

MEETING NOTICE



TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, February 17, 2009 at 1:30 p.m.

Proctor Community Center

100 Pionk Drive

Proctor, MN

Items for Approval:

- 2009-2012 Superior Area TIP Amendments #1 & 2
- 2013 Duluth TIP Project Prioritization

Discussion / Informational Items:

- MIC Long Range Transportation Plan –Goals & Objectives
- American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan–Proposed FHWA & FTA Projects for the MIC Area
- DTA Projects Update

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.

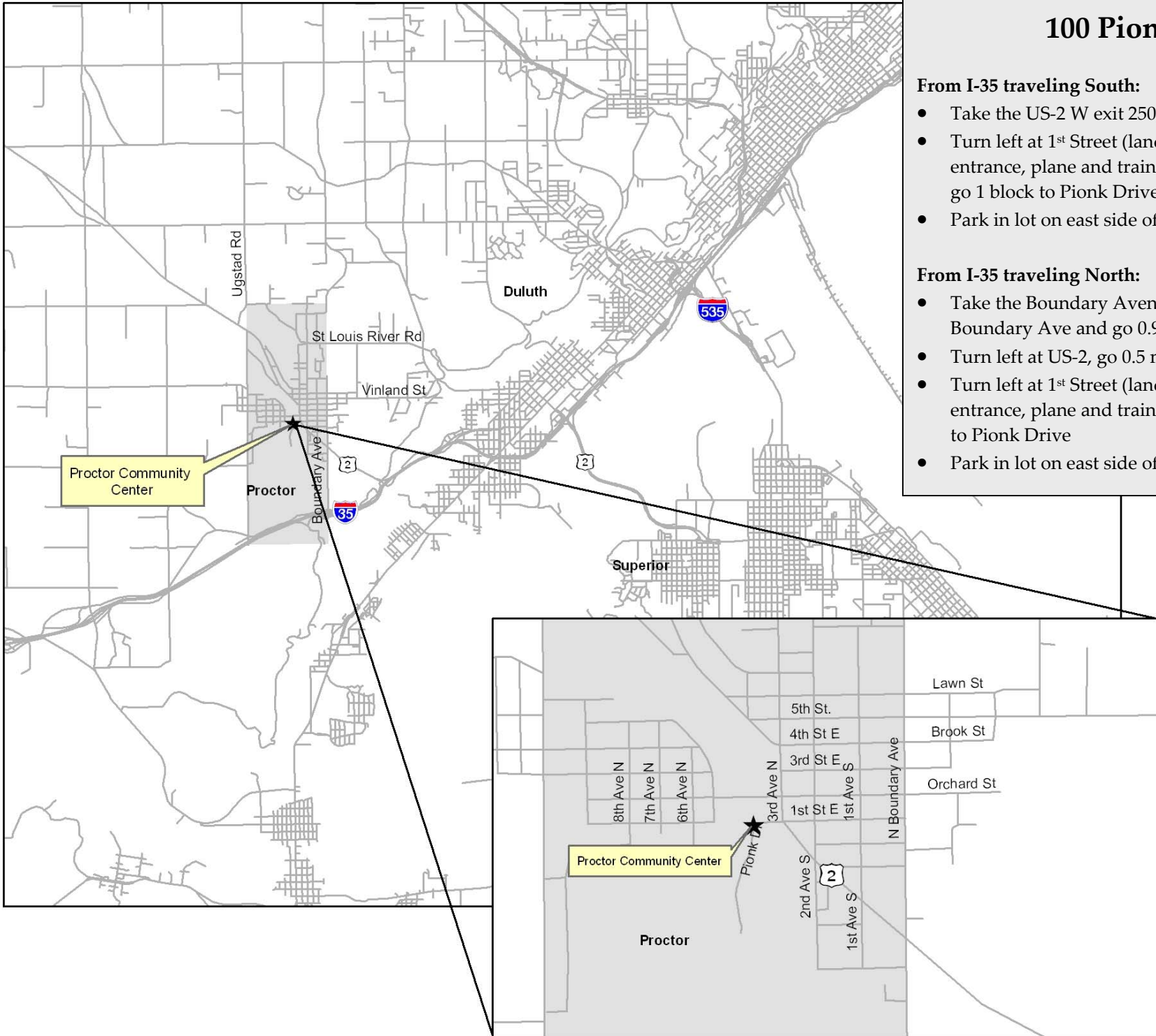
Proctor Community Center 100 Pionk Drive

From I-35 traveling South:

- Take the US-2 W exit 250, go 1.4 mi
- Turn left at 1st Street (landmarks: just past golf course entrance, plane and train display on left); go 1 block to Pionk Drive
- Park in lot on east side of building

From I-35 traveling North:

- Take the Boundary Avenue exit 249, turn left onto Boundary Ave and go 0.9 mi
- Turn left at US-2, go 0.5 mi
- Turn left at 1st Street (landmarks: just past golf course entrance, plane and train display on left); go 1 block to Pionk Drive
- Park in lot on east side of building



**TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY
COMMITTEE (TAC)
MEMBERS**

Airport (1 rep)

Brian Ryks
Alison Johnson (alternate)

Bikes / Pedestrians (1 rep)

Bryn Jacobson

City of Duluth (4 reps)

Chuck Froseth
Cari Pedersen
Cindy Petkac
Cindy Voigt

City of Hermantown (1 rep)

David Salo
Lynn Lander (alternate)

City of Proctor (1 rep)

Jim Rohweder

City of Superior (2 reps)

Jason Serck
Jeff Goetzman

Douglas County (1 rep)

Paul Halverson

**Duluth Transit Authority
(1 rep)**

Dennis Jensen
Jim Heilig (alternate)

MN DEED Office (1 rep)

Heather Rand

MnDOT (2 reps)

Denny Johnson
Walter Leu

Port/Harbor (1 rep)

Jim Sharrow

St. Louis County (1 rep)

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

WisDOT NW Region (1 rep)

Dena Young, *Chair*

DULUTH-SUPERIOR
METROPOLITAN INTERSTATE COUNCIL

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, February 17, 2009 at 1:30 p.m.

Proctor Community Center
Proctor, MN

AGENDA

1. Introductions / Agenda Review	5 min
2. Committee Business – for approval <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TAC Meeting Summary of January 20, 2009 	
3. 2009-2012 Superior Area TIP Amendments #1 & 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review for Approval, <i>Sheldon Johnson</i> 	5 min
4. Long Range Transportation Plan –Goals & Objectives Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation and Discussion , <i>Robert Herling</i> 	40 min
5. 2013 Duluth TIP Project Prioritization Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review for Approval, <i>James Gittlemeier</i> 	30 min
6. American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan – Proposed FHWA & FTA Projects for the MIC Area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation and Discussion , <i>Ron Chicka</i> 	20 min
7. DTA Projects Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation and Discussion , <i>Jim Heilig, DTA</i> 	10 min
8. Roundtable Discussion– Local Projects	10 min
9. Project Updates And Informational Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Freight Forum–February 25, 2009, <i>Andy McDonald</i> East Second Street Study, <i>Robert Herling</i> Proctor Comprehensive Plan, <i>James Gittlemeier</i> Complete Streets Workshop & MnDOT Committee, <i>James Gittlemeier</i> GIS Projects Update, <i>Andrea Diamond</i> MnDOT Rail Forum, <i>Ron Chicka</i> 	5 min

Special (Phone-In) TAC Meeting:

Thursday, February 26, 2009

3:00 pm

Call 218-722-5545, extension 555

Next TAC Meeting:

Tuesday, March 17, 2009, 1:30 pm
WITC Conference Center, Superior, WI

TAC Agenda Topics and Project Updates

February 17, 2009 Meeting



Transportation Advisory Committee

* = Approval Item

1. INTRODUCTIONS AND AGENDA REVIEW

2. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- Meeting Summary of January 20, 2009* (enclosed, pp. 10-15)

3. 2009-2012 SUPERIOR AREA TIP AMENDMENTS #1 & 2*

It is necessary to consider two amendments to add projects for inclusion in the 2009-2012 Superior Urbanized Area TIP, as follows:

- **Amendment #1:** This project enables North Country Independent Living Center the ability to continue its existing Mobility Manager position to coordinate transportation services, and provides transportation vouchers to eligible clients throughout (eight county area including; Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Iron, Price, Sawyer and Washburn counties in) northern Wisconsin. The project will begin in 2009 and run through December 31, 2009.

2009 Transit Projects (NEW FREEDOM-5317)

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
North Country Independent Living 113-09-012 Amended to TIP in February 2009	Funding for a position of Mobility Manager and availability of a Voucher Program.	Mobility Manager	85,493		21,373	106,866
		Voucher Program	71,644		71,644	143,288
		TOTAL	157,137		93,017	250,154

- **Amendment #2:** This project enables Northwest Wisconsin Community Services Agency the ability to provide childcare transportation and vanpool to clients of Douglas County and vehicle loan & repair to clients in the counties of Douglas, Bayfield and Ashland. While the program covers a three county area, some of the services provided will be provided in the MPO area.

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TAC Agenda Topics and Project Updates, continued

February 17, 2009

Transportation Advisory Committee

2009 Transit Projects (JARC)

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description	Estimated Costs & Funding Sources			
		Federal	State	Local	Total
Northwest Wisconsin Community Services Agency, Inc. 113-09-013 Amended to TIP in February 2009	Funding for childcare transportation, vanpool, and vehicle loan & repair.	100,738		100,738	201,476

For comments or questions, please contact Sheldon Johnson at sjohnson@nwrpc.com.

4. LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN –GOALS & OBJECTIVES SESSION

The focus in the coming months will be to identify the policy objectives and strategies that will make up the foundation of the Duluth-Superior Long Range Transportation Plan, *Directions 2035*. The MIC staff hopes to use public input to help ensure that the metropolitan transportation objectives listed in the plan remain relevant and address current priorities. During the February and March MIC and TAC meetings, staff will be engaging the members of each board in a set of “workshops” to refine these objectives and develop appropriate strategies to aid in accomplishing them over the next 20 years. Please look over the additional “Transportation Objectives & Strategies” worksheet, to be emailed separately in advance of the February meetings. If you have you comments or questions, please contact Robert Herling at rherling@ardc.org or (218) 529-7573.

5. 2013 DULUTH TIP PROJECT PRIORITIZATION*

Five projects were submitted for federal transportation funding for FY 2013. In January, project application packets were distributed to the MIC and TAC for their review. All voting TAC members, along with any MIC members who choose to participate, will be scoring this year’s project applications for FY2013 funding at the TIP Project Prioritization Session, to be conducted at the February 17th TAC meeting at 1:30 pm at the Proctor Community Center.

The projects are then ranked from highest to lowest priority according to the final scores, and will be presented at the MIC meeting on the 18th for discussion and final approval by the Policy Board. The final prioritized project list is then submitted the Northeast Minnesota Area Transportation Partnership (NE MN ATP) for funding consideration.

The public was given an opportunity to comment on the projects at a public meeting held at the Holiday Center on Thursday, Feb.12 from 11am to 1pm.

The projects are as follows:

TAC Agenda Topics and Project Updates, continued

February 17, 2009

Transportation Advisory Committee

FY 2013 Duluth Metro TIP Project Submittals						
Jurisdiction	ID	Project Location And Description	Estimated Costs And Funding Sources			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
Duluth	D-1	10th Ave East Reconstruct <i>Reconstruct from East 2nd St to East 9th St</i>	\$950,000	\$0	\$1,950,000	\$2,900,000
Duluth	D-2	Duluth Heights Connector (Joshua Ave) <i>New roadway constructed between Maple Grove Rd and Arrowhead Rd (1 mile).</i>	\$5,760,000	\$0	\$1,440,000	\$7,200,000
MnDOT	M-1	I-35 Preservation <i>Resurface pavement and replace culverts as necessary from approximately Boundary Ave to St. Louis/Carlton County line (MIC portion 4.08 miles).</i>	\$6,192,000	\$688,000	\$0	\$6,880,000
Saint Louis County	S-1	Martin Road Rehabilitation <i>Restore pavement and drainage systems from Arnold Rd to Jean Duluth Rd (2.1 miles).</i>	\$850,000	\$0	\$250,000	\$1,100,000
DTA	T-1	DTA Bus Purchase <i>Purchase 6 STRIDE buses.</i>	\$576,000	\$0	\$144,000	\$720,000
Total 2013 Federal Funding Request:			\$13,752,000	\$688,000	\$3,640,000	\$18,080,000

For comments or questions, please contact James Gittemeier at jgittemeier@ardc.org or 529-7556.

6. AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT – PROPOSED FHWA & FTA PROJECTS FOR THE MIC AREA

With all information on this item subject to change at any time (no final bill yet)—there are a few items related to the federal stimulus legislation that the MIC must cover at the upcoming meeting. **In addition, very likely, a special meeting (and perhaps two), will need to be called in order for the proposed projects to move forward for both MN and WI in an orderly fashion.**

Unless the process changes with the final bill, all projects involving highway, bridge, transit, rail and enhancements MUST be included in the area's TIP and then the state's STIP. Project readiness is the key. I will be asking each jurisdiction that has submitted projects to discuss how and why they were chosen. In addition, I am requesting that a TAC member that has been involved in this issue attend the MIC meeting on the 18th in order to answer questions from the elected officials on the MIC Board. This action may prove advantageous when TIP amendments need to be acted upon, either at the meetings on the 17th or 18th, or at the special meetings (tentatively scheduled for Thursday, 2/26).

TAC Agenda Topics and Project Updates, continued

February 17, 2009

Transportation Advisory Committee

I'm also asking that each TAC member discuss or inform to some degree, with their respective MIC Policy Board member, this agenda item in advance of the meetings. I can help with this as well, but I believe since these projects originated via the jurisdictions (not the MIC solicitation process) it is incumbent on the TAC members to inform their respective elected officials as to the actual projects in order to ensure TIP approval.

For the Minnesota side, the DOT, Duluth and the County have submitted projects. On the Wisconsin side, at this time, there may be two County projects and I am still uncertain about City of Superior projects. Some minor mill and overlay projects may be ready. The Wisconsin DOT does not have any projects in the MIC Planning Area for consideration (the projects identified are outside the MIC boundaries).

MnDOT's Central Office has been directing how MPOs are to handle the TIP approval process since it is not in the usual fashion. To date, again on the Minnesota side, we are not likely to have all budget numbers known by the TAC and MIC dates (2/17 and 2/18), which therefore requires the MIC to hold a special meeting (Feb 26th at 3 pm for the TAC and 4 pm for the MIC) to amend the 2009 Duluth Area TIP. By that date, in theory, we should know final numbers and projects to amend.

For Wisconsin, we are required to have a 30-day public comment period on new projects, which would require another special meeting in early to mid March to amend the Wisconsin side TIP.

Timeliness is very important with these TIP amendments as both states are requiring a very short turn-around in order to ensure project delivery.

For the Wisconsin side, due to the time constraints and very specific guidance on project readiness, there will likely be very few local projects in the first round of funded projects. The DOT is stating that a second round of solicitation will occur that will provide a greater opportunity for local projects to get into the funding stream.

For the TAC and MIC members, look for a separate email by week's end concerning the projects that will be under discussion to be included as official TIP amendments. The MIC meeting of the 18th is being noted via our media sources as the official public comment session to detail the submitted projects with the caveat that this list is subject to change. For comments or questions, please contact Ron Chicka at rchicka@ardc.org or (218) 529-7506.

7. DTA PROJECTS UPDATE

Jim Heilig, DTA Operations Manager, will present information on the following topics:

- **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, phone surveys and driver surveys this fall and have analyzed the results. The DTA at this time has also prepared a baseline for passenger ridership and system

TAC Agenda Topics and Project Updates, continued

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costs along with some draft recommendations.

- **Downtown Transportation Terminal Study**

The DTA has been working with several consultants as well as a large group of citizens and technical people to develop this project. There is a very short turnaround for this project in order to get it before a federal funding stream in the near term. The DTA will present, in general terms, what is being proposed for the DTA in terms of service downtown and a future terminal site with multiple functions.

8. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION – LOCAL PROJECTS

9. PROJECT UPDATES

Freight Forum, *Andy McDonald*

As part of our stakeholder input process for the Northern Minnesota/Northwest Wisconsin Freight Plan, the planning partners are hosting a Freight Forum on Wednesday February 25 from 8am to noon at the MnDOT District Office in Duluth. Topics include an overview of the freight plan, explanation of the area freight movement system components, description of commodity flows, markets and trends, and breakout discussion groups for highway, rail, port and air freight issues.

East 2nd Street Access Management Plan, *Robert Herling*

A meeting of the East 2nd Street study's steering committee was held on February 10th to review the work and analyses done to date, and to begin deciding on recommendations for the final plan. Currently, maps are being created and text is being prepared for an initial draft of the plan, which is tentatively scheduled for completion by April of 2009.

Proctor Comprehensive Plan, *James Gittemeier*

The City of Proctor has approved the updated Comp Plan. The draft plan was presented to the Planning and Zoning Commission in January and then the City Council in February. There were a few minor changes requested by these bodies, and they will be incorporated into the Final Plan document. The final plan will be presented to the MIC at the March meetings for their approval.

Complete Streets Statewide Study & Local Workshop, *James Gittemeier*

Mn/DOT has been given the task by the state legislature to undertake a feasibility study regarding the implementation of a Complete Streets policy for the state of Minnesota. The Complete Streets Study is a year-long process that will conclude next December and report back to the state legislature. The study will focus on the benefits, cost and feasibility of adopting a statewide Complete Streets policy. I am participating as a member of the Advisory Committee. The study also includes a Technical Advisory Panel and a consultant (SRF Consulting Group).

In addition, Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Minnesota will be sponsoring two national-level speakers on the topic of Complete Streets for the Duluth-Superior and Arrowhead region. Elected officials, policy makers, planners, engineers and city administrators are encouraged to attend this 1-day

TAC Agenda Topics and Project Updates, continued

February 17, 2009

Transportation Advisory Committee

interactive workshop, which will present the Complete Streets approach and demonstrate how local governments can implement Complete Streets principles. **The workshop will be held on Thursday, March 12, at 8:00 a.m. at the Hermantown Public Safety Training Facility.** Watch for more information and registration materials.

MnDOT Rail Forum, *Ron Chicka*

On January 26th, I attended a passenger rail forum group in St Paul that will be charged with oversight into prioritization of rail investment initiatives in the state of Minnesota. All MPOs in the state have been asked to assist with this committee in an advisory capacity and report localized activities regarding this subject. Of key importance was the report from the Federal Rail Administration, that such a body of statewide representation needs to exist in order to receive federal rail funds that would go to the various endeavors being discussed throughout the state. The group is also being represented via a St Louis County Board member and individuals from the Northern Lights Express working committee.

GIS Projects Update, *Andrea Grygo*

MIC GIS staff will be participating on a committee of the Minnesota Governor's Council on Geographic Information; an organization that coordinates the development of geographic information technologies statewide. The MN GIS/LIS Consortium 2009 and 2010 annual conferences will be held in Duluth; MIC staff is coordinating the Sessions Committee for the 2009 conference. MIC and Regional GIS staff is serving on the Geography Program Advisory Committee for Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College. MIC staff will be guest-lecturing on GIS in planning as part of the "GIS in Urban Analysis" class at UMD.



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council
Transportation Advisory Committee
MEETING SUMMARY
Tuesday, January 20, 2009, 1:30 PM

Meeting Location	WITC Conference Center, Superior, WI	
Meeting Chair(s)	Denny Johnson, Dena Young	
Note Taker	Rondi Watson, MIC Staff	
Members Present	Chuck Froseth	City of Duluth
	Paul Halverson	Douglas County
	Bryn Jacobson	Bike/Pedestrian Rep
	Alison Johnson*	Duluth Airport Authority
	Denny Johnson	Mn/DOT District 1
	Cari Pedersen	City of Duluth
	Jim Rohweder	City of Proctor
	David Salo	City of Hermantown
	Dena Young	WisDOT NW Region
Members Absent	Jim Foldesi	St. Louis County
	Jeff Goetzman	City of Superior
	Dennis Jensen	Duluth Transit Authority
	Walter Leu	Mn/DOT District 1
	Heather Rand	Mn DEED
	Jason Serck	City of Superior
	Jim Sharrow	Duluth Seaway Port Authority
	Cindy Voigt*	City of Duluth
Others Present	Holly Butcher	ARDC / MIC Senior Planner
	Ron Chicka	ARDC / MIC Director
	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 Planning Assistant
		* 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.

Committee Business – Discussion: MnDOT Projects for Upcoming Stimulus Legislation

Ron Chicka reported that with the upcoming federal stimulus package, he would like to have a discussion at the February TAC meeting about projects proposed to receive FHWA and FTA funds within the MIC planning area. Because final project selections will need to be amended

MIC Transportation Advisory Committee
January 20, 2009 Meeting Summary

into the Duluth and Superior TIPS and the state STIPs, the proposed projects should be consistent with the MIC's Long Range Transportation Plan. He added that MnDOT is working to develop project selection principles and expedited approval processes.

Denny spoke about MnDOT's approach to project prioritization and selection. It will not follow the regular ATP process; instead, MnDOT's State Aid Division will develop and manage the local program of Economic Recovery funds, with the goal of letting initial projects within 31 days after the federal bill is enacted. Each MnDOT district will send in their own prioritized projects, and the State Aid Division will be coordinating with local units of government (i.e., cities and counties).

He added that specific criteria would be applied to all potential projects in order to meet the goal of creating jobs and improving the nation's infrastructure, including project readiness; consistency with existing performance-based plans; statewide coverage; balance of types of projects; and identifying projects for which environmental considerations have already been resolved and have minimal right-of-way issues. Furthermore, projects already funded in FY 2009 will not be included in the Economic Recovery Program, but projects may be advanced from later years for inclusion.

He added that everything was still very preliminary, for example, at this point they have no idea of the exact funding amounts, and details would evolve as the legislation shapes up.

Paul Halvorson commented that he was not clear how Wisconsin will be prioritizing its projects or distributing its funds, at least at this point. It appeared that WisDOT districts are developing their own projects but Madison is not acting as a central coordinating function.

Committee Business – 2009 TAC Officer Elections

Ron thanked Denny for his service as TAC Chair last year, and, pursuant to the discussion at the December TAC meeting, requested a motion to nominate Dena Ryan as 2009 TAC Chair and Jim Foldesi as the Vice-Chair.

Motion and Discussion Paul Halvorson/Chuck Froseth moved to approve the slate of candidates as presented. There was no discussion and the motion was approved unanimously. Dena took over as chair for the remainder of the meeting.

2. Committee Business – Meeting Summary of December 10, 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 Rohweder/Paul Halvorson moved to approve the meeting summary from the December 10, 2008 meeting. There was no discussion and the motion was approved unanimously.

3. Downtown Transportation Terminal Study

Ron Chicka reported that the DTA's consultant from LSA Design was not able to attend the meeting to provide an update, so instead he would report on where the Downtown Transportation

MIC Transportation Advisory Committee
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Terminal Study for the DTA stands. He explained that the DTA is taking another look at the possibility for a new downtown Duluth passenger terminal, in advance of possible federal earmark for funding this project. The station would not replace the current DTA operations facility on West Michigan Street, but would serve instead as a central transfer point for DTA buses and as a large centralized multi-modal transportation hub. The goal of the project is to create a stronger downtown presence and image for the DTA, with better downtown bus circulation, improved connectivity with Canal Park, and more effective multi-modal options (intercity coaches, trolley, taxi cab, rental car, car share, bike storage, and parking for local and visitor vehicles,). It is envisioned that the facility would coordinate with the proposed passenger rail service at the downtown Depot facility and could provide economic development opportunities by including small retail outlets.

The consultant is proposing seven options for potential locations, each site with its own pros and cons, for example, a facility near the Depot would be more convenient to passenger rail connections, while other locations would connect to the existing skywalk system; others might have potential viewshed issues or be more or less convenient terms of bus circulation. The options will be scored and prioritized by a number of stakeholders as part of the study process. At next month's meeting he will present more information about decisions made, with prices attached.

4. Transit Vision Update

Holly Butcher described the process they conducted with the DTA Board (SWOT analysis) Holly Butcher reported that MIC staff has been assisting the DTA with strategic planning for its Transit Vision transit development plan. At the November DTA Board meeting, she and Robert Herling facilitated a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, & Threats) analysis with board members to provide direction for next 5-10 years. Additionally, DTA staff administered passenger and driver surveys in the fall of 2008 and are analyzing the results.

Input from the Board stressed both regionalization of DTA service, as well as improved connectivity and a stronger downtown presence. They are interested in being proactive with projects that are sustainable and that encourage the public to think about transportation differently.

5. Downtown Duluth Modal Connections Study

Holly presented the Downtown Duluth Modal Connections Study, which assesses the existing infrastructure and how it encourages or impedes the movement of pedestrians, bicyclists and public transit services between Downtown, Canal Park, the DECC and the Bayfront Festival Park. The final plan identifies barriers and makes recommendations to improve connectivity.

She reported that there are four existing connections between downtown and the waterfront which are unevenly spaced and located at areas not easily accessible to both visitors and locals. Recommendations include physically connecting the two districts, including development of a connectivity platform (a deck over Interstate 35); establishing regular, frequent and easy-to-use transit circulator service to connect the medical district, canal park and downtown areas; encouraging non-auto travel between districts, including sidewalk design and bicycle parking facilities; improving wayfinding signage; and supporting rail readiness in the event that passenger

MIC Transportation Advisory Committee
January 20, 2009 Meeting Summary

rail service between the Twin Ports and the Twin Cities is established.

She added that successful implementation of these recommendations will require new public-private partnerships as well as collaboration between numerous entities, including the Duluth Transit Authority, the Lake & St. Louis County Regional Rail Authorities, the City of Duluth, MnDOT, the DECC, the Greater Downtown Council and property owners.

She noted that the plan is available online at <http://www.dsmic.org/modal>. She closed by requesting approval of the final plan.

Motion and Discussion Jim Rohweder/Bryn Jacobsen moved to approve the plan as presented. There was no discussion and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

6. Proctor Comprehensive Plan-Draft

James explained that he was working on completing Proctor's update to its Comprehensive Plan, with a focus on implementation steps and strategies. He reviewed the main sections, which include economic development, housing, infrastructure, intergovernmental cooperation, Kirkus Street, land use, natural & cultural resources, recreation and transportation.

He closed by noting that the draft plan will move through the City of Proctor approval process in February, with the final plan to be presented to the TAC and MIC in March.

7. Long Range Transportation Plan 2035 Update

Robert Herling presented the latest update of the process of updating the MIC's long range transportation plan (LRTP), *Directions 2035*. He noted that coordinating this plan with state and federal policy guidance is a necessary but sometimes complicated endeavor. Policies impacting the MIC's long range plan include the 1998 federal TEA-21 legislation, which introduced the seven planning factors, and the 2005 SAFETEA-LU bill, which added emphasis on safety and security, congestion management, freight, data-driven planning and coordination. MnDOT and WisDOT plans present 38 and 37 state policies, respectively.

He also reviewed some of the considerations for the MIC area in developing its policies and priorities, including projections of modest population growth over the next 20 years, and the fact that our area has significantly more functionally classified roads compared to our population, noting that these are significant in relation to the need to maintain existing infrastructure.

He also noted that the SAFETEA-LU transportation bill is due to be re-authorized this fall but is more likely to be re-written, reflecting a sea change in the federal approach to funding transportation and planning. Recommendations from the recent National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Commission report likely anticipate some of the changes that will affect MPOs like the MIC, including asset maintenance programs conforming to national standards; performance-based plans, "maintenance of effort" requirements and cost/benefit analysis requirements.

He closed by explaining that he planned to utilize the input of committee members at the February TAC and MIC meetings to help determine the goals and objectives for the MIC area LRTP.

8. 2010-2013 Duluth Area TIP Project Solicitation

James Gittemeier reviewed the application packets for FY 2013 federal TIP funding. They included scoring sheet and copies of the applications

- 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.

He James requested that all committee members review the applications and come prepared to score them at the TIP Project Prioritization Session, to be conducted at the February 17th TAC meeting at 1:30 pm at the Proctor Community Center.

Denny commented that the size and scale of the Joshua Avenue connector project is considerably larger than any of the others being submitted this year. Cari Pedersen responded that they are looking for partners (e.g., the state or the county) to assist with sponsoring the local match for this project.

James also presented the MIC-area Enhancements projects to be submitted to the ATP for 2013 funding, which include

- Munger Trail Connection – Phase II, to extend the Munger Bike Trail from Grassy Point to Recycle Way
- Lakewalk Extension – Phase VI, to construct a trail segment from 20th Avenue East to 23rd Avenue East along Water Street.

Dave Salo commented that the cost for the Lakewalk Extension seemed inordinately high, considering the short length of the project. Cari explained that this was because there were some distinct physical obstacles for the site, including two water courses to be spanned as well as retaining wall and slope issues.

James closed by reiterating the request that committee members come prepared with their scoring sheets for the MIC area prioritization session to be held at the February TAC meeting.

9. Northern MN/Northwestern WI Regional Freight Study

Andy McDonald reported that data collection efforts are continuing, with highway, freight, rail, port and waterway facilities, air cargo and pipeline inventories nearly complete. He also reported on the four in-person interviews that were conducted at major companies in the Duluth area in late December – with Cirrus Design, Midwest Energy Resources, Lake Superior Warehousing, and Hallett Dock. The purpose of the interviews was to gain a better understanding of the goods moving out of and into this area.

He closed by announcing that a Regional Freight Forum has been scheduled for the morning of Wednesday, February 25th from 8 a.m. to noon at MnDOT District One in Duluth.

10. Roundtable Discussion

No announcements were made.

11. Project Updates

Connections 2030

Ron Chicka announced that reps from the WisDOT central office would be making presentations next month in this area to gain public input into 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. He encouraged TAC and MIC members to attend.

East 2nd Street Access Management Plan

Robert Herling announced that 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 announced that they 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 announced that he and Andrea Grygo, the MIC's GIS Specialist, 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. He noted that our work was chosen from a large pool of potential projects to be showcased at this conference. The conference itself is a premiere one for transportation professionals in a multitude of fields with sessions covering the gamut of planning topics. He also participated in a number of meetings as a member of the TRB Committee on Transportation Planning for Small and Medium Sized Communities.

12. Adjournment

With no further agenda items or announcements, Chair Young adjourned the meeting at 3:23 pm.