

MEETING NOTICE



TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, June 16, 2009 at 1:30 p.m.

Hampton Inn
310 Canal Park Drive
Duluth, MN

Approval / Voting Items:

- Amendment #4 to 2009-2012 Duluth Metro TIP

Discussion / Informational Items:

- Long Range Transportation Plan – Project Lists & Model Results
- Northern MN/Northwestern WI Regional Freight Plan
- Duluth Safe Routes to School Projects Update
- HTAC/Harbor Planning 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.



Legend

- Primary On-Street Signed Route (Heavy-Moderate Traffic)
- Primary On-Street Signed Route (Low-Moderate Traffic)
- Primary On-Street Unsigned Route
- Secondary Connector Route
- Bicycling Prohibited or Not Recommended
- Off Road Bike Path
- Scenic Skyline Parkway
- Gravel Road
- DTA Route

Hampton Inn
 310 Canal Park Drive
 Duluth, MN
 218-720-3000

From I-35 N:
 Take the 5th Ave W exit - Exit 256B toward Lake Ave
 Turn right onto Lake Ave/Canal Park Drive
 Stay straight to go onto N Lake Ave
 N Lake Ave becomes Canal Park Dr

**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, June 16, 2009 at 1:30 p.m.

Hampton Inn – Starboard Room
Canal Park, Duluth MN

AGENDA

1. Introductions / Agenda Review	<i>5 min</i>
2. Committee Business – for approval <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TAC Meeting Summary of May 19, 2009 	
3. Amendment #4 to 2009-2012 Duluth Metro TIP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review for Approval, <i>James Gittemeier</i> 	<i>5 min</i>
4. Long Range Transportation Plan – Project Lists & Model Results <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation and Discussion, <i>Robert Herling</i> 	<i>20 min</i>
5. Northern MN/Northwestern WI Regional Freight Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation and Discussion, <i>Andy McDonald</i> 	<i>15 min</i>
6. Duluth Safe Routes to School Projects Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation and Discussion, <i>James Gittemeier</i> 	<i>10 min</i>
7. HTAC/Harbor Planning Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation and Discussion, <i>Andy McDonald</i> 	<i>15 min</i>
8. Roundtable Discussion– Local Projects	<i>5 min</i>
9. Project Updates And Informational Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2010-2013 Draft Duluth Metro TIP, <i>James Gittemeier</i> City of Duluth ADA Funding Applications, <i>Ron Chicka</i> Duluth Depot Steering Committee, <i>Ron Chicka</i> Bike-Ped Planning Update, <i>James Gittemeier</i> Safe Communities Coalition, <i>Robert Herling</i> Blueprint to End Poverty Transportation Action Team, <i>Robert Herling</i> 	<i>10 min</i>

Next TAC Meeting:

Tuesday, July 14, 2009, 1:30 pm
WITC Conference Center, Superior, WI

TAC Agenda Topics and Project Updates

June 16, 2009 Meeting



Transportation Advisory Committee

* = Approval Item

1. INTRODUCTIONS / AGENDA REVIEW

2. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- Meeting Summary of May 19, 2009 (attached, pp. 7-11) *

3. AMENDMENT #4 TO 2009-2012 DULUTH METRO TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM *

The Duluth Transit Authority (DTA) has received additional funding for facility improvements (bus washers) and preventative maintenance for FY 2009. The amount funded is \$392,000 for facility improvements and \$1.3 million for preventative maintenance. Please contact James Gittemeier at jgittemeier@ardc.org or (218) 529-7556 for comments or questions.

4. LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN 2035 – PROJECT LISTS & MODEL RESULTS

The MIC has now met with every jurisdiction to discuss the projects that they will be submitting to the LRTP. Additionally, URS has returned to the MIC results from the updated traffic model for our area. Staff will present these results and members of the TAC and MIC will be asked to discuss them in relationship to their list of long range projects, with consideration given to projected budget shortfalls and the current emphasis on fiscal constraint. Please contact Robert Herling at rherling@ardc.org or (218) 529-7573 for comments or questions.

5. NORTHERN MN/NORTHWEST WI REGIONAL FREIGHT PLAN

The Freight Plan is entering its final phases and MIC staff has been participating in reviewing materials and working with area stakeholders to make sure their issues are being addressed. A draft of the Technical Memo was just passed along to MIC staff and is currently under review. Additional issues that are being investigated by the consulting team include intermodal terminals, port capacity and development of super corridor routes. MIC staff met with staff from the Duluth Seaway Port authority and the Development Association of Douglas County and Superior to discuss the additional issues and to discuss the formation of the final plan. Please contact Andy McDonald at amcdonald@ardc.org or (218) 529-7514 for comments or questions.

6. DULUTH SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROJECTS UPDATE

Work on the Duluth Safe Routes to School Projects is underway. Last month, representatives from the City of Duluth, the Duluth School District and the MIC met to continue the coordination of these projects. The projects are being moved around and divided into phases, to coincide with improvements and changes to the schools as the Duluth School District implements its Long Range Facility Plan. In addition, work will begin this summer along Hwy 23/Grand Avenue in front of Stowe Elementary School and will include Safe Routes to School improvements. Please contact James Gittemeier at jgittemeier@ardc.org or (218) 529-7556 for comments or questions.

TAC Agenda Topics and Project Updates, continued
Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting

June 16, 2009

7. HTAC/HARBOR PLANNING UPDATE

The HTAC met on June 3rd at the WITC Conference Center. Our agenda included presentations on the Superior Waterfront Initiative – Montreal Pier, US Steel Superfund Site, International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species, Duluth Slips 2 & 3 Land Use Planning, Commercial Fishing Future in Duluth-Superior, and Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. I will present a brief summary of these topics at our upcoming meetings. Please contact Andy McDonald at amcdonald@ardc.org or (218) 529-7514 for comments or questions.

8. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION – LOCAL PROJECTS

9. PROJECT UPDATES

2010-2013 Draft Duluth Metro TIP, James Gittemeier

The MIC is in the midst of updating the Draft Duluth Metro TIP. In addition, the MIC is conducting air quality review with MPCA, MN/DOT and FHWA. The MIC will also be holding a public meeting on the Draft TIP on Wednesday, June 17 from 5 to 6pm. Final 2010-2013 Duluth Metro TIP will be presented at the July MIC and TAC meetings.

City of Duluth ADA Funding Applications, Ron Chicka

Through Recovery Act funding via the DOT, the City of Duluth is submitting for application three sections of roadway for ADA improvements for the pedestrian network. These are: 1) Hwy 194 – Central Entrance on the north side (two segments) between Anderson and Pecan; 2) London Road on the north side between 26th AE and 40th AE; and 3) I-35 and 5th AW – improvements at the overpass and near the Depot. The first and third in this list are recommendations derived primarily from MIC planning work in these areas.

Duluth Depot Steering Committee, Ron Chicka

The steering committee for this project had their initial meeting last month to kick-off the master plan for the Depot as it relates to the potential reestablished passenger rail service from the Twin Cities. The committee includes County and City staff, DTA staff, the Greater Downtown Council, Congressman Oberstar's staff and St. Louis and Lake County Regional Rail staff. The study is being led by Miller Dunwiddie Architecture (Twin Cities) with LHB as the local resource part of the team. An open house is set for Tuesday the 9th at 7:00 pm at the Depot to take comment from the public on the Master Plan. I will be participating in meetings that day and the following as the MIC aids this study throughout.

Bike-Ped Planning Update, James Gittemeier

MIC staff is in the beginning stages of organizing a **Duluth-Superior Bike-Ped Advisory Committee**. Staff is researching the formal structure of these organizations, bylaws and overall objectives of what tasks the committee will be asked to perform. We will be reviewing and interviewing other existing Bike/Ped Advisory Committees as well as MN/DOT officials about what works and what doesn't.

TAC Agenda Topics and Project Updates, continued Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting

June 16, 2009

In addition to the Bike/Ped Advisory Committee, the MIC is also putting together a Steering Committee to guide the process of **bike route planning in Superior**. Staff has begun to meet with groups and individuals working on improving the bicycling infrastructure in Superior and putting together a list of folks who are interesting in serving on this steering committee.

Safe Communities Coalition, *Robert Herling*

The Lake Superior Region Safe Communities Coalition met on Monday, June 1st to discuss the draft grant application for funding through the Office of Traffic Safety's TZD Safe Roads Program. The group worked to craft a mission statement and define a work program to identify initiatives addressing the issues of impaired driving, distracted driving, and teen and senior drivers in St. Louis and Carlton counties. They also plan to hire a part-time program coordinator to help facilitate future activities. The MIC has been an active partner in the coalition since its start in January 2009 and considers our involvement with the Safe Communities Coalition as one way to achieve the safety objectives identified in the MIC's long range transportation plan.

Blueprint to End Poverty Transportation Action Team, *Robert Herling*

MIC staff was present for the June 2nd meeting of Community Action Duluth's Blueprint to End Poverty Transportation Action Team. A status report indicated that all initial tasks it had set out to achieve in 2007 have been accomplished (culminating with the successful launch of the "Jump Start" program). The group began working to define new objectives moving forward, which it anticipates to finalize in the coming months. The MIC has been an active participant in the Transportation Action Team, and views our involvement as an important endeavor in helping to meet the objectives identified in the MIC's long range transportation plan, as well as the MIC/ARDC Human Services Coordinated Transit Plan.



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council
Transportation Advisory Committee
MEETING SUMMARY
Tuesday, May 19, 2009, 1:30 PM

Meeting Location	WITC Conference Center, Superior, WI	
Meeting Chair(s)	Dena Ryan	
Note Taker	Rondi Watson	
Members Present	Brian Boder	St. Louis County Engineering
	Jeff Goetzman	City of Superior
	Jim Heilig	Duluth Transit Authority
	Denny Johnson	Mn/DOT District 1
	Cari Pedersen	City of Duluth Engineering
	David Salo	City of Hermantown
	Dena Young	WisDOT NW Region
Members Absent	Chuck Froseth	City of Duluth Planning Dept
	Paul Halverson	Douglas County
	Bryn Jacobson	Bike/Pedestrian Rep
	Walter Leu	Mn/DOT District 1
	Cindy Petkac	City of Duluth Planning Dept
	Heather Rand	Mn DEED
	Jim Rohweder	City of Proctor
	Brian Ryks	Duluth Airport Authority
	Jason Serck	City of Superior
	Jim Sharrow	Duluth Seaway Port Authority
	Cindy Voigt	City of Duluth Engineering
Others Present	Ron Chicka	ARDC / MIC Director
	James Gittemeier	ARDC / MIC Planner
	Andrea Grygo	ARDC / GIS Specialist
	Robert Herling	ARDC / MIC Planner
	Heidi Jaros	Community Action Duluth
	Rondi Watson	ARDC / MIC Planning Assistant

1. Introductions and Agenda Review

Vice-Chair Dena Ryan called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. and meeting attendees introduced themselves. Ron Chicka announced that Andrea Grygo would soon be leaving the MIC to work as a GIS Specialist for the St. Louis County planning department. He thanked her for her contributions to the MIC for the past 3-1/2 years, noting that she brought some new capabilities to the job, including online interactive GIS applications and visualization techniques for plans.

MIC Transportation Advisory Committee
May 19, 2009 Meeting Summary

Chair Ryan called for changes to the agenda. Ron Chicka requested that two informational items be added as the first two agenda items, pertaining to MN HPP Projects and City of Superior projects proposed for ARRA funding.

Motion and Discussion Jeff Goetzman/Dave Salo moved to approve these additions to the meeting agenda. There was no discussion and the motion was approved unanimously.

2. Meeting Summary of April 14, 2009

Chair Ryan asked for any changes or corrections to the previous meeting summary. Hearing none, she asked for a motion to approve.

Motion and Discussion Denny Johnson/Cari Pederson moved to approve the meeting summary from the April 14, 2009 TAC meeting. There was no discussion and the motion was approved unanimously.

3. Project Updates

UWS Class Research Presentation: Twin Ports Passenger Rail Terminal Location Analysis

Ron Chicka reported that on May 5th, eight students from the UWS Urban Planning and Transportation Systems class gave a repeat presentation of their class research project, a critical review of the TEMS feasibility study of passenger rail service between the Twin Cities and Twin Ports and an assessment of terminal locations. The study provides a critique of each location, including an analysis of capital requirements, asset utilization and travel times for each local endpoint. Their research calls out the challenges that will be faced for a station, whether ultimately located in Duluth or Superior. A 30-minute videotape version of the presentation would be shown at the end of tomorrow night's MIC meeting and TAC members were invited to attend.

Superior and Douglas County ARRA Projects

Ron reported that there will be one stimulus (ARRA-funded) project for the City of Superior, likely the City's first-priority project (also ranked as number one of 10 proposed projects by the MIC at last month's meeting), a mill and overlay of East 5th Street from 6th to 20th Avenues East. The \$330,000 in ARRA funds will not cover the total cost of the project; the City will contribute the balance of approximately \$100,000.

He added that the Moccasin Mike road trail project was submitted separately, as an Enhancements Project, and we have not yet heard about the status of that project application.

HPP Project Submittals for the Duluth Area

Ron Chicka reported that an announcement had recently been sent out from Congressman Oberstar's office, soliciting High Priority Project (HPP) proposals from jurisdictions in his districts. MIC staff coordinated the applications for 13 proposals submitted by various jurisdictions within the MIC area.

Five area projects were recently announced as having made the first cut for funding: two submitted by the City of Duluth, the West Fifth Street/Multi-Modal Connectivity Project (\$12.9

MIC Transportation Advisory Committee
May 19, 2009 Meeting Summary

million) and the Joshua Avenue Extension (\$3.9 million); one submitted by the City of Proctor for a Spur Trail Connection (\$2.4 million); one submitted by the DTA to acquire new hybrid buses (\$2 million); and another project that wasn't on the MIC's radar screen, submitted by Fit City Duluth, to develop a "best practices" toolkit to encourage active living choices in transportation (\$1.8 million).

He noted that the DTA's Multi-Modal Transit Terminal project will be submitted and considered separately in conjunction with the Northern Lights Express and the Port Authority's Intermodal Freight Facility project might be eligible for Maritime administration funding for port projects across the country.

Walter Leu commented that the Fit City Duluth project only broadly meets eligibility requirements for federally-funded transportation projects, and it might be a bit of a challenge to fit it into Title 23 project considerations and processes. For example, deliverables must go through a competitive bid process with an RFP – not what the group had planned for hiring a project coordinator.

Ron added that he had heard, but couldn't confirm as yet, that the Bong Bridge Deck overlay project, jointly submitted by MnDOT and WisDOT, may have been funded on the Wisconsin side but not in Minnesota, which would certainly pose problems for the project overall.

Superior Pedestrian Safety Task Force

James Gittemeier reported that the City of Superior brought in Wisconsin Walks, Inc. to facilitate a Walking Workshop for the City's Pedestrian Safety Task Force. The Police Department received a grant to host this two-day workshop. MIC staff attended along with other invitees including City, County and State DOT staff plus school district and health officials. The main outcome of this workshop was a clear realization of the issues pedestrians and bicyclists face in Superior. It included a presentation on common pedestrian issues, a "walkabout" field exercise, a solution identification activity, and a look into what's next, and more importantly, determining where Superior should begin in order to address the pedestrian and bicycle needs. The workshop concluded with a plan to hold a meeting with the key stakeholders and implement some of the low cost, simple solutions, while at the same time putting together a ped/bike committee to analyze not only the short term, quick fixes, but also the long term solutions as well.

4. Draft 2010-2013 Duluth Metro Transportation Improvement Program

James Gittemeier presented the draft 2010-2013 Duluth Metro TIP. He emphasized that the key part of this (and any) TIP is the table of funded transportation projects, including those newly proposed to be included for 2013, including:

2010: Kirkus Street construction in Proctor, SRTS improvements at Stowe Elementary and Munger Trail preliminary engineering

2011: Construction of Munger trail extension-phase 1 and Anderson Road reconstruction

2012: Construction of Lakewalk Trail extension-phases 4 & 5 and Blatnik Bridge repair

2013: Construction of Munger trail-phase 2 and 10th Avenue East reconstruction

MIC Transportation Advisory Committee
May 19, 2009 Meeting Summary

He also pointed out the very large difference in project funding for FY 2009 and 2010 – these two years include stimulus-funded projects as well as the multi-jurisdictional Miller Hill reconstruction project which is currently underway, and the I-35 reconditioning project scheduled as an A/C project in 2010 (payback in 2011 and 2012). The funding totals of \$65 million and \$40 million will fall back to normal levels of under \$10 million in federal funds for 2011, 2012 and 2013.

He closed by requesting approval to release the draft TIP for the mandated 30-day public comment period, which will run from May 21 to June 19. A public meeting will be held on Wed, June 17 at 5:00 p.m. An air quality conformity review process will be conducted and the public comments received will be incorporated. The final version will be presented for approval at the July TAC and MIC meetings.

Motion and Discussion Jim Heilig/Brian Boder moved to release the draft 2010-2013 Duluth Metro TIP for the mandated 30-day public comment period. There was no discussion and the motion was approved unanimously.

5. Long Range Transportation Plan 2035 – Strategy Statements

Robert Herling explained the current status of the LRTP update. MIC staff has met with all jurisdictions to talk about what transportation projects should be included in the short-, mid- and long-range project lists.

The results of complex traffic modeling, recently completed by our consultant, will assist in moving ahead with some key sections. Meanwhile, language is being drafted to reflect the transportation objectives and strategies the MIC will employ in pursuit of those objectives. These statements will be published in the LRTP as guidance for the policies and activities of the MIC in the coming years. He asked all committee members to provide input on these draft statements.

He also reviewed the format of the website that is being developed, which will replace the previous printed documents.

He closed by noting that next month he will begin reviewing the projects and financial statements.

6. UMD-CSS Transportation Assessment

Andy McDonald reported that the study committee's draft recommendations, intended to improve walking, biking, transit, traffic flow and safety in the campus areas, were presented at two public meetings. On May 5th at UMD and on May 7th at CSS, public comments were taken and discussed. Comments included a desire to see improved sidewalk snow removal enforcement; ways to encourage a more bike-friendly culture, with education drivers in particular, and one objection to the proposed Lyons Street closure. One person showed up to express concerns over the proposed Walgreens development at Kenwood and Arrowhead – which this study does not specifically address (it's not a land use or development plan).

At College Street, one long term recommendation is to address the high crash and high

MIC Transportation Advisory Committee
May 19, 2009 Meeting Summary

severity of crash rates at junction of 19th Avenue East by installing a roundabout, which would fit very nicely into current alignment and available area. Question: can fire trucks and semi trucks handle a roundabout configuration – yes-design consideration, these concerns have been addressed in other areas.

General recommendations include improved snow removal enforcement and/or “snow angels” program; develop new transit routes; promote online rideshare programs; provide more bike facilities on each campus; completing the sidewalk network in the campus area; reconfiguring traffic lanes and creating bike lanes; implementing access management techniques; making adjustments to transit routes; and creating bike and foot trails between high-volume residential areas and campus destinations.

Andy closed by noting that he would be taking the draft recommendations forward to the study committee, and that the final plan should be ready for final approval this summer.

7. 2009 Bike to Work Day

James Gittemeier presented information about this year’s Bike to Work Day activities. Bike to Work Week this year took place May 11 - 15, with Friday, May 15 designated as National Bike to Work Day by the League of American Bicyclists. An expanded number of activities were held this year, including a bike to school event at UMD, a week-long series of bike-related events at the Fitger’s shopping complex and a morning bicycle commuter stop at Minnesota Power Plaza on Friday morning. The morning commuter event was set up to encourage bicyclists to ride their bikes to work instead of driving their cars, and included morning refreshments, bike safety checks, a bus bike rack demonstration and information commuting routes and rules of the road for bicyclists.

He also showed improvements in downtown Duluth bike infrastructure – artist-designed racks, sponsored in a competition by the Twin Ports pathways group, are just now being installed. In addition, the City has begun to install bike rack facilities as part of new parking meters (in conjunction with new DTA bus shelters).

He added that there is some real momentum happening locally to promote biking; He and Drew Digby of Fit City Duluth appeared on Almanac North to talk about improving bike infrastructure in Duluth. He also announced that we will be creating a separate Bicycle Advisory Committee (similar to our TAC and HTAC).

Ron mentioned that for next year, he would be interested in developing Bike to Work day events in Superior as well as Duluth.

8. Roundtable Discussion – Local Projects

No announcements.

9. Adjournment

With no further agenda items or announcements, Chair Ryan adjourned the meeting at 2:47 pm.