

MEMO

To: Innocent Eyoh (MPCA), Susan Moe (FHWA), Cindy Carlsson (MnDOT); Ron Chicka (MIC)

From: James Gittemeier, Planner

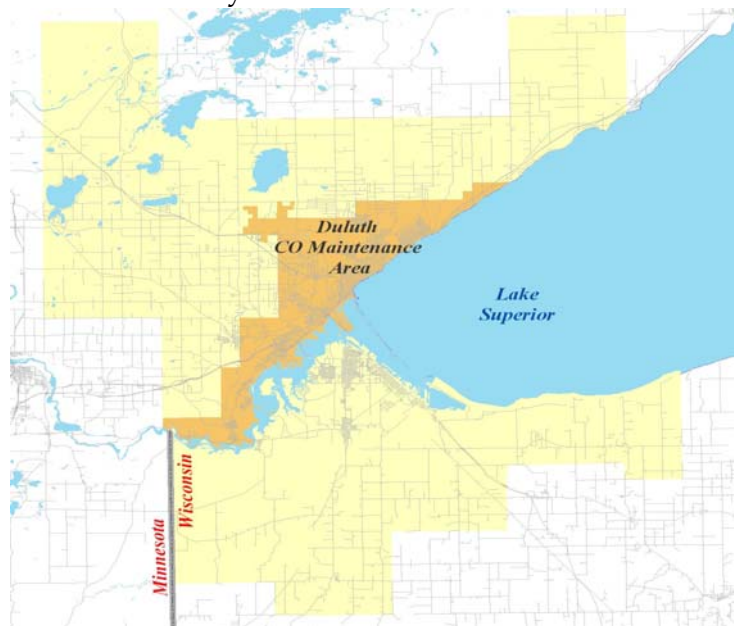
Date: April 11, 2010

RE: Directions 2035 The Duluth-Superior Long Range Transportation Plan – Air Quality Consultation

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The City of Duluth is designated as a carbon monoxide (CO) maintenance area. Therefore, interagency air quality conformity consultation is mandated. Air Quality Conformity certifies that emissions created by programs, policies, and projects included in the LRTP and TIP conform to the allowable limits. Projects are jointly reviewed with federal, state, and local agencies on a case-by-case basis. The City of Duluth air quality maintenance area must conform with the Minnesota State Implementation Plan (SIP) and National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) set by the EPA as mandated by the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 (CAAA).

The Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council (MIC) is updating the region's Long Range Transportation Plan, Directions 2035. The MIC reviewed all projects identified in the LRTP and their possible impacts on air quality. The City of Duluth, as well as the Duluth-Superior region is a very slow growth area. Therefore, the majority of projects are preservation, enhancement or safety-based. However, there were a limited number of projects located within the City of Duluth that warrant further consideration. Here is a listing of these projects and a brief description.



Duluth-Superior MPO and Maintenance Area - Duluth City Boundary

<b>Agency Time-frame</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Air Quality Impact</b>
Duluth 2010- 2015	Joshua Ave Expansion Project	New 1-mile long road from Arrowhead Rd to Maple Grove Rd, providing a missing connection to the Mall area, and eliminating neighborhood cut-through traffic.	Improve neighborhood livability and completion of arterial roadway system to an existing major traffic generator. Carry out project level air quality analysis.
Duluth 2015- 2020	Waseca Industrial Rd Expansion Project	New roadway in West Duluth connecting industrial areas along 61 <sup>st</sup> Ave West to Minnesota Highway 23 and re-routing heavy truck traffic off of residential/neighborhood streets.	Improve safety and neighborhood livability. .Carry out project level air quality analysis.
Duluth 2015- 2020	One-Way Street Conversion Operation & Safety Project	Converting streets in the center of Duluth from one-ways to two-ways, including 1 <sup>st</sup> Street, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Street and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Street as well as 12 <sup>th</sup> Ave East and 14 <sup>th</sup> Ave East.	Reduction of high speed traffic creating more livable and safer residential neighborhoods. Two-ways have low traffic counts and the impacts on traffic flow will be minimal. No significant impacts expected.
Duluth 2015- 2020	London Rd Operations & Safety Project	Retrofitting this 6-lane wide commercial strip from 10 <sup>th</sup> Ave to 26 <sup>th</sup> Ave East with pedestrian and other safety improvement, including making the roadway safer to cross for both pedestrians and drivers.	Improving amenities, to create a safer environment for all users. Minimal impact on traffic flow is expected as traffic count is low. No significant impacts expected.
Mn/DOT 2021- 2035	London Rd Operations & Safety Project	Improving the operations of London Road from 26 <sup>th</sup> Ave to 60 <sup>th</sup> Ave East, including lane modifications (changeable lanes at peak times) and 40 <sup>th</sup> Ave East intersection reconstruction, possibly including a roundabout.	Improve traffic flow along corridor and in turn reducing congestion. No significant impacts expected.
DTA 2010- 2015	Downtown Multi-Modal Terminal	Construction of a new multi-modal terminal in Downtown Duluth, which will serve DTA buses, intercity bus, passenger rail and bicyclists.	Create a more efficient multimodal transportation center, with the goal of inducing higher usage of non-auto modes of transportation. No significant impacts expected.
DTA 2010- 2015	Park and Ride Lots	Construction of new park and ride lots.	Reduce vehicle miles traveled, by encouraging single occupant motorists to combine trips. No significant impacts expected.

Interagency consultation was performed on April 12, 2010 following the interagency consultation process noted in the Duluth Air Quality Maintenance Plan (2002), which is consistent with the Minnesota State Implementation Plan for Air Quality. Representatives from FHWA, MPCA, Mn/DOT and the MIC, discussed the lists of projects in the Duluth-Superior Long Range Transportation Plan and have come to a joint air quality conformity determination that Direction 2035, the Duluth-Superior Long Range Transportation Plan will cause no significant adverse impacts in air quality. Therefore, the interagency air quality consultation participants agree that Direction 2035 the Duluth-Superior Long Range Transportation Plan is consistent with the Duluth Air Quality Maintenance Plan, and Minnesota State Implementation Plan for Air Quality.