UMD-CSS Transportation Study

The Metropolitan Interstate Council (MIC) working in conjunction with the University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD), College of St. Scholastica (CSS), and the City of Duluth will be conducting a multimodal transportation study in the area surrounding the two campuses. Both UMD and CSS have grown significantly over the past 10-15 years, putting additional pressure on the transportation network. The supply of transportation infrastructure in the area has not kept pace with the user's demand. Limited financial resources demand that local jurisdictions increase the efficiency of what is currently in place. Free transit passes for students, faculty and staff have helped but area roadways are still experiencing some congestion during peak travel times. Other issues include neighborhood cut through traffic, pedestrian connectivity, sidewalk snow removal and bike safety and accessibility.

The objective of the study is to identify current and future deficiencies in the transportation network and propose methods to improve capacity, access, safety and modal options. The study area will focus on the transportation network in and around both campuses. However, it will differ for each mode of transportation. We will look at pedestrian issues within a two mile radius around each campus. Bike issues will be examined within five miles of the campuses. Transit issues will be examined in the DTA service area. Roadway issues will be examined to the connections with freeways and major arterials.

Work activities for this study include organizing a study committee, reviewing background documents, conducting a detailed examination of the transportation system, public involvement and developing recommendations. The study committee will include members from City of Duluth, UMD, CSS and nearby residents. Background documents to be reviewed include master plans for UMD and CSS as well as the City of Duluth Comprehensive Plan. The examination of the transportation system will include reviewing pedestrian and bicycle networks, transit service, and the area roadways. Public involvement will include campus surveys of students, faculty and staff and a series of public meetings. The study will conclude with a set of recommendations with cost estimates.

For more information about the MIC and this study, go to dsmic.org.