



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council
 TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY
Tuesday, April 15, 2008, 1:30 PM

Meeting Location	WITC Conference Center, Superior, WI	
Meeting Chair	Denny Johnson	
Note Taker	Rondi Watson	
Members Present	Jim Benning	City of Duluth
	Jim Foldesi	St. Louis County
	Chuck Froseth	City of Duluth
	Dennis Jensen	Duluth Transit Authority
	Denny Johnson	Mn/DOT District 1
	Cari Pedersen	City of Duluth
	Heather Rand	Mn DEED
	Dena Ryan	WisDOT NW Region
	David Salo	City of Hermantown
	Jason Serck	City of Superior
Members Absent	Jeff Goetzman	City of Superior
	Walter Leu	Mn/DOT District 1
	Paul Halverson	Douglas County
	Bryn Jacobson	Bike/Pedestrian Rep
	Brian Ryks	Duluth Airport Authority
	Jim Sharrow	Duluth Seaway Port Authority
	Cindy Voigt*	City of Duluth
Others Present	Holly Butcher	ARDC / MIC Senior Planner
	Ron Chicka	ARDC / MIC Director
	Andrea Grygo Diamond	ARDC / MIC GIS Specialist
	Robert Herling	ARDC / MIC Associate Planner
	Rondi Watson	ARDC / MIC Secretary
	* Alternate	

1. Introductions and Agenda Review

TAC Chair Denny Johnson called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. and meeting attendees introduced themselves. No changes to the agenda were put forward.

2. Committee Business – Meeting Summary of March 18, 2008

Jason Serck requested that due to a time constraint, his agenda item be moved up as the first to follow after Committee Business. Chair Johnson called for amendments or corrections to the previous month's meeting summary. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve.

Motion and Discussion Jim Foldesi/Jason Serck moved to approve the meeting summary from the March 18, 2008 meeting. There was no discussion and the motion was approved unanimously.

3. Committee Business – Hermantown-Section 13 Internal Traffic Circulation Analysis

Ron Chicka reported that the City of Hermantown had requested that MIC staff follow up with some additional modeling work for the 2005 Hermantown-Section 13 Circulation Analysis. The MIC will team up with the URS Corporation to conduct a number of traffic modeling scenarios for a proposed large expansion of a multiple family residential development along Westberg Road. The City has a short timeframe in which to decide the appropriate action to take relative to the planned expansion. Therefore this project will take priority with MC staff time, with major work activities to be concluded by the end of May.

4. City of Superior – Local Enhancements Project Application

Jason Serck announced that the City of Superior had prepared an application for consideration by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation for funding under the FY 2009-2011 State Multi-Modal Improvement Program (SMIP), which includes the Transportation Enhancement (TE) and Bicycle & Pedestrian Facilities Program (BFPF). The proposed project would construct a paved, non-motorized Moccasin Mike Bypass Trail, connecting the Osaugie trail (tri-county corridor trail system) out to Wisconsin Point. This project is included in the City's overall trail plan, and the estimated cost is approximately \$560,000.

He added that the SMIP process requires a review and ranking of all applications submitted to WisDOT from within the metropolitan planning area and the application due date is 04-18-08.

Motion and Discussion Dennis Jensen/Chuck Froseth moved to make recommendation to the MIC that the City's application for the Moccasin Mike Bypass Trail be forward to the state of Wisconsin. There was no discussion and the motion was approved unanimously.

5. Endion Transportation and Land Use Plan – FINAL

Holly Butcher presented the final version of the Endion and Land Use and Transportation Plan for approval. She reviewed the plan's content, recommendations and implementation strategies. The final document can be viewed at www.dsmic.org/Endion.

Motion and Discussion Chuck Froseth/Jim Benning moved to approve the Endion Land Use and Transportation Plan as presented. *Cari Pedersen asked if there had been any public comments, and added that city staff had not had the opportunity to review or comment. She requested that they be able to suggest minor changes to the plan, if needed, post-approval.* There was no further discussion, and the motion was approved unanimously, with the proviso that City staff review and comment on the final document.

6. Downtown Duluth Modal Connections Study – Scope of Work

Holly Butcher presented the Scope of Work for the Downtown Duluth Modal Connections Study for approval. She explained that MIC staff had recently convened a meeting with stakeholders including the Mayor, Greater Downtown Council President, LHB engineering, City Planning and Engineering staff, and the Duluth Transit Authority. The group agreed that

MIC's role in this study would be to provide technical analysis to support a broader community vision that will be devised by the Greater Downtown Council and city staff.

Motion and Discussion Chuck Froseth/Cari Pedersen moved to approve the scope of work for this plan as presented. *Chuck commented that this was a good opportunity to connect the two areas, analyze pedestrian connections and safety.* There was no discussion and the motion was approved unanimously.

7. Minnesota State Transportation Plan Update

Ron Chicka announced that Mn/DOT is currently undertaking an evaluation of its statewide policy plan covering all modes of transportation. The MIC is assisting this effort by sitting on the overall plan committee and a number of subcommittees as well. He touched upon the considerations that are shaping the direction the plan will take, specifically some of the trends and demographic shifts taking place over the next 30 years. As one example, he noted that for the first time, VMT (Vehicle Miles Traveled) has begun to level off or even decrease in some parts of the state. Up to this point, VMT has steadily increased each year since the 1960's. If this trend continues, assumptions about needing to accommodate greater and greater traffic volumes may prove incorrect, and available revenues from gas taxes and vehicle registrations are projected to decrease as well. Another notable fact is that by the year 2030, one in five persons in the state will be 65 years or older.

He added that the updated plan is likely to place a big emphasis on system preservation—lots of aging infrastructure to take care of—with challenges that include maintaining bridges (3500 structures) and pavement quality, while heavy commercial truck traffic is projected. Construction costs are forecasted to increase significantly.

He noted that every other state is facing similar challenges and limitations. The basic task for the advisory group is to decide whether to maintain the existing vision for transportation that is more of a wish list that does not fully consider funding limitations, or to adopt a more modest approach to project development that is more in line with realistic funding mechanisms.

8. Duluth SRTS Funded Projects Update

Holly Butcher presented an update on the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) projects currently being implemented in Duluth for a total of about \$400,000. She reported that the Lincoln Park plan is moving forward despite the closing of the middle school; it's still worth doing to improve needed pedestrian infrastructure for access to Lincoln Park destination. A district-wide non-infrastructure grant will establish a committee of teachers to devise age-appropriate curriculum. Some modifications will need to be made to the planned sidewalk construction for Congdon Elementary, based on the overall "Red Plan" for reorganizing the schools, but she noted that the SRTS group is working actively with Johnson Controls and they are open to our feedback. Half of the work is slated to be completed this summer and half to be completed next summer. She noted that at a recent public meeting about the Stowe grant, many frustrations were expressed by residents about the lack of snow removal along the recommended walking routes. In regard to planned improvements at Lester Park Elementary, the state SRTS coordinator has expressed some reservations, "to be continued" on that project.

9. Roundtable Discussion

Jim Foldesi announced that St. Louis County had received a Safe Routes (SRTS) grant for speed trailers, will be available for other jurisdictions to use.

Dennis Jensen commented on an editorial that had appeared in Saturday's paper, objecting to the DTA's decision to suspend bus service during Friday's blizzard. He noted that he wrote a rebuttal that would be published on Wednesday, stressing that it was a safety decision not to run the buses that day, considering the severe weather conditions and the fact that the DOT had advised all vehicles to stay off the roads; in addition, all schools, the Miller Hill Mall and almost all other local businesses were closed that day.

10. Project Updates

2008 Bike to Work Day

Ron announced that the MIC is participating again to promote Bike to Work Day on Friday, May 16. MIC staff, along with the YMCA, the DTA, and the Greater Downtown Council, are putting together a morning commute event for bicyclists. The event will be held at the Lake Superior Plaza adjacent to Minnesota Power at the corner of Lake Avenue and Superior Street from 7am to 9am. There will be refreshments, bicycle safety checks, and more as details come together.

2009-2012 MN TIP Update

Ron reported that MIC staff is compiling the Draft FY 2009-2012 Duluth Metro TIP. Each jurisdiction sponsoring a project in the TIP will receive a project status report, with a request for the latest updates. In addition, staff will begin air quality conformity consultation with FHWA, MPCA and MnDOT Central Office. A draft TIP will be released for public comment after the May TAC and MIC meetings, with a final TIP scheduled to be completed in July.

Public Meetings for UMD-CSS Transportation Study

Ron reported that on Wednesday April 2nd, MIC staff hosted a public meeting at UMD's Kirby Ballroom, designed as an issues identification meeting for campus stakeholders and area residents to tell us their transportation issues and concerns. We had a small but enthusiastic turnout that provided us with a lot of information about transportation issues in the area. He added that we will be hosting a similar meeting at 7pm on April 29th at Mitchell Auditorium at CSS.

11. Adjournment

With no further agenda items or announcements, Chair Johnson adjourned the meeting at 3:04 pm