

UMD-CSS Area Transportation Study

Scope of Work

Background

The UMD campus is located between the Kenwood and Chester Park neighborhoods and the College of St. Scholastica (CSS) is located mostly within Kenwood. Both schools' population and campuses have grown significantly over the past 10 years putting additional pressure on the area's transportation resources. The free transit pass program has been successful, however, area roadways are experiencing some congestion in peak travel times and cut through traffic is occurring on residential streets. Other issues in the area include pedestrian connectivity to adjacent commercial areas, sidewalk snow removal and bike safety and accessibility.

By understanding how the two campuses impact the transportation system, we will be better able to plan for proposed future growth. This study will determine how best to utilize the transportation resources in and around the two campuses.

Objective

We propose to conduct a multi-modal transportation study that will examine the impact of the two universities' growth and projected growth on the transportation network, identify deficiencies in the current system and identify methods to improve access, safety and modal options on the transportation network adjacent to UMD and CSS.

Study Area

This study will focus on the areas in and around both campuses. However, the various modes of transportation will extend the study area by different radiuses:

- Pedestrians – 2 miles
- Bikes – 5 miles
- Transit – DTA service area
- Roads – connections to Freeways, Principal Arterials and other Minor Arterials

Major Work Activities

1. **Organize Study Committee with members from the following groups:**

City of Duluth

- Planning
- Engineering
- City Council

UMD & CSS

- Facilities Management
- Administration
- Housing
- Students/Faculty

Neighborhood

Other

2. Review all pertinent prior planning documents

- City of Duluth Comprehensive Plan
- UMD Master Plan
- CSS Master Plan
- Niagara Street Closure Report 2002

3. Conduct a modal review of the transportation network on the UMD/CSS area

Pedestrian Network

- Inventory pedestrian network connections to campus.
- Document/inventory compliance with snow removal ordinance.
- Document missing sidewalk segments.
- Identify potential pathways connecting campus to surrounding neighborhoods and commercial areas.

Bicycle Network

- Inventory bicycle routes in campus area.
- Identify study area roadways that could accommodate striped bike lanes.

Transit Service

- Collect ridership numbers such as UMD generated fare box counts.
- Examine routes and compare to geocoded student, faculty and staff addresses.
- Provide information to DTA for potential transit route adjustments.

Roadway Network

- Examine functionally classified network.
- Identify routes used by students, staff and faculty through geocoding of addresses and using path of least resistance analysis.

- Examine neighborhood cut through issues.
- Conduct crash analysis on study area intersections and corridors.
- Consider impact of new campus entrances on road network.
- Conduct turning movement counts at key intersections.
- Examine current travel demand model results and potentially utilize small area model to examine future growth and development in the area.

4. Public Involvement

- Engage stakeholders in study area, including students, faculty and staff from both universities as well as area residents
- Conduct public meetings to identify problems, present findings and obtain feedback.
- Maintain project website to provide stakeholders and the general public with updated information.
- Administer an online survey to obtain travel preferences and identify transportation network problems and issues.
- Provide visualization of potential improvements.

5. Develop plan recommendations

- Outline a series of improvements to the transportation network for all modes of travel.
- Provide cost estimates for all recommendations.