



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council  
**Transportation Advisory Committee**  
**MEETING SUMMARY**  
**Tuesday, June 15, 2010, 1:30 PM**

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

**1. Introductions and Agenda Review**

TAC Vice-chair Jason Serck called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m. All meeting attendees introduced themselves. He asked if there were any proposed changes to the agenda. None were requested.

**2. Committee Business**

### Meeting Summary of May 18, 2010

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

**Motion** Heather Rand/Jim Rohweder moved to approve the 5/18/10 meeting summary as  
**Discussion** presented. There was no discussion and the motion was approved unanimously.  
**and Vote**

### 3. 2014 City of Superior TIP Project Submittal

Jason explained that this project would not be an approval item this month. They have been given a little more time by WisDOT to develop and submit a project by the end of July.

At this point, it appears the project under consideration, to reconstruct North 28th Street from Hill to Bardon Avenue, it is estimated at \$1.875 million, would exceed funding guidelines for the STP-Urban funding cycle is set up. They are working with Glenn Landis at WisDOT to see if this project can be phased and also are seeking sources of local match. Full details will be available at the July 21 meeting, but at this point it looks like they will submit the project in two phases, about a quarter mile at a time:

**2013** Construct North 28th Street from Hill Avenue to approximately 1320 feet east; estimated cost \$940,000

**2015** Construct North 28th Street from 1320 feet east of Hill Avenue to Bardon Avenue, estimated cost \$940,000

These would be full reconstruction with grading, new pavement section, etc. The funding would be 80% federal, 20% City of Superior.

Ron Chicka endorsed the project, explaining that it's a new process for STP funding, the project needs to be endorsed by the MPO instead of being directly submitted by the City.

### 4. Draft 2011-2014 Duluth Area Transportation Improvement Program

James Gittemeier reviewed all changes to the draft 2011-2014 Duluth Area TIP since it was and the public comments received. The public comment period closes Friday, June 18, 2010, with the public meeting held on Wednesday, June 16. The final version will be presented in July for approval. Changes to the project list include:

- Duluth train depot moved to 2011
- Rice Lake Road – has moved out of the TIP since it will be constructed solely with local funds.

Walter Leu commented that these project changes reflect the way local agencies are looking to streamline the federal process; by swapping federal and local funds, they are essentially reducing the number of federal projects this way, which saves administrative costs without having to undergo any federal process. They have a lot of low dollar projects that require a lot of upfront dollars to get underway – better to more fully fund the larger projects.

James closed by noting that air quality conformity will be conducted for all projects and that a public meeting is set for 5:30 pm on Wednesday, June 16 at the Hampton Inn in Canal Park. The final TIP will be presented for approval at the July MIC meetings.

#### 5. Draft 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan

Robert Herling reported that a draft of the MIC's updated long range transportation plan (LRTP), titled "Directions 2035" has been posted on the MIC's website, [www.dsmic.org](http://www.dsmic.org). An official 30-day public comment period began on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010. The MIC will be considering and responding to the comments received during this time. Barring any significant issues that require significant revision to portions of the plan, *Directions 2035* will be finalized during the month of July to bring forward for final adoption at the joint meeting of the TAC and MIC on July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010.

#### 6. Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Update

James Gittemeier reported on the following two initiatives that are currently underway:

##### **Bike to Work Day**

The MIC coordinated with Duluth and Superior a Bike to Work Morning Commuter Break event for. Each event will take place on Friday, June 11<sup>th</sup> from 6:30am to 8:30am. The Duluth event will take place at Minnesota Power Plaza at Lake Ave and Superior Street and the Superior event will take place at Belknap Street and Tower Avenue. At these events there will be bicycle commuter information, safety checks and refreshments. As details come together, staff will update members and the community through e-mail as well as on the MIC website.

##### **Kenwood Avenue Bike Sharrows**

The City of Duluth has installed bike sharrow pavement markings on Kenwood Avenue between Skyline Parkway and Arrowhead Road. While they are used around the U.S., this is the first use of such markings in Minnesota. These pavement markings focus on vehicles and bikes sharing the lane. Their function is to alert motorists that bicycles are a legal vehicle on the road, and to provide visual information to bicyclists about where in the roadway they should be riding, including the correct direction in which they should be traveling.

##### **Superior Bicycle Compatibility Index**

Data collection is underway to analyze the City of Superior road network for bike route compatibility. They will be fine-tuning to determine locations of final signed routes.

##### **Cross City Trail – Munger to Lakewalk Connection**

The alignment options for the trail are being narrowed down. The City of Duluth has met and will be having future meetings with the railroads, including BNSF, to determine final alignment. Duluth now has an idea of areas of right-of-way where the trail will be allowed, areas where it will not be and areas where there will need to be more discussion. The Trail Liaison Committee will be meeting in June to discuss these trail alignment options.

Bryn Jacobson commented that the indoor events at UMD on Bike to Work day were well attended.

## 7. Roundtable Discussion of Local Projects

Ron Chicka reported that a second phase of the TIGER Discretionary Grants (TIGER II) was recently announced by the US DOT. It is a \$600 million competitive grant process for surface transportation projects targeted for capital investments in highway or bridge projects, public transportation projects, passenger and freight rail projects, port and infrastructure investments and intermodal facilities. The Duluth Transit Authority (DTA) is forwarding an application for their plans for a new multimodal terminal in the downtown, adjacent to the Duluth Depot. The Port Authority is resubmitting (from the first TIGER grant process in 2009) a proposal for improvements to Garfield C and D docks toward development of a trans-shipment facility.

Denny Johnson commented that everyone is trying to strategize about what projects are likely to be funded – only \$8-10 million may be available statewide, and the Port project alone is in the \$10-15 million range.

Cindy Voigt commented how complicated the application project is...they have to be careful about what projects they even choose to forward, that's why they are pretty much sticking with the previous projects.

## 8. Project Updates

### Superior Safe Routes to School Projects

Ron reported that he and Jason Serck have met with Superior School District staff about their possible application for the next round of SRTS grant via the Wisconsin DOT. The district is considering applying for infrastructure dollars toward a SRTS grant via the Wisconsin DOT. We have been informing the school district about the sidewalk improvements that the City is already set to conduct this year, using funds they received via the federal earmark in 2005 that was based on the MIC's SRTS plan. The City also is working to determine the exact type of street crossing device that is acceptable to all parties, to be implemented per the MIC's plan along South Tower for Bryant Elementary. We will continue to work with the District as the new application is due July 9<sup>th</sup>.

### Endion Land Use and Transportation Plan Implementation

Ron and James reported that a recent public meeting by the City of Duluth is moving forward with implementing a key component of the Endion Plan, the conversion of one-way streets to two-way. One project is already underway, with the addition of a downhill lane to 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue East from 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. This will relieve congestion at 4<sup>th</sup> Street and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue East as it will allow for a left turn onto the eastbound only 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. In addition, 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Avenues East will be converted from one-way streets to two-way streets. Both avenues are remnants of the pre-I-35 Minnesota Trunk Highway System that is no longer needed. Public response was supportive.

### Kirkus Street Land Use Plan

James reported that the Kirkus Street Taskforce is in the data gathering stage of the Land Use Plan. The Plan will be a guide for the City of Proctor in determining the appropriate land uses for the Kirkus Street corridor. The taskforce has been compiling and reviewing information

pertaining to future land uses, including the housing and retail market, national and local trends as well as reviewing site opportunities and constraints. Proposed transportation connections, including the Proctor Connector Trail and others will be included in this Land Use Plan.

**Blueprint to End Poverty/Jumpstart Program**

Heidi Jaros, coordinator for Community Action Duluth's Jumpstart Duluth program reported that it is going very well. Since the program started last February about 30 low income people are now in vehicles. Positive outcomes include increased income and quality of life, no defaults, great participation.

She added that putting people into cars is not, however, the solution for all individuals, so they are undertaking a new look at pedestrian connectivity within targeted low income locations to targeted destinations.

Robert Herling commented that this is a very good fit for the MIC, in its coordination role and its mandate to address traditionally underserved populations.

**DTA Triennial Review**

Ron Chicka reported that every three years the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) visits transit agencies across the country to review all the work that is conducted, both planning and operationally, concerning usage of funds the MIC receives to work on transit related projects and multimodal planning projects in general. On the June 10, MIC staff participated in meetings with FTA staff reviewing our Work Program, TIP and Long Range Plan concerning how each addresses transit issues. We also went over various other regulatory documents and procedures including finances. Ultimately, the DTA received a "stamp of approval" on their operation from the FTA.

**9. Adjournment**

With no further agenda items or announcements, Chair Serck adjourned the meeting at 2:11 pm.