Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

MEETING NOTICE

Wednesday, January 19, at 7:00 p.m.

WITC Conference Center

Superior, WI

Guest Speakers

- **Duluth Digs (Snow Removal Taskforce)**
  Drew Digby, Duluth Digs
- **WisDOT Roundabouts**
  Dena Young and Marc Bowker, WisDOT

Approval / Voting Items:

- Amendments #1, 2 and 3 to 2011-2014 Duluth Area TIP
- Amendments # 1 and 2 to 2011-2014 Superior Area TIP
- East 2nd Street Corridor Study

Presentation / Discussion / Informational Items:

- Accessing Additional MIC Funds
- HTAC Harbor Planning Update
- Express Bus Route Survey Results
- Duluth TIP Projects 2015

Attendance / Meeting Quorum:

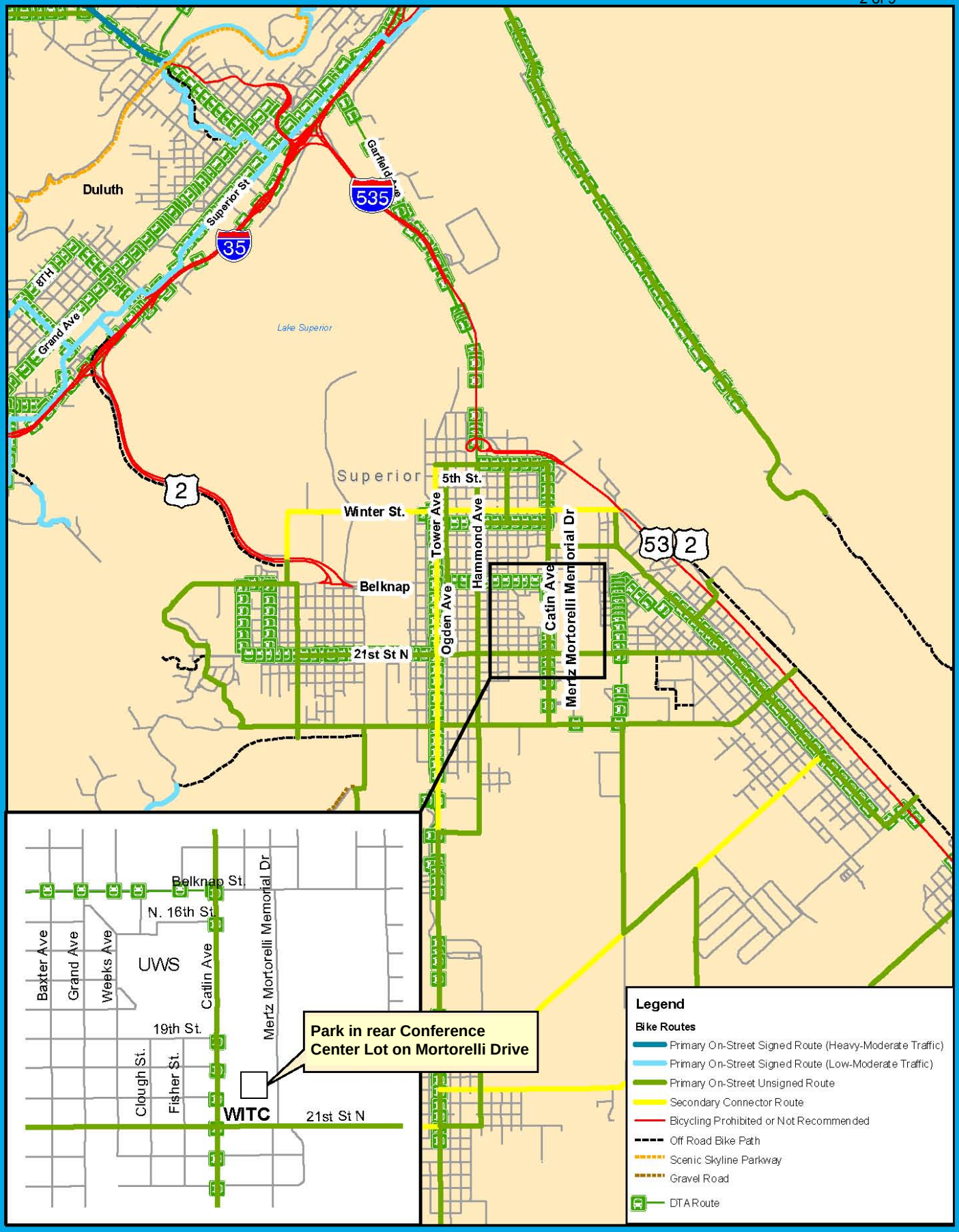
If you are NOT able to attend, or expect to arrive late to the meeting, please contact Beth Krebsbach at bkrebsbach@ardc.org or 529-7541 to ensure a quorum will be present for voting items on the agenda.

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

221 West First Street • Duluth, MN 55802 • 218/529-7541 • Fax 218/529-7592 • www.dsmic.org



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WITC Conference Center

Wisconsin Indian Technical College

600 North 21st St - Superior, WI

Metropolitan Interstate Council Policy Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 19, 2011 at 7:00 pm

WITC Conference Center, Superior, WI

AGENDA

1. Introductions / Agenda Review **2. Committee Business** • Meeting Summary of December 8, 2010 *(for approval)*	*5 min*
3. Guest Speaker: Drew Digby • Presentation and Discussion, *Duluth Digs (Snow Removal Task Force)*	*15 min*
4. Guest Speaker: Dena Young and Marc Bowker • Presentation and Discussion, *WisDOT Roundabouts*	*30 min*
5. Amendments #1, 2 and 3 to 2011-2014 Duluth Area TIP • Review for Approval, *James Gittemeier*	*5 min*
6. Amendments #1 and 2 to 2011-2014 Superior Area TIP • Review for Approval, *Sheldon Johnson*	*5 min*
7. East 2nd Street Corridor Study • Review for Approval, *Robert Herling*	*5 min*
8. Accessing Additional MIC Funds • Presentation and Discussion, *Ron Chicka*	*15 min*
9. HTAC Harbor Planning Update • Presentation and Discussion, *Andy McDonald*	*10 min*
10. Express Bus Route Survey Results • Presentation and Discussion, *Robert Herling*	*10 min*
11. Duluth TIP Projects 2015 • Presentation and Discussion, *James Gittemeier*	*10 min*
12. Project Updates • Northern Lights Express, *Ron Chicka* • Kirkus Street Land Use Plan, *James Gittemeier* • Central Entrance Corridor Study, *Andy McDonald* • Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Bike Map, *Kody Thurnau*	*5 min*

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, February 16, 2011, 7:00 p.m. – Proctor Community Center

Minnesota Members

City of Duluth
Tony Cuneo
Dan Hartman

City of Duluth—Citizen Rep
David Montgomery

City of Hermantown
Wayne Boucher

City of Proctor
Pending Appointment

Duluth Transit Authority
Melanie Hendrickson

St. Louis County
Steve O'Neil, *MN Co-Chair*

St. Louis County Suburban Townships
Earl Elde
Cindy Moe

Wisconsin Members

City of Superior
Warren Bender
Denise McDonald
Dan Olson

City of Superior—Citizen Rep
Ed Anderson

Douglas County
Keith Allen
Nick Baker, *WI Co-Chair*
Kay McKenzie
Jim Paine

Douglas County Suburban Townships
Broc Allen

MIC Agenda Topics and Project Updates

January 19, 2011 Meeting

Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

* = *Approval Item*

1. Introductions / Agenda Review

2. Committee Business

- Meeting Summary of December 8, 2010 * (separate attachment)

3. Guest Speaker – Drew Digby, Duluth Digs

Duluth Digs: Winter Mobility for All

Duluth Digs is the latest effort to encourage Duluth residents, business owners and government entities to remove snow from city sidewalks in a timely fashion. This is a collaborative effort with a multi-pronged approach that challenges community groups to pitch in, reminds land owners that they are ultimately responsible for sidewalk snow removal, and encourages efficient use of scarce city resources. The campaign includes community engagement and education, volunteer coordination and public policy.

4. Guest Speaker – Dena Young, WisDOT

WisDOT Roundabouts

Dena Young and Marc Bowker, from WisDOT, will provide an assessment of how roundabouts are currently being employed throughout the region. They will talk to a couple of real situations where they have been used as well as where they are being considered for use – not in the Superior area yet. They will also have a simulation to show for us that indicates how to navigate a roundabout via a car, truck, bike or pedestrian. This simulation is used as an instruction piece in many of the DOTs education sessions on the topic. For members, this will provide a good background as to our own work as we anticipate conducting a study on a real intersection in the Duluth area later this year (refer to the MIC Work Program).

5. Amendments #1, 2 and 3 to 2011-2014 Duluth Area TIP *

TIP Amendments #1, 2, and 3: 2011-2014 Duluth Urbanized Area

Below are descriptions of the three proposed amendments:

Agency	Project	Reason	Federal $	Total $
DTA	Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) funding	New FTA funding (grant) awarded to DTA	$191,000	$191,000
St. Louis County	Duluth Train Depot Improvements	$840,000 increase in total cost of project (local share only)	$400,000	$1,440,000

St. Louis County	Midway Rd (CSAH 13) Resurface 4.3 miles from Hwy. 2 to Hwy. 194.	New project to the TIP, received additional federal funds distributed to local gov't units.	$1,478,112	$3,250,000

If you have any questions regarding these projects, please contact James Gittemeier at 218-529-7556 or by email at jgittemeier@ardc.org.

6. AMENDMENTS #1 AND 2 TO 2011-2014 SUPERIOR AREA TIP *

TIP Amendment #1: 2011-2014 Superior Urbanized Area

This project enables the City of Superior to complete work on a previously awarded Safe Routes to School grant award for improvements to various locations in the City of Superior. This project had been in the TIP for the past 3 years. It was not included in the 2011-2014 TIP as it had been reported the project(s) would be completed in 2010. However, project activity will continue in 2011, thus requiring the project be relisted in the TIP.

2011 Transportation Improvements Projects (SRTS)

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources (Thousands)			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
City of Superior 113-07- 001 SAFETEA-LU HPP, funding enhancements Amended to TIP in January 2011	SRTS: various locations to be determined. 8998-00-77	TOTAL	452		113	565

TIP Amendment#2: 2011-2014 Superior Urbanized Area

This project enables the expenditure of federal funds to be used to make maintenance and repairs to the Wetland Mitigation Bank site known as the Kimmes/Tobin Wetland Site, located in the Town of Superior. The project is currently using state funding sources but may move to federal funds in calendar year 2011.

2011 Transportation Improvements Projects (Roadway)

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources (Thousands)			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
WisDOT 113-11-010 Amended to TIP in January 2011	Kimmes/Tobin Wetland Mitigation Site – Maintenance & Repairs 1009-54-01	TOTAL		120		120

If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact Sheldon Johnson at 715-635-2197 or by email at sjohnson@nwrpc.com.

7. East Second Street Corridor Study *

Comments on the draft of the East 2nd Street Corridor Study have been received from the City of Superior, WisDOT and the steering committee for the study. Some minor changes have been made to the document as a result. The MIC will present a summary of the comments received and the changes, and be asking for board approval of the plan.

Please contact Robert Herling, at 218-529-7573 or rherling@ardc.org for questions or comments.

8. Accessing Additional MIC Funds

The MIC staff and board, over the coming three to six months, will seek to provide funding to one or more member jurisdictions or authorities to conduct a study within the MIC area using federal dollars that the MIC can access and amend into our work program. These are dedicated MIC funds that have built up to a point that I would like to offer a portion of them to our members to conduct some consultant-led land use or transportation study that would be beneficial to the region. The key aspect to this proposal is that the submitting agency must provide the required 20% match in order to access the federal funds – 80/20 match scenario. The source of the match funds needs to be non-federal. Federal and state agencies will also have to give their approval of any proposed project(s), not unlike all items in our current work program anyway. Some form of resolution committing to the 20% match will be necessary.

The work would be consulted out to the private sector; it would not be conducted via MIC staff. However, the MIC would run the consultant selection process and oversee scope development and steering committee makeup. Essentially, this is just like any other work program amendment—only this time, we will have to solicit, review and choose a study to add to the existing work program using outside assistance with match dollars from a source other than the two host agencies (ARDC or NWRPC). This is something the MIC hasn't done before, but is

certainly quite common among MPOs in conducting work tasks. The total amount available is approximately $200,000. Depending on the response, I would like to get this amount locked in place this year. Also, I would prefer to have two or maybe three studies come out of this though much depends on scope.

For the meeting, as I roll this out, I am looking for any questions or comments you may have as to process and project selection. Initially, my thought is that covering a few modes may be preferable, along with some work on both sides of the bridge. I am currently working on the solicitation letter that will be addressed to all MIC member jurisdictions and partners. Any suggestions as to how to make this process occur more smoothly would be welcome.
For questions or comments, please contact Ron Chicka at 218-529-7506 or rchicka@ardc.org.

9. HTAC Harbor Planning Update

The HTAC met on December 1st at the Inn on Lake Superior in Duluth. Our agenda included presentations on the St Louis River / Interlake / Duluth Tar Superfund Site, the Next Steps in the Area of Concern Program and the Fraser Shipyards Dock Project. We also held a meeting at the ARDC Conference Room to discuss why Erie Pier material was specifically singled out to not be used in the I-35 construction project. I will present a brief summary of the discussion and next steps on this issue.
For questions or comments, please contact Andy McDonald at 218-529-7514 or amcdonald@ardc.org.

10. Express Bus Routes Survey Results

Results from the survey of express-service passengers during the I-35 construction project have been analyzed. Staff will present a summary of the results. The work constitutes Phase I of the DTA's multi-year assessment of its temporary express service, and surveying will resume during the 2011 construction season. The results will be used in a larger study funded by MnDOT to assess the effectiveness of transit-based congestion mitigation strategies during construction projects.
Please contact Robert Herling, at 218-529-7573 or rherling@ardc.org for questions or comments.

11. Duluth Area TIP Projects 2015

The MIC received two projects for 2015 federal funding. At the January MIC and TAC meetings, an overview of the projects will be presented, as well as the comments received at the public information session, held at the Holiday Center on Tuesday, January 11 from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. Here are the projects:

Agency	Project	Federal $	Local $	**Total $**
Duluth	West 1st Street – Reconstruction from Piedmont Ave to Mesaba Ave.	$920,000	$1,080,000	**$2,000,000**

St. Louis County	Martin Rd (CSAH 9) Resurface fromn Midway Rd (CSAH 13) to Rice Lake Rd (CSAH 4).	$2,500,000	$625,000	**$3,125,000**

Please note, as in previous years, the actual scoring session will be held at the February 15th TAC meeting, 1:30 pm at ARDC. In order to participate in the prioritization discussion and scoring process, MIC and TAC members must attend that meeting. The prioritized list of projects that results from that meeting will then be reviewed at the following night's MIC Policy Board meeting for questions and discussion. The MIC Policy Board will then be asked to vote to adopt the prioritized list that will be forwarded to the NE MN ATP for further funding consideration.

If you have any questions regarding these projects, please contact James Gittemeier at 218-529-7556 or by email at jgittemeier@ardc.org.

12. PROJECT UPDATES

Kirkus Street Land Use Plan, *James Gittemeier*

The Kirkus Street Land Use Plan will move forward through the City of Proctor approval process including both Planning & Zoning and City Council. A series of land use recommendations are being made for the land south of Kirkus Street corridor. Once the city approval process has been completed, the plan will be presented to the MIC for final approval. For comments or questions, please contact James Gittemeier at jgittemeier@ardc.org or 218-529-7556.

Northern Lights Express Passenger Rail, *Ron Chicka*

The NLX Environmental Assessment (EA) team has recently reviewed the Concept Cost summary for the three lines that the Federal Rail Administration (FRA) required undergo a full analysis. The BNSF line out of Minneapolis (the line that the team had consistently recommended) is the lowest cost one compared with a line moving out of Minneapolis eastward to I-35 (Rush Line) and then north, or with a line out of Minneapolis directly over to St Paul (along the Central Corridor) and then once again northward along the "Rush Line" adjacent to I-35 and hence points north. FRA was requiring a fully scoped out cost report that would rule out these latter two alternatives. The NLX Passenger Rail Alliance has accepted this Cost Report component of the EA and is now formally submitting the same to the FRA for their determination. In addition, the consultant team is anticipating a meeting with City of Superior staff in the next month to discuss the location of a proposed station location that is assumed in the EA. Please contact Ron Chicka at 218-529-7506 or rchicka@ardc.org for comments or questions.

Central Entrance Corridor Study, *Andy McDonald*
MIC staff is coordinating with City of Duluth staff in coordinating a public meeting that will cover this corridor study and the city's recently completed Unified Development Code in this area. We will structure the corridor study portion of the meeting as a problem identification meeting in order to get the area businesses and residents concerns heard. We are also developing the social media strategy for this study. The first step is to utilize our current website. We will be meeting with the consultants that helped create our communications plan to identify the next steps in the social media strategy for this study. Please contact Andy McDonald at amcdonald@ardc.org or 218-529-7514 for comments or questions.

Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Bike Map, *Kody Thurnau*
The Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Bike Map was last updated in 2003. Since then, bike route signage has been put in place on the Minnesota side of the planning area, as well as the construction of additional multi-use trails. The MIC has begun its design for the print version of the 2011 Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Bike Map which will be followed with an online interactive web map. MIC staff will be working closely with the Bike-Ped Advisory Committee on this project. For comments or questions, please contact Kody Thurnau at kthurnau@ardc.org or 218-529-7515.