



## Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

# MEETING NOTICE

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

The Duluth Depot  
506 West Michigan Street, Duluth MN

**6:00 pm: Public Meeting:** St. Louis County Union Depot Master Plan

**7:00 pm: MIC Meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room)**

### Presentation / Discussion / Informational Items:

- St. Louis County Union Depot Master Plan – consultant Q & A
- Harbor Planning Update
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Update

### Approval / Voting Items:

- Draft 2011-2014 Duluth Area Transportation Improvement Program
- Draft 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan

### Attendance / Meeting Quorum:

If you are NOT able to attend, or expect to arrive late to the meeting, please contact Rondi Watson at [rwatson@ardc.org](mailto:rwatson@ardc.org) or 529-7541 to ensure a quorum will be present for voting items on the agenda.

**Driving Directions & Parking Information:** See map on reverse.

Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

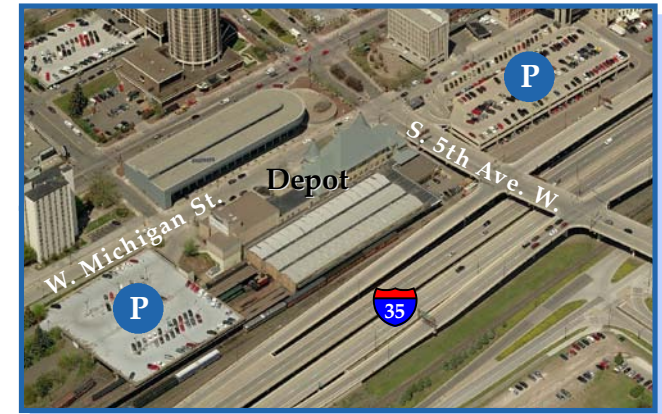
*Duluth and Superior Urban Area Communities Cooperating in Planning and Development through a Joint Venture of the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission and the Northwest Regional Planning Commission*

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# The Duluth Depot

506 West Michigan St. - Duluth, MN



### Alternative Routes from Twin Cities:

Directions via Becks Rd:

- Take **Exit 246** for Midway Rd., turn **Left** at Commonwealth Ave.
- Continue onto Grand Ave. and follow into downtown

Directions via Midway Rd:

- Take **Exit 246** for Midway Rd., turn **Right** at Old Hwy 2 (Morris Thomas Rd.)
- Turn **Right** at Piedmont Ave.

Alternative Route from Proctor:

- Follow Vinland St. and continue onto Highland St.
- Turn **Right** at N. Central Ave., take first **Left** at W. 8<sup>th</sup> St.
- Turn **Right** at N. 46<sup>th</sup> Ave. W., turn **Left** at Grand Ave.
- Follow into downtown

Alternative Route from Superior:

- Head north on I-535, Exit onto Garfield Ave.
- Turn **Right** at Railroad St., turn **Right** at S. 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. W.
- Turn **Left** to stay on S. 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. W., take first **Left** at W. Michigan St.



## Metropolitan Interstate Council Policy Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

### The Duluth Depot

506 West Michigan Street, Duluth, MN

6:00 pm: Public Presentation, Great Hall, main floor

7:00 pm: MIC Meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room

## AGENDA

Minnesota Members	
<p>City of Duluth Tony Cuneo Kerry Gauthier</p> <p>City of Duluth – Citizen Rep David Montgomery</p> <p>City of Hermantown Wayne Boucher</p> <p>City of Proctor Troy Foucault</p> <p>Duluth Transit Authority Melanie Hendrickson</p> <p>St. Louis County Steve O'Neil, MN Co-Chair</p> <p>St. Louis County Suburban Townships Earl Elde Cindy Moe</p>	<p><b>1. Introductions / Agenda Review</b> <span style="float: right;">5 min</span></p> <p><b>2. Committee Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting Summary of April 21, 2010 (<i>for approval</i>)</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Q &amp; A: St. Louis County Union Depot Master Plan</b> <span style="float: right;">20 min</span></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Lead Consultants, Miller Dunwiddie Architecture and LHB, Inc</i></li> </ul> <p><b>4. Draft 2011-2014 Duluth Area Transportation Improvement Program</b> <span style="float: right;">10 min</span></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approve Release for Public Comment Period, <i>James Gittemeier</i></li> </ul> <p><b>5. Draft 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan</b> <span style="float: right;">15 min</span></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approve Release for Public Comment Period, <i>Robert Herling</i></li> </ul> <p><b>6. Harbor Planning Update</b> <span style="float: right;">15 min</span></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation and Discussion, <i>Andy McDonald</i></li> </ul> <p><b>7. Bike and Ped Planning Update</b> <span style="float: right;">10 min</span></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation and Discussion, <i>James Gittemeier</i></li> </ul> <p><b>8. Project Updates</b> <span style="float: right;">5 min</span></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Involvement/Social Media Consultant, <i>Rondi Watson</i></li> <li>• Connecting Duluth, <i>James Gittemeier</i></li> <li>• TIGER II Grant Application, <i>Ron Chicka</i></li> <li>• Blatnik and Bong Bridge Study, <i>Ron Chicka</i></li> </ul>
Wisconsin Members	
<p>City of Superior Warren Bender Denise McDonald Dan Olson</p> <p>City of Superior – Citizen Rep Kevin Norbie</p> <p>Douglas County Nick Baker, WI Co-Chair Kathryn McKenzie Jim Paine Vacant</p> <p>Douglas County Suburban Townships Broc Allen</p>	<p><b>Next Meeting:</b></p> <p>Wednesday, June 16, 2010, 7:00 pm Hampton Inn – Canal Park, Duluth, MN</p>

# MIC Agenda Topics and Project Updates

May 19, 2010 Meeting



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

\* = *Approval Item*

## 1. INTRODUCTIONS / AGENDA REVIEW

## 2. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- Meeting Summary of April 21, 2010\* (see separate attachment)

## 3. ST. LOUIS COUNTY UNION DEPOT MASTER PLAN (QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION)

Immediately after the 6:00 pm public presentation, the lead consultants (Miller Dunwiddie Architecture and LHB, Inc.) for the Union Depot Passenger Rail Terminal Study will be available to our group to answer questions from the MIC Board. As an overall synopsis of the plan, we will try to have some large poster board layouts taken from the plan within our meeting room or have handouts or some Power Points slides for reference purposes. This work culminates a year long process that the County initiated in anticipation of the rail line service being reestablished to the Twin Cities. The document outlines an entire master plan for not only the Depot's future but also land uses surrounding the site. A key component of the plan involves bike and pedestrian links that enhance the functionality of the site – many drawn from prior planning studies conducted by the MIC in this area of the downtown.

## 4. DRAFT 2011-2014 DULUTH AREA TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM\* (see separate attachment)

The Draft TIP is attached for your review and comment. The TIP includes 4 years of federally funded transportation projects, as well as some of the significant state funded projects. The Draft TIP will be released for a 30-day public comment period, which will run from May 20 to June 18. The final TIP will be presented for approval at the July MIC meetings.

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

## 5. DRAFT 2035 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN\* (see separate attachment)

A complete draft of the updated Duluth Superior Long Range Transportation Plan, "Directions 2035" is ready for review by the TAC and MIC boards, which together represent the steering committee for the development of this plan. The MIC is preparing to release the draft for an official 30-day public comment period that's tentatively scheduled to begin on June 1, 2010. The date of release will depend largely on feedback received from FHWA between now and then. The MIC staff requests that all TAC and MIC members take the opportunity to review the draft plan and provide input back to the staff before the June 1<sup>st</sup> date.

Please contact Robert Herling at [rherling@ardc.org](mailto:rherling@ardc.org) or (218) 529-7573 for comments or questions.

## MIC Agenda Topics and Project Updates, continued

May 19, 2010 Meeting

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### Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

#### 6. HARBOR PLANNING UPDATE

Staff from the Detroit office of the Army Corps of Engineers has organized a meeting on May 12-13 at the Lake Superior Maritime Visitor Center to discuss a long list of Duluth-Superior harbor topics. MIC staff and HTAC members have been invited to update meeting participants on a number of issues. I would like to update the TAC and MIC on the following topics that are scheduled to be discussed: Dredged material Management Plan (DMMP), Great Lakes Dredging Team, sediment testing in the harbor, potential in-water placement sites for dredged materials, Hearing Island Inlet, federal funding of contaminated sediment remediation, Harbor Partnering Agreement, Erie Pier operations, legal analysis of dredged material management issues, pilot project of mineland reclamation using Erie Pier dredged materials, and using biosolids for mineland reclamation.

Please contact Andy McDonald at [amcdonald@ardc.org](mailto:amcdonald@ardc.org) or (218) 529-7514 for comments or questions.

#### 7. BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PLANNING UPDATE

Information will be presented on the following two initiatives that are currently underway:

##### **Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)**

The next BPAC meeting will be held in May comprising of the new voting members of the committee. This first meeting with the voting members will include a background and overview on the committee as well as will set the direction of the committee for 2010.

##### **Bike to Work Day**

MIC staff is coordinating Bike to Work Day events for 2010. A number of events are being planned this year, including a "Just Bike" event on May 20th at Bayfront Park during the American League of Bicyclists National Bike to Work Week. In addition, the MIC is coordinating a Bike to Work Morning Commuter Break event for Duluth and Superior. Each event will take place on Friday, June 11<sup>th</sup> from 6:30am to 8:30am. The Duluth event will take place at Minnesota Power Plaza at Lake Ave and Superior Street and the Superior event will take place at Belknap and Tower. At these events there will be bicycle commuter information, safety checks and refreshments. As details come together, staff will update members and the community through e-mail as well as on the MIC website. Please contact James Gittemeier at [jgittemeier@ardc.org](mailto:jgittemeier@ardc.org) or (218) 529-7556 for comments or questions.

#### 8. Project Updates

##### **Public Involvement / Social Media Consultant, Rondi Watson**

We are looking to expand our use of online interactive techniques to make our plans and programs more accessible to a wider audience in our public participation efforts. Several web-based resources (e.g., social networking tools such as blogs, Facebook, and Twitter) appear to have the potential to complement our traditional public participation efforts (e.g., [dsmic.org](http://dsmic.org)

## MIC Agenda Topics and Project Updates, continued

May 19, 2010 Meeting

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### Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

website, print ads, press releases, in-person public meetings, etc.).

However, before launching any new initiatives, we want to better understand what the full range of communications and social media options might be, and how to effectively shape and target our messages to improve the number and the quality of the responses we receive. Therefore, we have hired a social media and marketing consultant ([PureDriven](#) from Two Harbors, MN) to assist us in developing an overall communications plan to enhance our public participation efforts. MIC staff will be participating in the first of two strategic planning sessions on May 12 at America's Byways Resource Center, facilitated by Christopher Swanson and Patrick Garmoe of PureDriven. We will keep you apprised of our progress on this new initiative.

#### **Connecting Duluth, James Gittemeier**

Over the last 3 weeks, there were 6 public meetings to discuss bike routes. The meetings were put on by Fit City Duluth, the MIC, and the City of Duluth and sponsored by LISC. At these meetings the public was asked about what transportation routes they currently use to bicycle, which routes would they use if they were safer and to provide addition input on bicycle in Duluth. The data from these interactive work sessions will be compiled and put into a report. This report will be presented at a TAC and MIC meeting this summer, and will help guide the update of the bike route maps, as well as future bicycle initiatives, plans & studies.

#### **TIGER II Grant Application, Ron Chicka**

A second phase of the TIGER Discretionary Grants "TIGER II" was recently announced by the USDOT. It is a \$600 million competitive grant process for surface transportation projects targeted for capital investments in highway or bridge projects, public transportation projects, passenger and freight rail projects, port and infrastructure investments and intermodal facilities. Final applications are due in August. In the last round of the TIGER grant process, MNDOT and the Port authority had put together a project involving improvements to I-35 and roadways and facilities the near the Port offices. All jurisdictions that may consider a project have been or are being alerted.

#### **Blatnik and Bong Bridge Study, Ron Chicka**

The consultant team has been regularly meeting with DOT and MIC staff to provide an update as to tasks conducted. A large and small scale model for traffic in the area has been assembled and ran to determine impact on the network if the Bong has to be fully closed over the 2014 construction season. Specific intersections are under analysis to determine traffic needs under this scenario. Should we have some results by the TAC and MIC meetings, we will update the committees accordingly. A more detailed analysis will be presented to the Boards in the summer.