

Dear Duluth Heights Resident:

We at the Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council (MIC) hope you can take a few minutes to review this information about the 2006 *Duluth Heights Traffic Circulation Study* and will complete and return the enclosed survey.

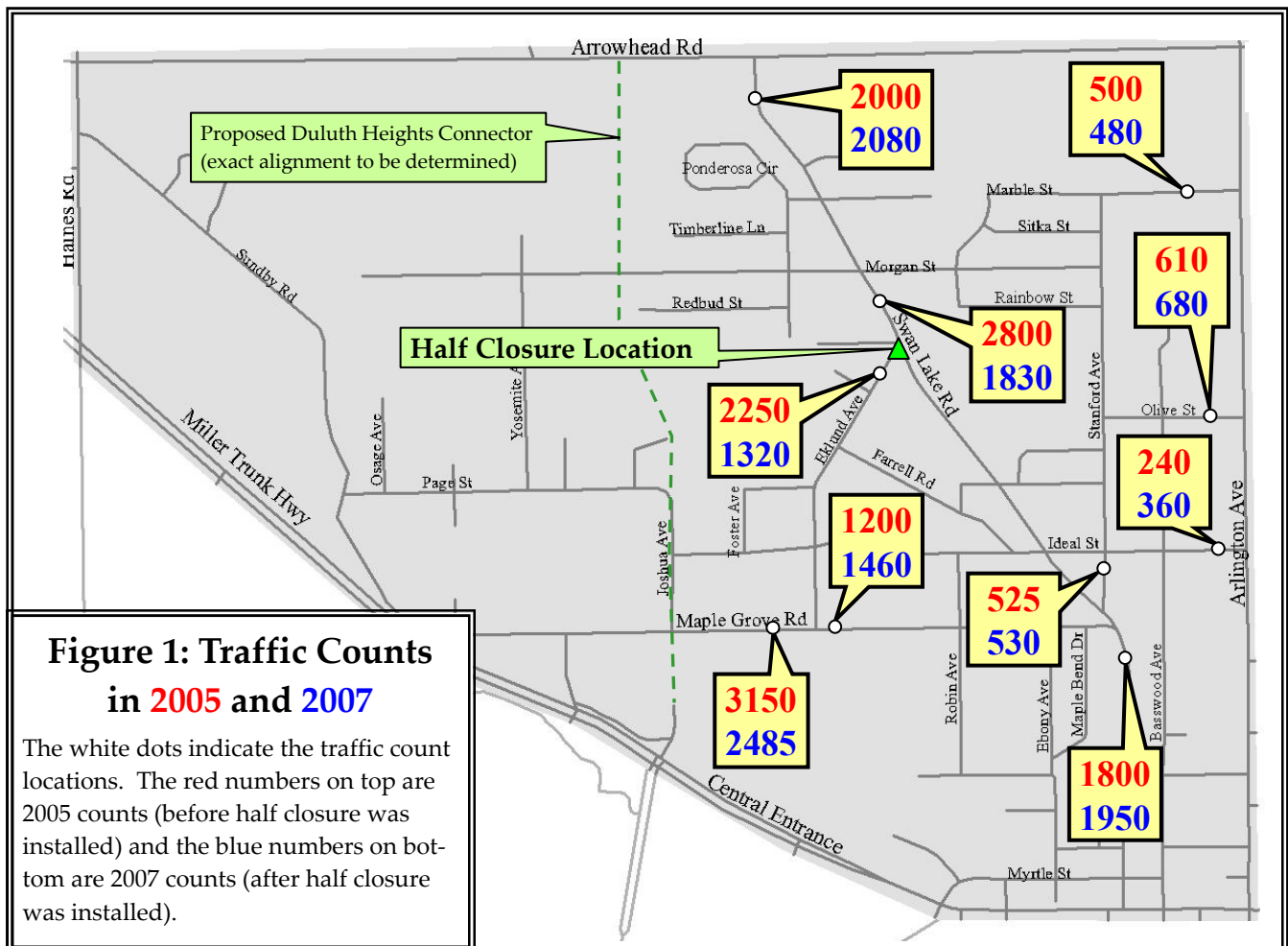
The study was undertaken in response to long-standing neighborhood concerns about the volume and speed of cut-through traffic in the Duluth Heights area.

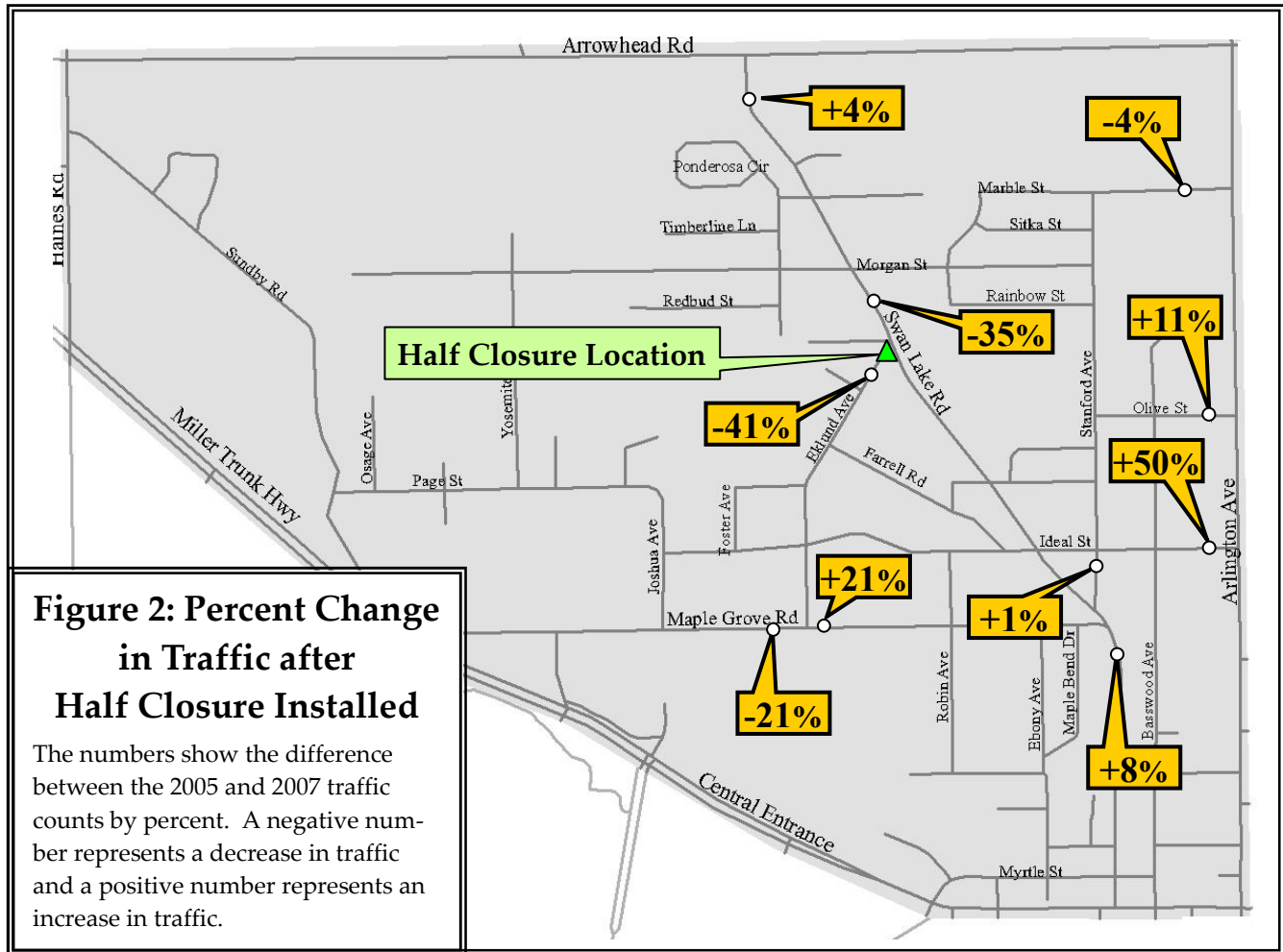
In May 2007, the City of Duluth implemented one of the study's recommendations by installing a temporary half closure at the intersection of Swan Lake Road and Eklund Avenue. The purpose of the half closure is to discourage traffic from cutting through the neighborhood to the Miller Hill Mall area.

The half closure will be removed when a new Duluth Heights Connector (Joshua Avenue extension), is constructed to provide a direct link from Arrowhead Road to Central Entrance.

To measure the effectiveness of the half closure, traffic counts from August 2005 were compared to counts taken in August 2007 (before and after the half closure was installed). **Initial results show that traffic has been reduced on Swan Lake Road and Eklund Avenue by approximately 35-40% (roughly 900 cars a day).**

Figures 1 and 2, below, display the before-and-after traffic counts. Figure 1 shows the numbers of cars per day at each traffic count location, while Figure 2 displays the same data in terms of the percent by which traffic decreased or increased at the same locations.





Summary

The purpose of the enclosed survey is to find out from a neighborhood perspective how well the half closure is functioning. We ask that you take a few minutes to complete the survey and **return it by Wednesday, November 21st.**

In approximately four weeks the survey results will be posted on the MIC's website (www.dsmic.org/dh).

The survey responses will be reviewed by the MIC and City of Duluth staff to determine what type of additional monitoring may be necessary or if any changes to the half closure may be needed.

If you have any questions, please contact Andy McDonald amcdonald@ardc.org or at 529-7514.

Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

Guiding the Future of Transportation for the Twin Ports Area

221 West First Street Duluth MN 55802 / 218-529-7541

www.dsmic.org



Survey of Duluth Heights Residents Regarding Half Closure at Swan Lake and Eklund

1. How has the half closure impacted the traffic near your home?

- Large decrease in traffic
- Small decrease in traffic
- Little or no change
- Small increase in traffic
- Large increase in traffic
- I live too far away to notice any impact

2. Has the half closure impacted your own local travel patterns?

- Yes
- No

2a. If Yes, how many additional miles of travel are added to each driving trip? (e.g., driving to work would be defined as one trip and driving home again would be another).

- Less than one mile per trip
- 1-2 miles per trip
- 2 or more miles per trip

2b. If Yes, please list the roads that you now travel that you didn't prior to the half closure:

3. How many drivers are in your household, and how many vehicles?

Number of drivers: _____ Number of vehicles: _____

4. How many drivers have you witnessed driving around the half closure in the last week?

- 0
- 1-5
- 6-10
- 11 or more

5. Do you have internet access? (We are interested in sharing more information on line and are attempting to gauge how many residents have internet access). **Check all that apply:**

- Home
- Work
- Other source (library, friend or relative, etc.)
- No internet access

6. Are you in favor of keeping the half closure in place until the Duluth Heights Connector (an extension of Joshua Avenue from Central Entrance to Arrowhead Road) is built?

- Yes
- No

7. What is your home address?

8. Comments?
