

Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council



MEETING NOTICE

Wednesday, September 21, 7:00 pm

Douglas County Government Center Room 270

Superior, Wisconsin

Approval / Voting Items:

- 2011-2014 Duluth Area TIP Amendment #7
- 2011-2014 Duluth Area TIP Amendment #8
- 12-13 Draft Work Program and Budget

Presentation / Discussion / Informational Items:

- Federal Transportation Bill Reauthorization
- BPAC Update
- Central Entrance Study Update
- Lincoln Park Pedestrian Study
- Human Services Coordinated Transit Plan
- HTAC Update
- Project Updates

Attendance / Meeting Quorum:

If you are NOT able to attend, or expect to arrive late to the meeting, please contact **Laurel Davis** at ldavis@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.

Please note: Parking is on the north side of the building, off North 14th St.

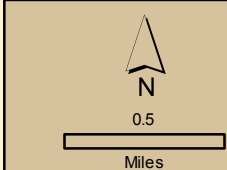
Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

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



Old Government Center



City-County Government Center
 1316 N. 14th Street - Superior, WI





Metropolitan Interstate Council Policy Board Meeting

Wednesday, September 21, 7:00 pm

Douglas County Government Center Room 270, Superior, Wisconsin

AGENDA

Minnesota Members			
<p>City of Duluth Tony Cuneo Dan Hartman</p> <p>City of Duluth – Citizen Rep David Montgomery</p> <p>City of Hermantown Wayne Boucher</p> <p>City of Proctor David Brenna</p> <p>Duluth Transit Authority Melanie Hendrickson</p> <p>St. Louis County Steve O'Neil, <i>MN Co-Chair</i></p> <p>St. Louis County Suburban Townships Earl Elde Cindy Moe</p>	<p>1. Introductions / Agenda Review</p>		5 min
	<p>2. Committee Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting Summary of 8/17/11 (<i>for approval</i>) 		
	<p>3. 2011-2014 Duluth Area TIP Amendment #7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review for Approval, <i>Robert Herling</i> 		5 min
	<p>4. 2011-2014 Duluth Area TIP Amendment #8</p> <p>Review for Approval, <i>Robert Herling</i></p>		5 min
	<p>5. 2012-2015 Draft Work Program and Budget</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review for Approval, <i>Ron Chicka</i> 		15 min
	<p>6. Federal Transportation Bill Reauthorization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation and Discussion, <i>Ron Chicka</i> 		15 min
	<p>7. BPAC Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation and Discussion, <i>Rondi Watson</i> 		10 min
	<p>8. Central Entrance Study</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation and Discussion, <i>Andy McDonald</i> 		10 min
	<p>9. Lincoln Park Pedestrian Study</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation and Discussion, <i>Robert Herling</i> 		5 min
<p>Wisconsin Members</p> <p>City of Superior Warren Bender Bob Browne Dan Olson</p> <p>City of Superior – Citizen Rep Ed Anderson</p> <p>Douglas County Keith Allen Nick Baker, <i>WI Co-Chair</i> Kay McKenzie Jim Paine</p> <p>Douglas County Suburban Townships Broc Allen</p>	<p>10. Human Services Coordinated Transit Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation and Discussion, <i>Robert Herling</i> 		10 min
	<p>11. HTAC Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation and Discussion, <i>Andy McDonald</i> 		10 min
	<p>12. Project Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft 2012-2015 Superior Area TIP, <i>Sheldon Johnson</i> Sidewalk Study, <i>Andy McDonald</i> Social Media Update, <i>Rondi Watson</i> Small MPO Modeling Peer Exchange, <i>Ron Chicka</i> Minnesota Statewide Geospacial Advisory Council, <i>Kody Thurnau</i> 		5 min

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, October 19th, 7:00 pm — Hermantown Training Center

MIC Agenda Topics and Project Updates

September 21, 2011 Meeting



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

* = Approval Item

1. INTRODUCTIONS / AGENDA REVIEW

2. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- Meeting Summary of 8-17-2011* (separate attachment)

3. 2011-2014 DULUTH AREA TIP AMENDMENT #7* *Robert Herling*

The National Scenic Byways Program awarded the City of Duluth \$800,000 for the rehabilitation of the Bridge No. L-6007. The bridge, constructed in 1925 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is an unaltered, single-span, stone-arch bridge that carries an unpaved section of Skyline Parkway over Stewart Creek. Skyline Parkway is designated as a Minnesota Scenic Byway.

The total project cost is \$1 million with the City of Duluth providing the \$200,000 local match. The City applied for the grant from the National Scenic Byways project in June, 2011 and the city received the grant award on August 17th, 2011. The funding is for federal FY 2012 dollars. A special meeting to approve this project has been called because FHWA is urging all project authorizations before September 16th, or they could lose funding.

Project	Federal	Local	Total
Stewart Creek Bridge	\$800,000	\$200,000	\$1,000,000

4. 2011-2014 DULUTH AREA TIP AMENDMENT #8* *Robert Herling*

The proposed TIP amendment contains two separate adjustments to the 2011-2014 TIP. The first change is a funding adjustment: the Duluth Air Guard has agreed to transfer \$1,276,775 of HPP funding originally procured for improved access roads to St. Louis County's Haines Road improvement project (see table below). Haines Road is a primary route to the Duluth Air Guard Base, and the Duluth Air Guard concurs that expenditure of these funds for reconstruction of Haines is a high priority use of these funds.

The other change is an administrative adjustment: MnDOT and the City of Duluth have requested that the Joshua Avenue construction project (currently unfunded) be identified in the STIP as an "illustrative" project to be eligible for programming while the City of Duluth seeks additional funding.

Agency	Description	Federal \$	Local \$	Total \$
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MIC Agenda Topics and Project Updates, continued

September 21, 2011 Meeting

Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

Duluth Air Guard	MN 134 Construction of Primary and Secondary Access Roadways to Duluth Air National Guard Base	2,076,775 800,000	519,194 450,000	2,595,969 1,250,000
St. Louis County	MN 156 St. Louis CSAH 91, DM&IR Crossing at 8th St., Duluth, to CSAH 56 Reconstruct	3,599,601 4,876,376	6,400,399 2,700,000	10,000,000 7,576,376
Duluth	**ILLUSTRATIVE** Duluth Heights Connector (Joshua Ave) from Maple Grove Rd to Arrowhead Road, new roadway.	0	7,200,000*	7,200,000

* Funding source currently not identified.

5. 2012-2013 DRAFT WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET* *Ron Chicka*

For the upcoming meeting, I will review the projects we have slated for next year as well as those for 2013, at least as we know them to date. The budgets will be discussed to a greater extent at the October meetings. In addition, to our ongoing project elements concerning the harbor, bikes and pedestrians, freight planning, transit planning and roadway planning (implementation activities) we will incorporate the following to our Work Program:

Air Service and Air Cargo Expansion Analysis (consultant led)

Duluth Cruise Ship Dock Facility Study (consultant led)

Intersection Control Evaluation Plan (consultant led)

The above take advantage of the reserved federal dollars at the MICs disposal and will be matched entirely by the submitting jurisdiction. Other studies include:

Duluth – 6th AE Corridor Study

Duluth – Lincoln Park Multimodal Transportation Plan

Lastly, the following list represents those tasks that MAY be potential projects (short range) for inclusion in the Work Program:

Duluth – Downtown Streetscape Plan

Duluth – Kenwood/Arrowhead Intersection Analysis

Superior/Douglas County – Parkland Industrial Park Transportation Assessment

Douglas County – County C west of Hwy 35 Transportation Assessment

Please come prepared to the meeting to discuss these projects plus others that may be pertinent to your jurisdiction or organization.

MIC Agenda Topics and Project Updates, continued

September 21, 2011 Meeting

Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council**6. TRANSPORTATION BILL REAUTHORIZATION, *Ron Chicka***

The federal transportation bill is set to expire at the end of this month. It is quite likely that some form of Continuing Resolution (CR) will be put into place by that time to extend the various programs. The length of that extension might be as short as a few weeks, or as long as a few months – probably nothing too greater. The reauthorization is already overdue by more than a year. At a recent conference of the MPOs and DOTs in Wisconsin and Minnesota, we had a series of speakers (including myself) address the topic of the federal bill and its complexities of funding not only programs such as MPOs, but also funding for projects overall across the nation. The gas tax figured in our discussion, but it is likely not the long-term solution (or at best only a part of the solution). Other forms of financing a bill have been discussed including some form of vehicle mileage tax though it is quite uncertain (and debated) as to how that tax would be administered.

We also had in attendance; Tom Petri (U.S. House - 6th District Wisconsin) and long-time Transportation and Infrastructure Committee member provide his thoughts concerning the outlook for the next federal bill. The House, Senate and the Administration have different forms of legislation that, to date, have been discussed some though nothing formally introduced yet. The future prospects of many programs (not just MPOs) could be altered significantly by the next bill. For the meeting, I will outline the various perspectives being considered by the Congress and also discuss the points I provided at the conference on behalf of the MPOs.

7. BPAC UPDATE, *Rondi Watson*

The MIC completed the second the half of the action planning process conducted at the August meeting. The main question of this action planning process is “What does a successful BPAC look like?” Participants in the second half focused on key actions and establishing timeframes for the BPAC wants to accomplish in 2012 and 2013. The results from this action planning process will be reviewed.

8. CENTRAL ENTRANCE STUDY, *Andy McDonald*

MIC staff has almost completed turning movement counts to use as inputs in the small area model. We recently spoke with URS staff (our modeling consultant) about development of the small area model. We will also bring a draft access management policy plan forward for TAC review at our upcoming meetings. We would like to get input as we develop this part of the study.

9. LINCOLN PARK PEDESTRIAN STUDY, *Robert herling*

The Draft Plan, which focuses on connecting the Clyde Iron Complex and the new Lincoln Park Middle School, is being presented to the public for comment and discussion on Thursday, September 22nd from 5pm to 6:30pm at the Harrison Community Center. The specific recommendations for the plan will be presented at this meeting.

MIC Agenda Topics and Project Updates, continued

September 21, 2011 Meeting

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10. HUMAN SERVICES TRANSIT PLAN, *Robert Herling*

A final draft of the Coordinated Human Services Transit Plan for the Arrowhead Region is ready for public review. The plan identifies strategies and projects aimed at improving the quality and coordination of transit services for elderly, disabled, and low income populations. The plan also makes those projects identified eligible to receive future FTA 5310, "New Freedom", and JARC funds. The MIC assisted in the development of this plan, which includes strategies and projects specific to the Duluth-Superior metropolitan area.

Public comments will be taken on the draft plan until November 17th, when the draft plan will be brought before the ARDC Policy Board for approval.

11. HARBOR PLANNING UPDATE, *Andy McDonald*

HTAC met on Wednesday September 7 at the WITC Conference Center in Superior. Our agenda included presentations on the Vintage Vessel National Center of Excellence, Current St. Louis River Area of Concern (AOC) Activities, Using Erie Pier Material in Wisconsin Project, and Moccasin Mike Landfill Dredged Material Demonstration Project. MIC staff also toured Erie Pier on Thursday September 8 with staff from the Army Corps, Port Authority, MnDOT and MPCA as well as members of the HTAC Dredging Subcommittee. This tour was organized to show MnDOT environmental staff how material is processed at Erie Pier. We are still trying to resolve the issue of using Erie Pier material in state construction projects.

12. PROJECT UPDATES

Draft 2012-2015 Superior Area TIP, *Sheldon Johnson*

The Draft 2012-2015 Superior Area TIP has been officially out for public comment since August 26. Public comments will be accepted through September 28, 2011. A public information display will be available at the Government Center on Tuesday, September 20 from 11:30am – 12:30pm highlighting the new projects recommended for inclusion in the TIP. Approval of the TIP will at the October meetings.

Sidewalk Study, *Andy McDonald*

We have hired Mark Mayer as a temp worker to complete the gathering of sidewalk condition data. As of early September, he had made excellent progress and we are over half way done with the data collection phase. MIC staff continues research into criteria used by other communities to prioritize sidewalks. This information will be used in the second phase of the study.

Social Media Update, *Rondi Watson*

There is a great deal of interest in our social media initiatives, as evidenced by several recent invitations to speak on this topic. I presented information about the ways the MIC is augmenting public involvement strategies with our [OpenMIC blog](#) and [Facebook page](#) at the annual MPO/DOT/RPC Conference in La Crosse in late August and at the Social Media Breakfast group in early September. A third presentation is planned for the Minnesota APA conference in St.

MIC Agenda Topics and Project Updates, continued

September 21, 2011 Meeting

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Cloud at the end of this month.

Small MPO Modeling Peer Exchange, *Ron Chicka*

I recently helped in coordinating and participating in a peer exchange for small MPOs across the country in an effort to evaluate the status of transportation modeling within planning agencies. This was sponsored by the Transportation Research Board (TRB) out of Washington D.C. Participants were specifically chosen across the nation from small urban areas in order to ascertain the state of network modeling across a range of agency designation. Nearly all MPOs run a travel demand model to determine levels of congestion for future planning needs along any given road in an urban area. Who exactly runs the model and how often it is used and its role in determining project selection varies from agency to agency. The Peer Exchange was set up to determine a series of best practices for MPOs to follow in getting the most from their models toward decisions in local area planning. A series of recommendations and model resources will be provided as a final product by FHWA in the exchange proceedings.

Minnesota Geospatial Information Office (MnGeo), *Kody Thurnau*

The Minnesota Geospatial Information Office, known as MnGeo, was established in May 2009 as the first state agency with legislatively defined responsibility for coordinating GIS within Minnesota. It was created based upon a recommendation made by the [Drive to Excellence](#) Sub-Cabinet to pursue an enterprise strategy to implementing GIS within the state. Drive to Excellence is a high-level state-government reform program that recommends government reforms that improve government services. Kody will be representing non-metro regional government on MnGeo's Statewide Geospatial Advisory Council, which advises MnGeo about issues, policies, priorities, and investments needed to improve services statewide through coordinated, affordable, reliable, and effective use of geospatial technology.