

# MEETING NOTICE



## TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

*Tuesday, July 14, 2009 at 1:30 p.m.*

WITC Conference Center  
600 North 21<sup>st</sup> Street  
Superior, WI

### Approval / Voting Items:

- Final 2010–2013 Duluth Metro Transportation Improvement Program
- Revisions to State Air Quality Conformity Procedures Handbook

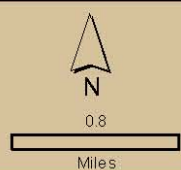
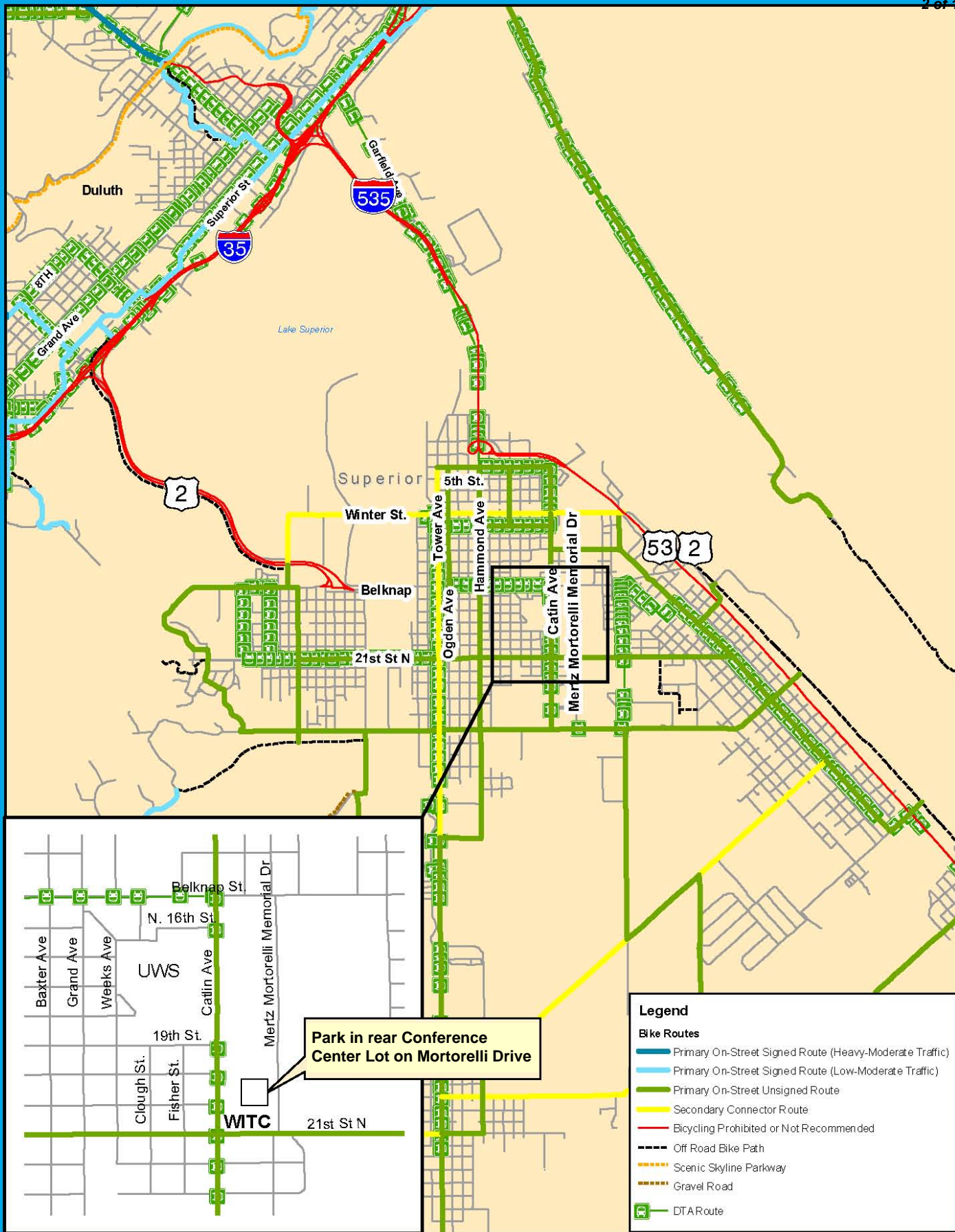
### Discussion / Informational Items:

- Douglas County Comprehensive Plan Update (*Guest Speaker: Jason Laumann, NWRPC*)
- Long Range Plan 2035 – Project Lists and Model Results
- 2010 MIC Work Program and Budget Revision
- Superior On-Street Bike Route Planning
- 2009 Bike to Work Week & Day

**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](mailto:rwatson@ardc.org) or 529-7541** to ensure a quorum will be present for voting items on the agenda.



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



**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, July 14, 2009 at 1:30 p.m.***

WITC Conference Center  
600 N. 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Superior, WI

**AGENDA**

<b>1. Introductions / Agenda Review</b>	<i>5 min</i>
<b>2. Committee Business – for approval</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TAC Meeting Summary of June 16, 2009</li> </ul>	
<b>3. Final 2010 – 2013 Duluth Metro TIP</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review for Approval, <i>James Gittemeier</i></li> </ul>	<i>5 min</i>
<b>4. Transportation Conformity (Air Quality) Procedures Handbook Revisions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review for Approval, <i>James Gittemeier</i></li> </ul>	<i>5 min</i>
<b>5. Douglas County Comprehensive Plan Update</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation and Discussion, <i>Jason Laumann, NWRPC</i></li> </ul>	<i>30 min</i>
<b>6. Long Range Plan 2035 – Project Lists and Model Results</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation and Discussion, <i>Robert Herling</i></li> </ul>	<i>20 min</i>
<b>7. 2010 MIC Work Program and Budget Revision</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation and Discussion, <i>Ron Chicka</i></li> </ul>	<i>10 min</i>
<b>8. Superior On-Street Bike Route Planning</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation and Discussion, <i>James Gittemeier</i></li> </ul>	<i>10 min</i>
<b>9. Roundtable Discussion– Local Projects</b>	<i>5 min</i>
<b>10. Project Updates And Informational Items</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MIC Mid-Year Review, <i>Ron Chicka</i></li> <li>Duluth Depot Steering Committee, <i>Ron Chicka</i></li> <li>Wisconsin ARRA Projects, <i>Ron Chicka</i></li> <li>MnDOT Bike/Ped Initiative, <i>James Gittemeier</i></li> </ul>	<i>5 min</i>

**Next Month:**

**Annual Joint MIC and TAC Meeting**

**Wednesday, August 19, 2009**

**5:30 pm** - Picnic Supper

**7:00 pm** - Meeting

Hermantown Public Safety Facility

# TAC Agenda Topics and Project Updates

Transportation Advisory Committee

July 14, 2009 Meeting



\* = Approval Item

## 1. INTRODUCTIONS / AGENDA REVIEW

## 2. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- Meeting Summary of June 16 19, 2009 (attached, pp. 7-13) \*

## 3. 2010-2013 FINAL DULUTH METRO TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) \*

In May, the Draft Duluth Metro TIP for FY 2010-2013 was released for public review and comment. Since that time, a public meeting was held, interagency air quality review took place, and the project lists were updated. The TIP is now ready for final approval. Once approved, the TIP will be sent to Mn/DOT and FHWA for their approval, which usually takes place in the fall. If you have any comments or questions, please contact James Gittemeier at [jgittemeier@ardc.org](mailto:jgittemeier@ardc.org) or (218) 529-7556.

## 4. TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY (AIR QUALITY) PROCEDURES HANDBOOK REVISIONS \*

Representatives from Mn/DOT, FHWA, FTA, MPCA, St. Cloud MPO and the MIC met to revise the Handbook which identifies agreed-upon procedures to how each agency reviews the air quality impacts of transportation projects in their plans and programs (for example TIP and LRTP). As a side note, the MIC is a part of this process, since the City of Duluth is classified by the EPA as an Air Quality Maintenance area, which means Duluth presently meets national air quality standards, but did not so in the past. The revisions to the Handbook were brought about due to SAFETEA-LU.

I will be requesting approval of a Resolution that authorizes Ron Chicka to sign an inter-agency MOA saying that the MIC approves the revised version, and agrees to follow the updated procedures. If you have any comments or questions, please contact James Gittemeier at [jgittemeier@ardc.org](mailto:jgittemeier@ardc.org) or (218) 529-7556.

## 5. DOUGLAS COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

Douglas County is moving into the final stages of a multi-jurisdictional comprehensive planning project involving the county and 16 local units of government. These plans will, among other things, be used to guide land use decisions over the course of the next 20 years. The county and the majority of local units have completed the development of goals, objectives, policies and actions.

Please contact Jason Laumann at [jlaumann@nwrpc.com](mailto:jlaumann@nwrpc.com) or 715-635-2197 for comments or questions.

## TAC Agenda Topics and Project Updates, continued

Transportation Advisory Committee

July 14, 2009

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

TAC and MIC members will be provided in advance of the meetings with a draft list of transportation improvement projects to go into the 2035 LRTP. Staff will provide time for TAC and MIC members to ask questions or provide comments regarding the draft list.

At the point of preparing the meeting agenda, the MIC was still working to resolve errors found in the results of the traffic projections modeled for the LRTP. It is our hope that the corrected results can be shared with members of the TAC and MIC boards in July. In the event that corrections will yet be pending, staff will show preliminary results to the methodology used and the errors encountered. Please contact Robert Herling at [rherling@ardc.org](mailto:rherling@ardc.org) or (218) 529-7573 for comments or questions.

### 7. 2009 MN-CPG CONTRACT MOU AND 2010 MIC WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET

The MIC Board officers, along with MIC Deputy Director Sheldon Johnson of NWRPC, recently met with ARDC Administration plus the ARDC Board Chair to finalize the signing of the 2009 Minnesota Consolidated Planning Grant contract – the major portion of the MIC’s budget via the Minnesota side of the MPO. At issue was the local match commitment on the part of ARDC and language in the contract that they were not comfortable with. Their concern is that it could potentially make them liable for a match amount beyond their means. ARDC’s Executive Director suggested some alternative language; however, the federal highway and DOT staff in St Paul would not alter their standard MPO contract.

To get around this impasse, and to get the funds for 2009 flowing, it was suggested by ARDC Administration that a short Memo of Understanding (MOU) be drawn up and approved by both the ARDC and MIC Boards that outlines our mutual agreement concerning the local match for the year. This MOU would be signed by all pertinent parties upon approval and filed with the budget for 2009. A motion and approval action will be requested of the MIC Board that concurs with the provisions noted in the MOU.

A second matter, to be more fully developed in the next 30 days, is a revision of the 2010 MIC Work Program and Budget--also revolving around ARDC local match dollars toward the federal funds from MnDOT. I have been told to bring the match down by approximately 15 to 20 percent due to a decrease in levy funds received by the agency. By the meeting, I hope to give the Board some idea of how this can be attained. The MIC will have one less planner on staff, so this helps some. I will also have to cut back on services for our modeling consultant; however, in 2010 this should be easier than if the cutback was this year while we are in the middle of the LRTP update. I will also seek input on the actual projects in 2010 as well. Please contact Ron Chicka at [rchicka@ardc.org](mailto:rchicka@ardc.org) or (218) 529-7506 for comments or questions.

### 8. SUPERIOR ON-STREET BIKE ROUTE PLANNING

MIC staff is forming a steering committee to guide the process of identifying the official on-street bike routes in Superior as well as determining the appropriate route identification methods, including bike route signage and pavement markings. The first task of the committee will be to determine which roads should be analyzed for their bicycle compatibility. The steering committee

## TAC Agenda Topics and Project Updates, continued

Transportation Advisory Committee

July 14, 2009

will consist of representatives from the City of Superior, Douglas County, YMCA, health organizations local bicyclists and other stakeholders. Please contact James Gittemeier at [jgittemeier@ardc.org](mailto:jgittemeier@ardc.org) or (218) 529-7556 for comments or questions.

### 9. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION – LOCAL PROJECTS

### 10. PROJECT UPDATES

#### **MIC Mid-Year Review, Ron Chicka**

On July 15<sup>th</sup>, state and federal representatives from both states will once again conduct the annual Mid-year Review covering all aspects of the MIC Work Program including the LRTP, TIP and budget. We also cover the MPO's role in the transit program through DTA. I expect to spend a large amount of the session covering the LRTP as we near the approval date this fall. We will also go into some depth on the budget, as the local match passed through via ARDC is seeing some reductions that will impact the MPO's ability to match federal dollars. It should be noted that a meeting between state and federal officials, MIC staff and Board members and ARDC Administration is being set up in August to cover budget concerns and go over many other items of how the MPO is to function within the existing agreement with ARDC and NWRPC.

#### **Duluth Depot Steering Committee, Ron Chicka**

An open house for the Duluth Depot Master Plan took place last month to invite comment from the public on what they would like to see the Depot and the surrounding sites become in the future. I was interviewed extensively on the many different planning efforts the MIC has conducted in the vicinity of the Depot that seek to aid all modes of movement in this area. Specifically, the MIC's most recent effort, the Downtown Duluth Modal Connections Study, calling for improvements to bike and pedestrian amenities around the Depot and improved connectivity to the DECC area, was brought to light many times. These recommendations will be incorporated into this County planning effort. Further open houses are set for later in the summer as ideas are drawn up by the consultant and the steering committee team.

#### **Wisconsin ARRA Projects, Ron Chicka**

2010 ARRA projects are set to be acted upon by the legislature's Joint Finance Committee (JFC). Two projects in the MIC area are on listed on the County's website that detail funding under the ARRA. The City of Superior has an East 5<sup>th</sup> Street project (as prioritized by the MIC) and Douglas County has a project on Route C (from STH 35 to Kronberg Road) in Superior Township. I will inform the MIC as I receive updates on the progress of the JFC regarding the projects.

#### **Mn/DOT Bike-Ped Outreach, James Gittemeier**

Staff from Mn/DOT's Office of Transit Bike/Ped Section met with Mn/DOT District 1, ARDC, MIC, City of Duluth, Fit City Duluth and DTA representatives on June 30, 2009. The meeting was scheduled as an information gathering and outreach session to find out about bike/ped initiatives in Northeast Minnesota as well as to answer questions about how the Bike/Ped Section at Mn/DOT can be a resource to groups, organizations and agencies working on bike/ped issues.



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council  
**Transportation Advisory Committee**  
**MEETING SUMMARY**  
**Tuesday, June 16, 2009, 1:30 PM**

<b>Meeting Location</b>	WITC Conference Center, Superior, WI	
<b>Meeting Chair(s)</b>	Dena Young	
<b>Note Taker</b>	Rondi Watson	
<b>Members Present</b>	Jim Foldesi	City of Superior
	Chuck Froseth	City of Duluth Planning Dept
	Paul Halverson	Douglas County
	Jim Heilig	Duluth Transit Authority
	Alison Johnson	Duluth Airport Authority
	Denny Johnson	Mn/DOT District 1
	Walter Leu	Mn/DOT District 1
	Cari Pedersen	City of Duluth Engineering
	Heather Rand	Mn DEED
	Jim Rohweder	City of Proctor
	David Salo	City of Hermantown
	Cindy Voigt	City of Duluth Engineering
	Dena Young	WisDOT NW Region
<b>Members Absent</b>	Brian Boder	St. Louis County Engineering
	Bryn Jacobson	Bike/Pedestrian Rep
	Cindy Petkac	City of Duluth Planning Dept
	Jason Serck	City of Superior
	Jim Sharrow	Duluth Seaway Port Authority
<b>Others Present</b>	Ann Doucette, <i>alternate</i>	Douglas County
	James Gittemeier	ARDC / MIC Planner
	Robert Herling	ARDC / MIC Planner
	Andy McDonald	ARDC / MIC Principal Planner
	Rondi Watson	ARDC / MIC Planning Assistant

### 1. Introductions and Agenda Review

Vice-Chair Dena Young called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and meeting attendees introduced themselves. She called for changes to the agenda; none were put forward.

### 2. Meeting Summary of May 19, 2009

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

**Motion and** Denny Johnson/Cari Pederson moved to approve the meeting summary from the

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**Discussion** May 19, 2009 TAC meeting. There was no discussion and the motion was approved unanimously.

### 3. Amendment #4 to 2009-2012 Duluth Metro Transportation Improvement Program

James Gittemeier reported that the Duluth Transit Authority (DTA) requested an amendment to the current Duluth Area TIP to include administrative corrections for FY 2009 and 2010 and new funding from various sources for three additional projects in FY 2010. Specifics include:

- \$2,600,000 – Reflects an administrative correction for 2009 & 2010; the amount of regular FTA 5307 annual formula funds were incorrectly listed in the STIP because the Transit Office mistakenly excluded \$1.3 million in preventive maintenance funds for each of these years.
- \$1,500,000 – For passenger amenity projects in 2010. Source: the DTA's formula ARRA funds.
- \$ 400,000 – (\$500,000 total) for facility improvements (to replace the DTA's bus washer and make hub improvements) in 2010. Source: 5309 federal earmark funds & DTA's earmark from FY2008.
- \$ 408,000 – (\$510,000 total) in 2010 for four hybrid buses (converting the purchase from regular buses to hybrid buses). Source: part of Mn/DOT's 5309 bus procurement allocation to the DTA.

He closed by requesting approval of the amendment.

**Motion and Discussion** Chuck Froseth/Jim Heilig moved to approve Amendment #4 to 2009-2012 Duluth Metro Transportation Improvement Program as presented. There was no discussion and the motion was approved unanimously.

### 4. Long Range Transportation Plan 2035 – Project Lists & Financial Capacity Analysis

Robert Herling explained the current status of the LRTP update, noting that both the jurisdictional project lists and the MIC-area model results have been slow in coming. He appealed to TAC representatives the previous day to provide complete lists of short-, mid- and long-term projects for their respective jurisdictions, along with associated costs and projected revenues (factored for inflation). These are needed by June 30 at the latest, to prepare for the capacity analysis the FHWA will be looking for at July's Mid-Year Review meeting.

Robert noted that, bottom line, this year's plan needs to demonstrate the ability to fund proposed projects. There has been a key change in the guidance we're receiving about this year's Long Range Plan—we are being asked to include local and state aid project estimates in addition to federally-funded projects. The final plan will also include a list of unfunded needs.

Jim Foldesi and Denny Johnson discussed the difficulties they've been having in meeting this request, noting that one issue is that they both have budgets for areas that are significantly wider than just the MIC area. Andy McDonald suggested that one approach would be to determine the jurisdiction's amount of mileage in MIC area, and use as a dollar amount the

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percentage of funds that it is assumed will be spent in this area.

Denny added that, in addition, it is very difficult to determine line item amounts in both the cost and revenue sections for any projects beyond the next 4 or 5 years. He stressed that there needed to be consistency between all jurisdictions in defining the types of projects (“maintenance” vs. “preservation” vs. “expansion” projects) as well as the processes to be followed in determining estimated costs and funding sources.

Robert replied that one way to determine estimated costs and revenues would be to look at past TIPs--those numbers will help to determine average yearly maintenance spending. He spelled out the cost/revenue assumptions to be applied: 1% inflation per year for revenue estimates; 5% per year for MN construction costs; 2.5% per year inflation for WI construction costs.

He also gave a brief overview of the process that the St Cloud MPO utilizes—they gather a lot more info during their TIP funding process that makes it a lot easier to compile this information for purposes of the LRTP. He closed by noting that he hopes to have the project lists ready for next month’s meeting as well as for the mid-year review.

He closed by giving a brief overview of the preliminary model results received back from the consultant, noting that they will need some closer attention and tweaking before they’re really useable – at this point, they show a very large number of failing intersections (LOS ranking “D” or “F”) throughout both Superior and Duluth, and the population estimates just don’t support those numbers.

#### 5. Northern MN/Northwest WI Regional Freight Plan

Andy McDonald reported that the Freight Plan is entering its final phases. MIC staff met with staff from the Duluth Seaway Port Authority, the Development Association of Douglas County and the City of Superior to discuss the issues and the formation of the final plan.

A draft of the Technical Memo was just passed along to MIC staff and is currently under review. He added that they have some questions about data accuracy pertaining to the metallic ore category (it can’t be as high as shown, may mistakenly include limestone). Major components of the final plan will include analyses of freight infrastructure, commodity flows and employment trends. Local freight infrastructure includes waterways, Class I and Class III railroads, roadways tiered by heavy commercial AADT volumes, bridges, and air cargo. Relative to the supply chain network, the data indicates that approximately 60% of local freight is outbound.

He noted that a shift is projected in this area from a manufacturing to a service-based economy – which also changes the dynamics of freight transportation (smaller packages, increased demand for express and shipment reliability).

Additional issues that are being investigated by the consulting team include port capacity and the development of an intermodal terminal and super corridor routes (to handle large oil sands and wind energy equipment), and the Harbor Maintenance Tax which favors bulk

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commodities—a barrier to expansion of short sea shipping activities.

He closed by reporting that the final document due by end of July (later than the planned June completion date). He added that MIC staff will be drawing out data that is pertinent to the Long Range Plan update.

## 6. Duluth Safe Routes to School Projects Update

James Gittemeier reported on the work that is currently underway for Safe Routes to School projects in Duluth. Last month, representatives from the City of Duluth, the Duluth School District and the MIC met to coordinate these projects. They are being moved around and divided into phases, to coincide with changes to the schools as the Duluth School District implements its Long Range Facility Plan; he noted that the Duluth district is being allowed a greater degree of flexibility in this regard.

Lincoln Park Non-Infrastructure Project—is being developed for implementation this fall; any curriculum, bikes purchased, etc., will then moved to the remaining elementary school for that area.

District-wide Non-Infrastructure Project—is moving forward, personnel have been assigned and bike/ped education curriculum and training events are being planned this summer for implementation this fall.

Congdon Park School Infrastructure Project—may be delayed until the district’s “Red Plan” is firmed up for this school;

Lincoln Park Infrastructure Project—James reported some reluctance on the part of the city to implement this grant due to concerns about public reaction about spending these funds near a school that is closing; however, Holly Butcher’s conversation with MnDOT’s SRTS coordinator, Kristie Billiar, indicated that they would be okay with implementing this project because the Park itself, along with possible future conversion of the school to an assisted living facility, will continue to be a significant pedestrian generator across West 24th Street.

Stowe Elementary School Infrastructure project—MnDOT’s will begin work this summer on Hwy 23/Grand Avenue and will include Safe Routes to School improvements. He noted that one question was being raised by those involved in the Stowe school SRTS plan, about why the crosswalks were not located at the areas of the intersections as recommended in the plan. Cindy Voigt responded that it was a fast-track project for stimulus funds, the work had been 90% planned by the time SRTS considerations entered in (not so much a problem with inter-jurisdictional coordination as a project-specific issue). Cari Pedersen commented that there still might be time to make that change in crosswalk location—however, the final placement might have been due to the free-right turn lane and wanting to avoid interactions between turning vehicles and pedestrians in a crosswalk.

## 7. HTAC/Harbor Planning Update

Andy McDonald reported that the HTAC met on June 3<sup>rd</sup> at the WITC Conference Center. The agenda included presentations on several topics, including:

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Superior Research Institute: Dr. Richard Stewart from UWS presented information about the proposed development of a state-of-the-art Superior Research Institute (SRI) facility on the Montreal Pier, located next to Barkers Island. The Great Ships Initiative (ballast water research facility) is already located there and Superior is planning a broader waterfront and landside development in this area. A joint proposal between UWS, the City of Superior and other regional stakeholders, the goals of this development are to expand research and public education opportunities and to create synergy by locating complementary agencies, academics and non-governmental agencies in proximity to one another. The proposed SRI would also provide public access to the SRI grounds and waterfront.

US Steel Superfund Site – the new project manager from the MPCA, Susan Johnson, gave a history of this site and described some of the results from the recent 5-year review, conducted in 2008 to determine if the prescribed response actions to date do indeed protect human health and safety. Sampling activities and data collection revealed 140 uncontaminated acres, but also a substantial number of tar seeps and oil seeps. This is coming to a head right now because the Port Authority has had inquiries about starting some type of development at this site. More sampling and data collection will be conducted; other next steps include developing and implementing selected response actions and working with prospective property buyers to evaluate parcels for contamination.

International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species: – Dale Bergeron from the Minnesota Sea Grant reported on the worldwide spread of the VHS fish virus, and its movement throughout Great Lakes specifically. One important message is that research indicates that no significant sustained destruction of wild fish populations is occurring because of this virus—it appears to hit an area, then moves on and the fish populations do recover.

Duluth Slips 2 & 3 Land Use Planning – Larry Killien from MN DNR office in Grand Rapids presented information about the planning process for the possible development of waterfront land owned by DEDA and the LaFarge Cement Plant waterfront land. There is word of a possible sale of this land – the DNR wants to establish a partnership with DEDA to include an extensive public participation process with development of several design concepts.

Commercial Fishing in Duluth-Superior – Presentation by Ed Montgomery, Bob Libby and Mark Howard, who runs the last commercial fishing operation out of this port; concerns that commercial fishing is coming to an end in this area, resulting in the loss of an important part of this area's heritage. Howard noted that to stay viable, his company needs space close to the harbor because of high fuel costs. There may be a resolution of support drafted for consideration at the September meeting.

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative– - John Haugland from EPA Region 5 in Chicago presented information about this \$475 million fund to clean up the Great Lakes, building upon initiatives developed during the 2005 Great Lakes Collaboration. Participating federal agencies include the EPA, Coast Guard, Army Corps, Fish & Wildlife Service. The RFP process will begin this summer. Funds will be awarded in several subcategories:

**Toxic Substances** - \$147 Million for cleanup and pollution prevention;

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**Invasive Species** - \$60 Million for monitoring, management plans & rapid response activities;

**Near Shore Work** - \$97 million for non-point source cleanup, watershed work & green infrastructure;

**Habitat Restoration** – \$106 Million for fish and aquatic habitat restoration; and

**Accountability** - \$65 Million for monitoring, science development & climate change research

He commented that based on recent planning activities, several entities within the Duluth-Superior Harbor should be well positioned to take advantage of this opportunity.

## 8. Roundtable Discussion – Local Projects

No announcements.

## 9. Project Updates

### 2010-2013 Draft Duluth Metro TIP

James Gittemeier reported that 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

The City of Duluth is submitting applications for three sections of roadway for ARRA-funded ADA improvements for the pedestrian network on MnDOT roadways. 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 26<sup>th</sup> AE and 40<sup>th</sup> AE; and 3) I-35 and 5<sup>th</sup> 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

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 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at the Depot to take comment from the public on the Master Plan.

### Bike-Ped Planning Update

James Gittemeier reported that 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.

## MIC Transportation Advisory Committee June 16, 2009 Meeting Summary

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 reported that 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.

He noted that the grant application ran into difficulty at the last minute in the designation of a fiscal agent; intention is to solve that problem and forward the application for next year's round of funding; now their intention is to solve that problem and forward the application for next year's round of funding.

### **Blueprint to End Poverty Transportation Action Team**

Robert Herling reported that he had participated in 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.

## **10. Adjournment**

With no further agenda items or announcements, Chair Young adjourned the meeting at 2:54 pm.

**DULUTH-SUPERIOR METROPOLITAN INTERSTATE COUNCIL****RESOLUTION 09-07**

*Approving the Revisions to the Minnesota Air Quality State Implementation Plan Handbook and Authorizing the MIC Director to Sign the Inter-Agency Memorandum of Agreement to Adopt and Implement the Revised Procedures and Protocols for Determining Transportation Air Quality Conformance in Compliance with Federal and State Regulations*

**WHEREAS**, the Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council (MIC) was created by the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission (ARDC) and the Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NWRPC) and designated by the Governors of Minnesota and Wisconsin as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Duluth-Superior area; and

**WHEREAS**, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) and the MIC are collectively responsible for developing and implementing various portions of the state air quality plans in the in the Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Area, and

**WHEREAS**, prior to adopting or amending the Long-Range Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), the MIC must first determine that these plans and programs conform to the federally approved state air quality plan (the State Implementation Plan or SIP) using procedures established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); and

**WHEREAS**, the Minnesota Interagency Air Quality & Transportation Planning Committee (MNIAQTPC), including representatives from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Metropolitan Council (Minneapolis-St. Paul MPO), Metropolitan Interstate Council (Duluth-Superior MPO), APO (St. Cloud MPO), Mn/DOT and the MPCA have prepared the Transportation Conformity Procedures for Minnesota: A Handbook for Transportation and Air Quality Professionals (SIP Handbook) for determining transportation air quality conformity in compliance with Federal and State regulations, which includes certain conformity procedures relating to transportation plans, programs and transportation projects and the interagency consultation procedures, and

**WHEREAS**, the MNIAQTPC has revised the SIP Handbook procedures and protocol to reflect the most recent guidance provided by the EPA, and

**WHEREAS**, federal regulations for amending the SIP require a public hearing prior to adoption of the revised SIP Handbook procedures and protocol with authority delegated to the MPCA to hold that public hearing, and

**WHEREAS**, approval from all affected MPOs is needed before an official public hearing and adoption by MPCA and EPA;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the MIC Policy Board approves the revised procedures and protocol for inclusion in the Minnesota Conformity SIP as approved by the MPCA and EPA, contingent on minor adjustments per MPCA and EPA comments, and authorizes the MIC Director to sign the Inter-Agency Memorandum of Agreement to adopt and implement the “Transportation Conformity Procedures for Minnesota: A Handbook for Transportation and Air Quality Professionals.”

ATTEST:

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Nick Baker  
Wisconsin MIC Co-Chair

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Andy Peterson  
Minnesota MIC Co-Chair

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Ron Chicka  
MIC Director

July 15, 2009  
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Date