Gittemeier reported on an amendment, requested by WisDOT, to add a project for inclusion in the 2008-2011 Superior Urbanized Area TIP. Amendment #5 adds a project to begin in CY 2008, the design phase for a pavement replacement project on the approach section of USH 2 from the St. Louis River to Belknap Street. The project will include bridge deck overlay, modular joint replacement, spot repair on parapet, and replace the outside foot of sidewalk. Some cable work and light replacements will also be done. He added that the construction phase of this project is planned to be included in the 2014 TIP.

Motion and Discussion Nick Baker/Earl Elde moved to approve Amendment #5 to the 2008-2011 Superior TIP as presented. No discussion, motion approved by unanimous vote.

6. Long Range Plan 2035 Update Scope of Work

Robert Herling reported that the MIC's current Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), *Access and Mobility for People and Freight 2030*, is scheduled to be updated by 2009. Due to new guidance from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), the updated plan will be produced as a web-based document. The main benefit of moving towards a web-based plan is to make it more accessible to a greater audience and make it easier for a user to navigate through when in search of specific information. This plan will exist as a website separate from the existing dsmic.org website.

He presented the Scope of Work for the project, including a table summarizing the conceptual outline of the website and a timeline of work activities up to the project due date of September 2009. He noted that he planned to present related information at most of the upcoming monthly meetings to gain input from TAC and MIC members, in lieu of convening a separate LRTP advisory committee. Technical topics might require a meeting our two outside the usual TAC and MIC meeting dates. He closed by requesting approval of the Scope of Work.

Motion and Discussion Nick Baker / Earl Elde moved to approve the Scope of Work as presented. No discussion, motion approved by unanimous vote.

7. Hermantown Section 13 Traffic Impact Study

James Gittemeier reported that the City of Hermantown had requested the MIC to revisit the Hermantown-Section 13 Circulation Analysis Report due to a plan for a large expansion of multiple family housing units along Westberg Road. The MIC teamed up with URS Corporation to conduct this traffic circulation analysis in April, with major work activities concluded by the first week of June.

He presented six traffic modeling scenarios which demonstrated the projected impacts on the internal circulation movements within Section 13 from alternative ingress/egress routes to the housing development. Final analysis showed that all scenarios ranked OK, with either no or low effects on the Level of Service coming in and going out on Westberg Road. The preferred option would be the Mall Drive extension, which would add a second access point to the area.

During the discussion it was noted that the model assumes the planned intersection improvements (Haines Road traffic lights as well as a new road near Sam's club) had been implemented. Ron noted that although there were no significant impacts on the Westberg Road area, there were other intersections in the wider area that did show potential impacts (Haines Road/Arrowhead, and Stebner Road/Arrowhead), that will need to be discussed with the County.

A question was asked, whether it was safe to continue to assume the standard of 6 trips per household per day, especially if gas prices continue to increase. James answered that it was possibly not a valid assumption, especially in future years, yet no other number has been put forward as a standard supported by research. He added that this question of a change in the average number of trips per day per household, would need to be addressed in the Long Range Plan as a possible trend.

He also reported that he had presented this study to the Hermantown Planning Commission the night before. The ultimately approved the modeling results, with the addition of an additional limited access point (a gated emergency roadway connection) at Terrace Circle.

8. Downtown Modal Connections Study

Holly Butcher reported on this study that is newly underway. The idea is to connect the "3 islands" that exist in Duluth – downtown central business district, Canal Park and the DECC. The Downtown Council, which initiated this study request, wants to look at all three areas as a total system with the goal of connecting them and making sure that visitors to Canal Park can find their way into the downtown area, with the aid of wayfinding signage, shuttles, etc.

The work of the study will begin by identifying specific barriers (Highway I-35 is the main obstacle), as well as opportunities to connect all transportation modes to achieve greater connectivity. Field research planned for this summer will include pedestrian, traffic and tube counts during several upcoming events at the DECC in July and a possible visitor survey. They are interested in finding whether there is a difference between peak vehicle and peak pedestrian times of day.

9. East Second Street Study

Robert Herling reported that work has begun anew on this study, with a focus on access management. After assessing much of the corridor from the perspective of land use densities access points, and crash rates, it was determined that the study area should be extended further south approximately 4.5 miles to 53rd Avenue.

Next steps will be to form a study committee; he also expects a lot of additional data-gathering activities for the summer, as well as conducting public involvement and a survey of business in the study area.

10. Project Updates

Scope of Work – Regional Freight Study

Ron Chicka announced that he expects to bring forward a Scope of Work for a regional freight study for at next month's meetings. He added that recent meetings with MnDOT have expanded the study area to include District 2 (northern Minnesota) in addition to District 1 (northeast Minnesota). Project management will be jointly coordinated between the MIC and Mn/DOT central office personnel. The new Mn/DOT Freight Planning Manager, Dave Christianson, brings a great deal of experience in projects such as this and will play a large role in the project from start to finish. He added that although funding from MnDOT is solid (\$200,000 from Mn/DOT Central Office and \$50,000 over two years from the MIC to hire a consultant), funding from WisDOT is unexpectedly now uncertain. Meetings will continue with their Central Office.

Statewide Transportation Plan Public Meetings

Ron also announced that the State Plan Coordinating Committee will be holding a public outreach meeting next Thursday, June 26 from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at Country Inns & Suites Duluth North, 4257 Haines Road, in Hermantown. Members of the public, transportation stakeholders, local government officials and others are invited to discuss the updated state's long-range transportation plan.

Draft 2009-2012 Duluth Metro TIP,

James Gittemeier announced that he had held a public information session at the Holiday Center on Wednesday, June 4, 2008 from 11:30am to 1:30pm. He also reminded TAC members that comments on the draft tip are due by this Friday. He added that he will be working with the area jurisdictions as they update their project lists and financial capacity information. The format of the document continues to be updated and the major changes to the document will be reviewed in detail at the July MIC & TAC meetings, when it will be presented for approval.

11. Adjournment

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