

MEETING NOTICE



TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 20, 2009 at 1:30 p.m.

WITC Conference Center
600 North 21st Street
Superior, WI

Guest Speaker

- James Lasher, LSA Design, Inc. — *Downtown Transportation Terminal Study*

Items for Approval:

- Downtown Duluth Modal Connections Study

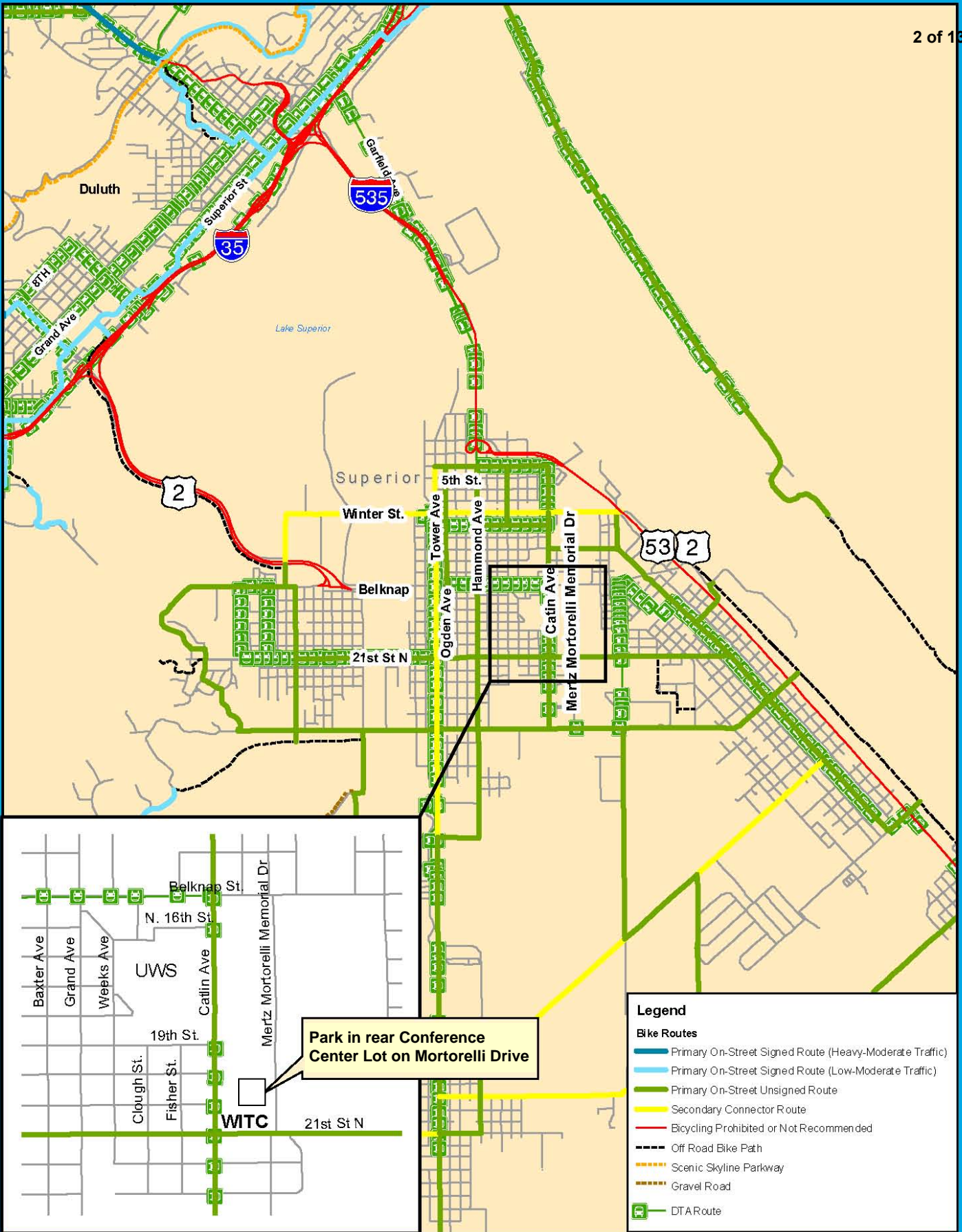
Discussion / Informational Items:

- *Proctor Comprehensive Plan Draft*
- *Long Range Transportation Plan 2035 Update*
- *2010-2013 Duluth Area TIP Project Solicitation*
- *Northern MN/Northwest WI Regional Freight Study*

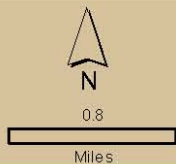
Driving Directions & Parking Information: *See map on next page*

Attendance for Meetings:

If you are NOT able to attend, or expect to arrive late to the meeting, **please contact Rondi Watson at rwatson@ardc.org or 529-7541** to ensure a quorum will be present for voting items on the agenda.



Park in rear Conference Center Lot on Mortorelli Drive



WITC Conference Center
 Wisconsin Indian Technical College
 600 North 21st St - Superior, WI



**TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY
COMMITTEE (TAC)
MEMBERS**

Airport

Brian Ryks
Alison Johnson (alternate)

Bikes / Pedestrians

Bryn Jacobson

City of Duluth

Jim Benning
Chuck Froseth
Cari Pedersen
Cindy Voigt (alternate)
Vacant

City of Hermantown

David Salo
Lynn Lander (alternate)

City of Proctor

Jim Rohweder

City of Superior

Jason Serck
Jeff Goetzman

Douglas County

Paul Halverson

Duluth Transit Authority

Dennis Jensen
Jim Heilig (alternate)

MN DEED Office

Heather Rand

MnDOT

Denny Johnson
Walter Leu

Ports

Jim Sharrow

St. Louis County

Jim Foldesi, *Vice-chair*
Brian Boder (alternate)

WisDOT NW Region

Dena Young, *Chair*

DULUTH-SUPERIOR
METROPOLITAN INTERSTATE COUNCIL

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, January 20, 2009 at 1:30 p.m.

WITC Conference Center
Superior, WI

AGENDA

1. Introductions / Agenda Review	5 min
2. Committee Business – for approval <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TAC Meeting Summary of December 9, 2008 • Officer Elections 	
3. DTA Projects Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Downtown Transportation Terminal Study, <i>James Lasher, LSA Design</i> • Transit Vision Update, <i>Holly Butcher</i> 	40 min
4. Downtown Duluth Modal Connections Study - Final <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review for Approval, <i>Holly Butcher</i> 	15 min
5. Proctor Comprehensive Plan Update - Draft <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation and Discussion, <i>James Gittemeier</i> 	15 min
6. Long Range Transportation Plan 2035 Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation and Discussion, <i>Robert Herling</i> 	15 min
7. 2010-2013 Duluth Area TIP Project Solicitation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation and Discussion, <i>James Gittemeier</i> 	10 min
8. No. MN/NW WI Regional Freight Study <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation and Discussion, <i>Andy McDonald</i> 	10 min
9. Roundtable Discussion – Local Projects	10 min
10. Project Updates And Informational Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connections 2030, <i>Ron Chicka</i> • East 2nd Street Access Management Plan, <i>Robert Herling</i> • UMD-CSS Transportation Study, <i>Andy McDonald</i> • TRB Annual Conference, <i>Ron Chicka</i> 	5 min

**Next TAC Meeting and
2013 Duluth Area TIP Project Prioritization Session:**

**Tuesday, February 17, 2009, 1:30 pm
Proctor Community Center**

TAC Agenda Topics and Project Updates

January 20, 2009 Meeting



Transportation Advisory Committee

* = Approval Item

1. INTRODUCTIONS AND AGENDA REVIEW

2. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- **Meeting Summary of December 9, 2008*** (*enclosed, pp. 7-13*)
- **2009 TAC Officer Elections**

At the December meeting, Jim Foldesi volunteered to serve as the Vice-Chair for 2009. Following TAC protocol, 2008 Vice-Chair Dena Ryan will serve as the TAC Chair this year. We will formalize the nominations of both officers by a vote at the start of the meeting.

3. GUEST SPEAKER: DTA PROJECTS UPDATE

- **Downtown Transportation Terminal Study**

James Lasher, LSA Design, Inc. or an associate will be on hand for the TAC and MIC to provide an update on where the Downtown Transportation Terminal Study for the DTA stands. There is a very short turnaround for this project in order to get it before a federal funding stream in the near term. The consultant team will discuss, in general terms, what is being proposed for the DTA in terms of service downtown and a future terminal site with multiple functions. Len Simich, CEO of the Southwest Transit Commission in Eden Prairie, and a sub-consultant for the study may also attend. Len has a background in development of stations such as the one being proposed for the DTA and is a former MIC Director.

- **Transit Vision Update**

MIC staff has been assisting the DTA with an update of their Transit Vision transit development plan. At the November DTA Board meeting, MIC staff facilitated a SWOT analysis with board members lending direction for the updated Transit Vision. DTA staff administered passenger and driver surveys this fall and have analyzed the results. This information will be shared at the January meetings.

4. DOWNTOWN DULUTH MODAL CONNECTIONS STUDY* (*attached as separate document*)

The final Downtown Duluth Modal Connections Study, which advises decision-makers on how and where to better accommodate pedestrian connections throughout the downtown and Canal Park districts, will be presented for approval at the January meetings. A copy of the plan will be available online at <http://www.dsmic.org/modal>. If you have comments or questions, please contact Holly Butcher at holly.butcher@ardc.org or (218) 529-7548.

5. PROCTOR COMPREHENSIVE PLAN-DRAFT

Since 1997, Proctor undertakes the process of updating its Comprehensive Plan every 5 years. The major issues driving this update include:

1. Kirkus Street and the opening up of land for potential development;

TAC Agenda Topics and Project Updates, continued

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Transportation Advisory Committee

2. Health issues, particularly as they relate to obesity and physical inactivity;
3. Trends of the baby boom generation aging and their impacts;
4. Sustainability and steps the city can take to be more sustainable.

MIC staff is working on completing the draft Comp Plan, with a major focus on Proctor's Goals, Strategies and Action Steps. The Draft Plan will be presented at the January meetings. The plan will then move through the City of Proctor approval process in February, with the final Comp Plan and revisions present to the MIC in March. For comments or questions, please contact James Gittemeier at jgittemeier@ardc.org or (218) 529-7556.

6. LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN 2035 UPDATE

Work continues to update the traffic model and determine the Goals & Objectives for the LRTP. A title for the plan has been selected, "Directions 2035", represented by a logo of a road sign to symbolize the various changes in regional priorities and state and federal policies as we head into the next 20 years of transportation planning. The focus of the coming month will be to identify the primary policy objectives at the state and federal levels that the goals and objectives of Directions 2035 should reflect. As with the LRTP updates of previous years, the involvement of the TAC and MIC members will be integral in helping to identify and define the final goals and objectives of the plan. If you have you comments or questions, please contact Robert Herling at rherling@ardc.org or (218) 529-7573.

7. 2010-2013 DULUTH AREA TIP PROJECT SOLICITATION *(attached as separate document)*

In December, the eligible jurisdictions submitted 5 projects for federal transportation funding for FY 2013. The projects are as follows:

- DTA – purchase of 6 STRIDE buses
- Duluth – 10th Ave East Reconstruct from E. 2nd St. to E. 9th St.
- Duluth – Duluth Heights Connector (Joshua Ave) New Construction
- St. Louis County – Martin Road Rehabilitation from Arnold Rd to Jean Duluth Rd
- MN/DOT – I-35 Preservation work from Boundary Ave to Pine County.

In January, project applications will be distributed to the MIC and TAC for their review. Each member will be asked to score each project based on the adopted Project Selection Criteria in preparation for the project prioritization session at February's TAC meeting. The public will be given an opportunity to comment on the projects at a public meeting that will be held in early February. For comments or questions, please contact James Gittemeier at jgittemeier@ardc.org or (218) 529-7556.

8. NORTHERN MN/NORTHWESTERN WI REGIONAL FREIGHT STUDY

Data collection efforts continue with much of the information already obtained. Highway, freight railroad, port and waterway facilities, air cargo and pipeline inventories are nearly complete. Maps of these elements have been generated and are displayed on the project website (www.dot.state.mn.us/planning/freightplan). Stakeholder input has also begun with interviews

TAC Agenda Topics and Project Updates, continued

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Transportation Advisory Committee

of key business operators completed. Wilbur Smith Associates staff, with assistance of MIC staff, completed four interviews in the Duluth area during the third week in December – Cirrus Designs, Midwest Energy Resources Company, Lake Superior Warehousing, and Hallett Dock Company. More interviews are scheduled for January. A Freight Forum has been scheduled for the morning of February 25th at MnDOT District One in Duluth. If you have you comments or questions, please contact Andy McDonald at amcdonald@ardc.org or (218) 529-7514.

9. PROJECT UPDATES

Connections 2030, Ron Chicka

Stay tuned for a couple of presentations from the Central Office of the Wisconsin DOT regarding their Long Range Transportation Plan – *Connections 2030*. On February 11th at 5:00 pm at the UW-Superior Rothwell Student Center, WisDOT staff from the Madison office will be presenting the plan for public input. Also, at the February TAC meeting we have invited the DOT to present the document for input and feedback. Note that the DOT will attend only the TAC in February, not the MIC Policy Board meeting. Those members of the MIC Board are encouraged to either attend a briefing at the TAC meeting or the larger one hosted at UW-Superior.

East 2nd Street Access Management Plan, Robert Herling

Work on the East 2nd Street Access Management Plan is picking up again. Results from the various data gathering and analysis tasks are being compiled, maps are being created and drafting of a plan document has begun. The study committee for this project will convene again before the end of January to be briefed on the results of a recent speed study done along East 2nd Street, and to begin to develop recommendations regarding access management strategies for the corridor.

UMD-CSS Transportation Study, Andy McDonald

We are in the solution identification phase of the study and are looking at recommendations to improve walking, biking, transit, traffic flow and safety in the campus areas. We will be scheduling the next study committee meeting soon to discuss solutions to problems that were identified, including snow removal and gaps in the sidewalk network, neighborhood cut through traffic, and traffic flow and crash problems at a couple of intersections.

TRB Annual Conference, Ron Chicka

Andrea Diamond, our GIS Specialist, and I attended the annual Transportation Research Board conference in Washington D.C. last week where Andrea presented the visualization component from the 2008 Endion Transportation and Land Use Study, which was key in gaining support for the planning initiatives detailed in the recommendations. Our work was chosen from a large pool of potential projects to be showcased at this conference. The MIC has been chosen a number of times for this honor and we are very appreciative for this request. The conference itself is a premiere one for transportation professionals in a multitude of fields with sessions covering the gamut of planning topics. I also participated in a number of meetings as a member of the TRB Committee on Transportation Planning for Small and Medium Sized Communities.



Transportation Advisory Committee

MEETING SUMMARY

Tuesday, December 9, 2008, 1:30 PM

Meeting Location	WITC Conference Center, Superior, WI	
Meeting Chair	Dena Young, TAC Vice-Chair	
Note Taker	Rondi Watson, MIC Staff	
Members Present	Brian Boder*	St. Louis County
	Jim Foldesi	St. Louis County
	Chuck Froseth	City of Duluth
	Bryn Jacobson	Bike/Pedestrian Rep
	Dennis Jensen	Duluth Transit Authority
	Alison Johnson*	Duluth Airport Authority
	Walter Leu	Mn/DOT District 1
	Cari Pedersen	City of Duluth
	Heather Rand	Mn DEED
	Brian Ryks	Duluth Airport Authority
	David Salo	City of Hermantown
	Jason Serck	City of Superior
	Dena Young	WisDOT NW Region
Members Absent	Jim Benning	City of Duluth
	Jeff Goetzman	City of Superior
	Paul Halverson	Douglas County
	Jim Rohweder	City of Proctor
	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
	James Gittemeier	ARDC / MIC Planner
	Robert Herling	ARDC / MIC Planner
	Andy McDonald	ARDC / MIC Principal Planner
	Jerrid Mulligan	ARDC / MIC Intern
	Rondi Watson	ARDC / MIC Secretary
	* Alternate	

1. Introductions and Agenda Review

TAC Vice-Chair Dena Young called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. and meeting attendees introduced themselves. Brian Ryks introduced Alison Johnson, who was replacing Susan Thompson as alternate for the Duluth Airport.

James Gittemeier requested a change to the agenda to include a new voting item, Amendment #1 to the 2009-2012 Duluth Area TIP, recently requested by MnDOT and the DTA.

Motion and Discussion Jason Serck/Jim Foldesi moved to approve the change to the agenda. There was no discussion and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

2. Committee Business – Meeting Summary of October 14, 2008

Chair Young called for amendments or corrections to the previous TAC meeting summary. Hearing none, she asked for a motion to approve.

Motion and Discussion Jim Foldesi/Jason Serck moved to approve the meeting summary from the October 14, 2008 meeting. There was no discussion and the motion was approved unanimously.

Committee Business – 2009 TAC Officers

Ron Chicka asked for a volunteer to serve as the Vice-Chair for the upcoming year. Following TAC protocol, current Vice-Chair Dena Young (WisDOT) will serve as the 2009 TAC Chair.

Jim Foldesi agreed to serve as 2009 Vice-Chair. Ron thanked him for his participation and added that nominations for both officers will be formalized by a vote at the start of the January 2009 meeting.

Committee Business – 2009 Meetings Schedule

Rondi Watson distributed a calendar showing the dates and locations of next year's TAC meetings and requested that members place these dates on their 2009 schedules. The meeting schedule is also available to view online, at www.dsmic.org.

3. Amendment #1 to 2009-2012 Duluth Metro Transportation Improvement Program

James Gittemeier presented an amendment to add a project for inclusion in the current (2009-2012) Duluth Urbanized Area TIP, to provide DTA transit service to the Cirrus facility. In December, the Duluth Transit Authority received Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) Small Urban funding for FY 2009, which helps cover the operating cost of providing transit service to the Airpark employment area adjacent to the Duluth International Airport. He explained that the federally funded JARC program was set up to provide funding to transit agencies in order to provide "reverse commute" transit service to the job centers located outside the central business districts.

He added that since the JARC funds were not approved prior to adoption of the FY 2009 – 2012 Duluth Metro TIP and therefore requires an amendment. This project is exempt from air quality review. Funding Amounts include \$187,973 (federal) and \$187,973 (local) for a total of \$375,946.

Motion and Discussion Jason Serck/Jim Foldesi moved to approve Amendment #1 to the 2009-2012 Duluth TIP as presented. There was no further discussion and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

4. 2009-2010 MIC Work Program and Budget

Ron Chicka presented the final 2009-2010 Work Program and Budget for approval. He began by discussing the short range projects already underway in 2008 which will continue into 2009—the UMD/CSS Transportation Study, the East 2nd Street Access Management Plan and the Blatnik Bridge Study. He noted, in reference to the latter study, that WisDOT had rescinded its request

that we model the impact of a closure of the Bong/Hwy 2 bridge in the summer of 2014 for planned re-decking work. The Blatnik Study was to include a technical report of those modeling results, but they pulled \$50k for that component.

Jason Serck mentioned that a scheduled road project will close Tower Avenue for part of the year in 2013. Because it can be foreseen that this project will likely have traffic impacts on the bridges, as well, he offered to assist in gathering support (mayor's office, BID district) to restore the WisDOT funding.

Walter Leu suggested that the funding situation might also change due to the upcoming federal stimulus package, with the possibility of new local infrastructure projects.

Other programmed projects for 2009 include a Kirkus Street Corridor Plan examining land use, zoning, and pre-streetscaping for the City of Proctor before full-scale development gets going along that new street, as well as a Growth Impact Study for the greater Superior urban area, similar to the one conducted in 2004 for Duluth. The Long Range Planning element will also take up a lot of staff time this year, with the federal requirement to update the MIC's current LRTP through 2035; rural transit, pedestrian and bike planning issues are likely to be addressed in the LRTP update. He added that our involvement in the Regional Freight Plan will be a large undertaking and is a major reason why the budget is substantially larger in 2009 than in 2008.

For 2010, a corridor study will get underway to examine issues and solutions for Central Entrance between Mesaba Avenue and Anderson Road, as well as a Roundabout Site Feasibility Study to determine which intersections within the MIC planning area are best suited for a roundabout configuration. He noted that "small improvements" were likely to be a common theme to aid traffic movements in the future, as opposed to recommendations for new construction.

Chuck Froseth mentioned that a sub-area planning group will get underway at the City level to study the area around Central High School, due to recent rezoning requests, transportation and land use issues. The MIC may have a role to play; perhaps some of the tasks scheduled for 2010 may need to get underway in 2009.

Ron added that ongoing planning functions will include the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), harbor (HTAC) planning, bike route planning, and plan implementation with a focus in 2009 on rail plans that are underway by both the DTA and St. Louis County.

Ron closed by noting that funding for the coming year is covered, though he is still attempting to involve the Wisconsin DOT to assist in matching federal dollars, therefore putting less strain on the ARDC local match. He emphasized that the timing of all projects can be juggled a bit based on needs and jurisdictional priorities. He closed by requesting approval of the final Work Program and Budget for 2009-2010.

Motion and Discussion Dennis Jensen/Jason Serck moved to approve the final 2009-2010 MIC Work Program and Budget as presented. There was no discussion and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

5. Northern MN/Northwest WI Regional Freight Study

Andy McDonald reported that the consultant team hired for this project is led by Wilbur Smith Associates, which brings a great deal of experience in this type of planning effort. The study steering committee includes both MnDOT and WisDOT staff, DNR staff from both states, university level partners, St Louis and Douglas County staff and Port Authority staff.

The steering committee met on November 12 to discuss each participant's role in the initial data collection phase of this study. The MIC will be responsible for gathering much of the freight-related data for the Wisconsin portion of the study area. They also discussed some of the stakeholder input strategies, including forming a technical advisory committee, posting web-based surveys, and conducting primary business interviews with six "Tier One" companies in the region. He added that several Duluth and Superior area businesses will be tapped to give their input as well.

In addition, a public meeting (a regional freight forum) is scheduled to be held at Mn/DOT on February 25.

Brian Ryks commented that the Duluth airport presents opportunities that businesses should be aware of--they competed successfully for FedEx "sweeper" aircraft (heavy lift capability) to be based out of Duluth, designed to stop in other regional airports as well. Andy responded that we will include them as part of the final freight profile, and will add the Duluth Airport to the list of organizations to be interviewed.

6. Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Project Applications

Holly presented information about the five applications that were submitted to MnDOT on behalf of the Proctor and Duluth School Districts for the final round of SRTS funding. She stressed the all-staff effort required to pull off these applications; as well as the inter-jurisdictional cooperation and collaboration needed to gather data. Robert Herling and Rondi Watson authored two of the applications, and St. Louis county conducted a speed study on very short notice for the Jedlicka Middle School project.

In Proctor, MIC staff reviewed transportation patterns and issues around Bay View Elementary and Proctor Middle Schools. An assessment with county and city engineers was conducted with Proctor School District staff in October.

She added that the Duluth School District's "Red Plan" has changed many of the original recommendations and required that MIC staff newly assess some of the school sites (Lester Park, Grant Elementary) to be able to submit the grant applications. In meetings with the Duluth Public School District, they also discussed the implementation of existing grants and she noted that it was encouraging to see that the Safe Routes grants were functioning the way they were intended, by spurring citizen participation to champion SRTS goals. Fit City Duluth worked actively with the Duluth school district to lift its ban on biking to school, and significantly, that policy was changed to allow biking to school. The group will be also conduct a bike rack inventory and is looking at other ways to promote biking to school. The SRTS applications now included requests for funding bike racks.

She closed by noting that this is the last grant cycle for SRTS funding from the current federal transportation bill, and because the program is by now well known as a funding source, it will

likely be a more competitive process than in the past. Awards will be announced in 8-10 months. Ron added that he is hopeful that at least one or two of our project applications will be funded.

7. Long Range Transportation Plan Update 2035

Robert Herling reported that the MIC will begin the process of updating the Goals & Objectives for the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) 2035. He added that as with previous updates, the involvement of the TAC and MIC members will be integral in helping to define these. Public input will also be sought, and the MIC will be advertising, via the local media, a web page specific to the LRTP 2035. This web page will include a meeting calendar, a brief survey, and the opportunity for people to comment. Regular newsletters and public meetings are also planned. It is hoped that together these tools will help shape the goals and objectives that will form the foundation of the plan.

Noting that they are often used interchangeably, he spent a little time clarifying the distinction between a goal (a broad statement) and an objective (a single, specific, measurable implementation step). It is hoped that this process will result in jurisdictional project lists that better reflect the identified goals and objectives, and standards by which to assess proposed projects.

8. Proctor Comprehensive Plan

James Gittemeier reported that a community-wide "Roundhouse Meeting" was held on November 13 to review the goals of the plan and give the public another opportunity to have a meaningful impact on the ways the City should focus its resources. The meeting was very well attended, and included presentations by several seventh-graders who are participating in a year-long class project focused on how to make Proctor a more sustainable community. Their proposed projects needed to be able to pay for themselves within five years and had to explain what sustainability principles are addressed. The students' ideas included community composting, sustainable housing, a community garden, wind turbines at the Spirit Mountain ski area to supply power for outdoor lighting and chalet; and an indoor sports complex (an idea that's been around for awhile, a need to provide a community facility for after-school youth activities).

The presentation on housing spurred a broader discussion reflecting participants' interest in developing more varied housing stock, i.e., providing alternatives to today's limited choices of single family housing vs. senior apartments. They also looked at the need to revise zoning codes to allow mixed uses. Discussion also centered on another widely held goal of establishing a grocery store in the city, by taking a closer look at what type of grocery store they could realistically attract. Other topics of discussion included ways to enhance transit amenities and expand bus service, as well as an interest in infrastructure that prevents water from going down the hill (I&I issues).

James closed by noting that the planning process will conclude with a draft plan for review in January. The plan will then move through the City of Proctor approval process in February, with the final Comp Plan before the MIC in March.

9. Harbor Planning / Harbor Technical Advisory Committee (HTAC) Update

Andy McDonald presented an overview of the most recent HTAC meeting held at the WITC Conference Center on December 3rd. The agenda included a presentation about a new project, funded by NOAA and conducted jointly by the Minnesota and Wisconsin Sea Grant programs, to

study and educate communities about the impacts of climate change on the Great Lakes ports, harbors and marinas. The agenda also included presentations about the Erie Pier Process Re-use Facility Cost and Market Analysis Research conducted by researchers in the business school at UMD; a recent tour of Baltic seaports, sponsored by the Great Lakes Maritime Research Institute; the Dredged Material Management Plan (DMMP) Update; and a report of the recent Great Lakes Commission Annual Meeting.

Andy expanded on the DMMP Update, noting that this time around, the process is dramatically improved—the Update is conducted by the Army Corps of Engineers and identifies approved projects to utilize dredged material from the Duluth-Superior harbor for the next twenty years. By involving the HTAC upfront, it will be much less expensive for the Corps, and likely to have much better local buy-in, by focusing their efforts on projects that have been closely reviewed and identified by harbor stakeholders.

10. Roundtable Discussion

Brian Ryks noted that it had been a tough year in the airline industry; airlines affected, Cirrus cutting jobs; but the Guard base still was able to fund the development of a paved road on the interior perimeter road; now, fuel tankers don't have to cross the runways. Additionally, \$3.7 million in improvements were made to the Monaco air facility, which he described as a great public-private partnership, many players with matching funds (DEED, MnDOT Aeronautics and others leveraged \$3 mil fed/state dollars). New corporate hangar sites are now available with other business opportunities. He added that the FAA recently contacted them to ask if the airport could handle more dollars (in advance of possible infrastructure stimulus projects).

Chuck Froseth reported that the City of Duluth's fifty-year-old zoning code is finally being updated, a new staff person has been hired, and the consultant, Clarion Associates from Denver, CO). The kickoff to this process will be a public meeting.

Dennis Jensen announced that the DTA just awarded a contract to a consultant (LSA Design) to conduct its Downtown Transportation Terminal Study and three other adjunct projects. He added that the main objective is to put a price tag on the projects as well as to identify potential funding streams.

11. Project Updates

Duluth Area TIP Applications

James Gittemeier reported that in October, MIC staff met with each Duluth-area jurisdiction that is eligible for federal transportation funding to review projects in the current TIP and to discuss regional needs identified in the Long Range Transportation Plan. Project applications for 2013 federal funding were sent out to the jurisdictions on November 10 and the project solicitation period runs to December 19th, when applications are due.

Superior-Pedestrian Committee

Ron Chicka reported on his participation in the new Pedestrian Safety Committee for the City of Superior, which is facilitating a process to review policies and projects throughout the community, taking into account the various planning efforts conducted by the MIC toward this issue. MIC products to aid this effort include data and recommendations from the 2005 Superior Safes Routes to School plan and the 1999 Metropolitan Pedestrian Plan and the Superior Sidewalk Inventory.

Committee participants include City Planning and Engineering staff, as well as representatives from the Police department, School District and City Council. The MIC has made connections with Wisconsin Walks (www.wisconsinwalks.org) to come to the city and help guide their initiatives. This committee is an important first step toward the City putting together the resources to determine priorities for pedestrian and some improved bike movement within Superior.

Jason Serck commented that the Police Department has been fielding a number of comments about pedestrian safety concerns, near misses, etc., so the City may take it a step further with a workshop in the spring. Possible improvements may include pedestrian alert stanchions to alert drivers of crosswalks. He added that this is an implementation effort based on a solid planning foundation and local buy-in.

Twin Cities to Twin Ports Rail Coalition

Ron Chicka reported that this initiative recently received two different funding boosts to continue planning efforts to establish passenger rail service between Duluth – Superior and the Twin Cities. A \$1.1 million matching grant was awarded by the Federal Railroad Administration to complete the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS), the next major step in the re-establishment of this line. Also, St Louis County has allocated funds to undertake a study of expansion potential of the Duluth Depot as it relates to the potential new rail service. The MIC has been asked to review project applicants along with sitting on the study steering committee.

East Second Street Study

Robert Herling reported that in October, speed counts were conducted at several locations along East 2nd Street in Superior. Preliminary analysis has been done on these data, and will be presented to the study's steering committee in January 2009, to develop recommended improvements for the corridor.

12. Adjournment

With no further agenda items or announcements, Chair Young adjourned the meeting at 3:20 pm.