

MEETING NOTICE



Annual Joint Meeting of the
Metropolitan Interstate Council
and the
Transportation Advisory Committee

Wednesday, July 21, 2010

5:30 p.m. Dinner / 7:00 p.m. Meeting

**Richard I Bong Veterans Historical Center
 305 Harbor View Parkway, Superior, WI (map on reverse)**

Guest Speakers

- **Patrick Garmoe, PureDriven**
Utilizing Social Media in the MIC's Public Involvement Process
- **Dan Meyers and Erik Seiberlich, URS**
Bong and Blatnik Bridge Traffic Modeling Results

Action Items / Review for Approval:

- Final 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan
- Final 2011-2014 Duluth Area Transportation Improvement Program
- City of Superior Project Submittal - STP Urban Funds

Driving Directions & Parking Information: See map on reverse.

Attendance: Please RSVP for both 5:30 p.m. picnic and 7:00 p.m. meeting by contacting Rondi Watson at 529-7541 or rwatson@ardc.org.

Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

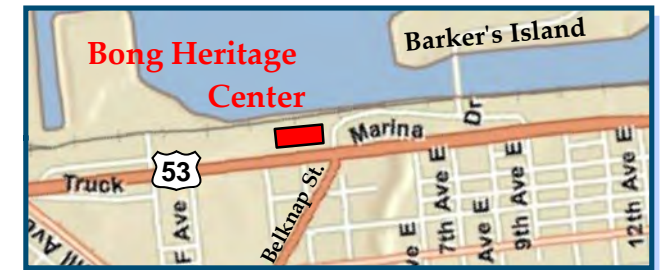
*Duluth and Superior Urban Area Communities Cooperating in Planning and Development
 through a Joint Venture of the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission and the Northwest Regional Planning Commission*

ARDC • 221 West First Street • Duluth, MN 55802 • (218) 529-7541 • www.dsmic.org



Richard I. Bong Veterans Historical Center

305 Harbor View Pkwy - Superior, WI



Alternative Routes from the Twin Cities

Primary Directions via Becks Rd:

- Take **Exit 246** for Midway Rd.; turn **Right** onto Cty. 3 (Becks Rd.)
- Turn **Left** at 100th Ave. W./Commonwealth Ave.
- Continue onto Grand Ave. until **46th Ave. W.**
- Turn **Right** at 46th Ave. W. and continue over the Bong Bridge
- Stay to the Left** when exiting the Bong Bridge and Turn **Left** onto Belknap St. in Superior.
- Continue on Belknap St. until E. 2nd St. (Hwy 53)
- The **Bong Heritage Center** will be on the Left across the Intersection.

Secondary Directions via Midway Rd:

- Take **Exit 246** for Midway Rd.; turn **Left** onto Midway Rd.
- Turn **Right** at Old Hwy 2; continue onto Morris Thomas Rd.
- Turn **Right** at Piedmont Ave.; turn **Right** to stay on Piedmont Ave. (Hwy. 53)
- Follow Piedmont Ave onto the **Blatnik Bridge (I-535)** and cross over to Superior.
- Follow the First Exit to **E. 2nd St (Hwy 53)**.
- Continue on E. 2nd St (Hwy 53) to **Belknap St.**
- The **Bong Heritage Center** will be on the Left.

Metropolitan Interstate Council Policy Board (MIC)	ANNUAL JOINT MIC & TAC MEETING	Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)
<p>City of Duluth Tony Cuneo Kerry Gauthier David Montgomery</p> <p>City of Hermantown Wayne Boucher</p>	<p>Wednesday, July 21, 2010</p> <p>Richard I Bong Veterans Historical Center Superior, WI</p> <p>5:30 pm: Catered Dinner</p> <p>7:00 pm: Meeting</p> <p>AGENDA</p>	<p>City of Duluth Chuck Froseth Cari Pedersen Cindy Petkac Cindy Voigt</p>
<p>City of Proctor Troy Foucault</p>	<p>1. Introductions / Agenda Review / Committee Business-(5")</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MIC Meeting Summary of May 19, 2010 <i>(for approval)</i> 	<p>City of Hermantown David Salo</p> <p>City of Proctor Jim Rohweder</p>
<p>City of Superior Ed Anderson Warren Bender Denise McDonald Dan Olson</p>	<p>2. Guest Speakers: MIC's Social Media Initiative (30")</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Patrick Garmoe, PureDriven</i> 	<p>City of Superior Jason Serck, <i>Vice-Chair</i> Jeff Goetzman</p>
<p>Douglas County Keith Allen Nick Baker, <i>Co-Chair</i> Kay McKenzie Jim Paine</p>	<p>3. Guest Speakers: Bong and Blatnik Bridge Traffic Modeling (30")</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dan Meyer and Erik Seiberlich, URS Corp</i> 	<p>Douglas County Paul Halverson</p>
<p>Douglas County Suburban Townships Broc Allen</p>	<p>4. Final 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan (15")</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review for Approval, <i>Robert Herling</i> 	<p>St. Louis County Jim Foldesi, <i>Chair</i></p>
<p>Duluth Transit Authority Melanie Hendrickson</p>	<p>5. Final 2011-2014 Duluth Area TIP (10")</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review for Approval, <i>James Gittemeier</i> 	<p>MnDOT Denny Johnson Walter Leu</p>
<p>St. Louis County Steve O'Neil, <i>Co-Chair</i></p>	<p>6. City of Superior Project Submittal - STP Urban Funds (10")</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation and Discussion, <i>Ron Chicka</i> 	<p>WisDOT Dena Young</p>
<p>St. Louis County Suburban Townships Earl Elde Cindy Moe</p>	<p>7. PROJECT UPDATES (5")</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Superior Safe Routes to School Projects, <i>Ron Chicka</i> • Kirkus Street Land Use Plan, <i>James Gittemeier</i> • Bike/Pedestrian Planning Update, <i>James Gittemeier</i> • TIGER II Grant Applications, <i>Ron Chicka</i> • Transportation Research Board Presentation, <i>Ron Chicka</i> 	<p>NE MN DEED Heather Rand</p>
<p>St. Louis County Suburban Townships Earl Elde Cindy Moe</p>	<p>Next TAC Meeting: Tuesday, August 17, 1:30 PM Next MIC Meeting: Wednesday, August 18, 7:00 PM <i>(Both held at the Hermantown Training Center, Hermantown, MN)</i></p>	<p>Airport Brian Ryks</p>
<p>St. Louis County Suburban Townships Earl Elde Cindy Moe</p>		<p>Bikes/Peds Bryn Jacobson</p>
<p>St. Louis County Suburban Townships Earl Elde Cindy Moe</p>		<p>Transit Dennis Jensen</p>
<p>St. Louis County Suburban Townships Earl Elde Cindy Moe</p>		<p>Port Jim Sharrow</p>

Agenda Topics and Project Updates

July 21, 2010

Annual Joint Meeting of the MIC and TAC



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council Transportation Advisory Committee

* = Approval Item

1. INTRODUCTIONS / AGENDA REVIEW / COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- Meeting Summary of May 19, 2010 (separate attachment) *

2. GUEST SPEAKERS – PATRICK GARMOE, PUREDRIVEN

Utilizing Social Media in the MIC's Public Involvement Process

Patrick Garmoe of PureDriven, a social media and marketing consulting firm based in Two Harbors, MN, will present information regarding the MIC's new effort to incorporate social networking tools into our public participation strategies.

MIC staff, as well as Ryan Gaug, MPO liaison from MnDOT and Steve O'Neil, MN Co-chair, participated in two strategic planning sessions in May and June. Patrick will present an overview about what they learned about the MIC and their recommendations for a full range of traditional communications and social media options with the goal of making our plans and programs more accessible to a wider audience.

3. GUEST SPEAKERS: – DAN MEYERS AND ERIK SEIBERLICH, URS CORP.

Bong and Blatnik Bridge Traffic Modeling Results

The consultant team from URS will be at our meeting to discuss results of the modeling work being conducted on traffic mitigation efforts for the Blatnik Bridge should the Bong Bridge be closed for major construction work in 2014. They will detail their analysis of major intersections along Hammond Avenue, as well as others of importance, near the Blatnik that will have an impact on traffic movement. Options to mitigate traffic include signals at certain junctures, adding or restricting roadway capacity, an improved ramping system and a roundabout. This last measure is being implemented in many locations across Wisconsin, especially at key junction points such as freeway access points and bridge approaches. Costs have not been calculated to date of any of these measures. The goal of this work is to have a series of options available for the DOT to consider in their evaluation of how to properly handle traffic should the Bong require complete closure for a construction season.

Please contact Ron Chicka at rchicka@ardc.org or (218) 529-7506 for comments or questions.

4. FINAL 2035 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN *

The official 30-day public review (June 1 to June 30) of the MIC's updated long range transportation plan (LRTP), titled "Directions 2035" has come to an end. Comments have been received from both individual members of the public and a number of public agencies, and the

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MIC has worked to respond accordingly, making recommended adjustments to the plan were deemed appropriate. No comments were received which resulted in significant changes to the draft that would require an additional public review, and the plan is therefore being brought to the MIC Policy Board for approval at this meeting. All comments received have been included in the plan's appendices.

Please contact Robert Herling at rherling@ardc.org or (218) 529-7573 for comments or questions.

5. FINAL 2011-2014 DULUTH AREA TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM *

The MIC received minor comments during the public comment period on the Duluth Area TIP. The comments largely came from the local jurisdictions regarding small project changes and insubstantial language changes in the text. The final Duluth Area TIP will be presented for approval at the July meetings.

For comments or questions, please contact James Gittemeier at jgittemeier@ardc.org or (218) 529-7556.

6. CITY OF SUPERIOR PROJECT SUBMITTAL – STP URBAN FUNDS*

The information below is reiterated from the last meeting that was cancelled due to the Wisconsin DOT allowing more time for the City to respond to the STP-Urban project submittal process.

Under the new Wisconsin DOT guidelines for project solicitation for STP (Surface Transportation Program)-Urban funds, projects need to be submitted by the MPO when a municipality is incorporated within a MPO. Therefore, the City of Superior now needs to funnel their STP-Urban project requests through the MIC Policy Board—a change in procedure that provides us a bit more input into project selection. The idea is that the City's goals for project development align with those identified in the MIC's Long Range Transportation Plan. Should there be multiple projects, the MIC will also have to prioritize them.

The City of Superior has chosen to forward a project to reconstruct North 28th Street from Hill to Bardon Ave. Based on rough costs, it is estimated at \$1.875 million. Due to the way the STP-Urban funding cycle is set up, they are proposing to submit and complete the project in two phases:

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

Agenda Topics and Project Updates

July 21, 2010

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be 80% federal, 20% City of Superior.

More details about this project will be provided at the meeting. Contact Ron Chicka at 218rchicka@ardc.org or (218) 529-7506 for comments or questions.

7. PROJECT UPDATES

Superior Safe Routes to School Projects, *Ron Chicka*

As of this mailing, Jason Serck, Superior City Planning Director, and I are assisting the School District on their application for Wisconsin DOT Safe Routes to School funding. An application is due to the DOT by July 9th. The school district is targeting infrastructure improvements (i.e. sidewalks and crosswalks) near all elementary schools, cognizant of the fact that the City has recently improved some sidewalks near the schools. We are trying to determine those locations not upgraded recently that might best meet the conditions specified in the grant application. By our meeting date (July 21), I will be able to report what the School District has forwarded along for DOT consideration.

Kirkus Street Land Use Plan, *James Gittemeier*

The Kirkus Street task force attended a meeting of the Proctor Economic Development Authority (PEDA) to hear a presentation regarding the retail market for the Proctor Area. The information presented will be analyzed by the task force in an effort to devise a future land use strategy for the mostly undeveloped southern portion of Proctor.

Bike/Pedestrian Planning Update, *James Gittemeier*

Bike to Work Day

The MIC coordinated 2 Bike to Work Day events, one at Lake Ave and Superior Street in Duluth and the other at Tower Ave and Belknap Street in Superior. Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate, and the morning events were called off early. However, the message encouraging people to try bicycling as a legitimate mode of transportation did get out, as there was good media coverage before the events.

Cross City Trail – Munger to Lakewalk Connection

The alignment options for the trail are being narrowed down. The City of Duluth has met with the railroads, including CP and BNSF, to determine final alignment. The Cross City Trail Committee held a meeting on June 22nd to go over these alignments and options with each alignment. The committee is charged with assisting the City of Duluth in determining final alignment. As the final alignment of the trail emerges, the general public, stakeholders, and interested citizens are encouraged to provide comments. All MIC and TAC members are strongly encouraged to participate at this point as well.

Agenda Topics and Project Updates

July 21, 2010

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TIGER II Grant Applications, *Ron Chicka*

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 funds to be used in their plans for a new multimodal terminal in the downtown, adjacent to the Duluth Depot. At this time, I do not have a dollar amount for their grant request. The Port Authority is resubmitting (from the first TIGER grant process in 2009) a proposal for improvements to Garfield C and D docks both land and water based toward development of a trans-shipment facility. Also, as with the DTA’s facility, a dollar amount is being decided upon at this time.

Transportation Research Board (TRB) Presentation, *Ron Chicka*

Andy McDonald, MIC Principal Planner and I will be attending the July conference of the TRB in Minneapolis where we have been asked to present the work of our Harbor Technical Advisory Committee (HTAC) to a national audience. Our session is titled “The Future of Great Lakes Transportation” to be moderated by Prof. Richard Stewart from UW-Superior’s Transportation and Logistics Research Center – a longtime colleague of the MIC. We have been asked to discuss the HTAC’s setup, collaboration efforts and successes that we have achieved over the years.



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

Guiding the Future of Transportation for the Twin Ports Area

June 28, 2010

Community Development Block Grant Committee
Attn: Keith Hamre
411 W. First Street
City Hall, Room 407
Duluth, MN 55802

Dear committee members:

I am writing in support of the Community Action Duluth's CDBG application for the Jump Start Program, and recommend that the committee allocates the \$34,000 from the Housing Access Center in the 2011 funding round. The MIC was involved in helping to develop this program in 2008, and continues to monitor the success of the program under the management of Community Action. I feel the program's results over the past year speaks for itself (35 individuals in personal automobiles) and demonstrate its importance in reducing mobility barriers for low-income members of the Duluth community and helping to reduce the number of area households living in poverty.

In addition, the program's coordinator, Heidi Jaros - Community Action Duluth's Transportation Advocate - also plays an important role in addressing a variety of local transportation issues by continually representing the perspective of the low-income users of the community's various transportation assets. Whether it be in her capacity as facilitator of regular meetings of area transportation and human services professionals; her involvement in helping to shape the city's Complete Streets Policy; her membership on Fit City Duluth's Active Living Committee; or her assistance with the MIC's updating of the Duluth-Superior Long Range Transportation Plan, the work of Community Action Duluth's Transportation Advocate continues to support the MIC's objectives of ensuring that the transportation needs of the area's traditionally underserved populations are being addressed in planning for future transportation improvements in the City of Duluth.

Sincerely,

Ron Chicka, AICP
MIC Director

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