

# MEETING NOTICE



## TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

*Tuesday, September 14, 2010 at 1:30 p.m.*

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

### Guest Speakers

- **Sky Harbor Airport**

*Brian Ryks, Executive Director, Duluth Airport Authority, and Scott Sannes, SEH Consulting*

### Presentation / Discussion / Informational Items

- Transportation Performance Measures for the Duluth-Superior Area
- Joshua Avenue Design
- Central Entrance Corridor Study – Scope of Work Development
- 2011 MIC Work Program Development

**Driving Directions / Parking Information:** *See map on next page*

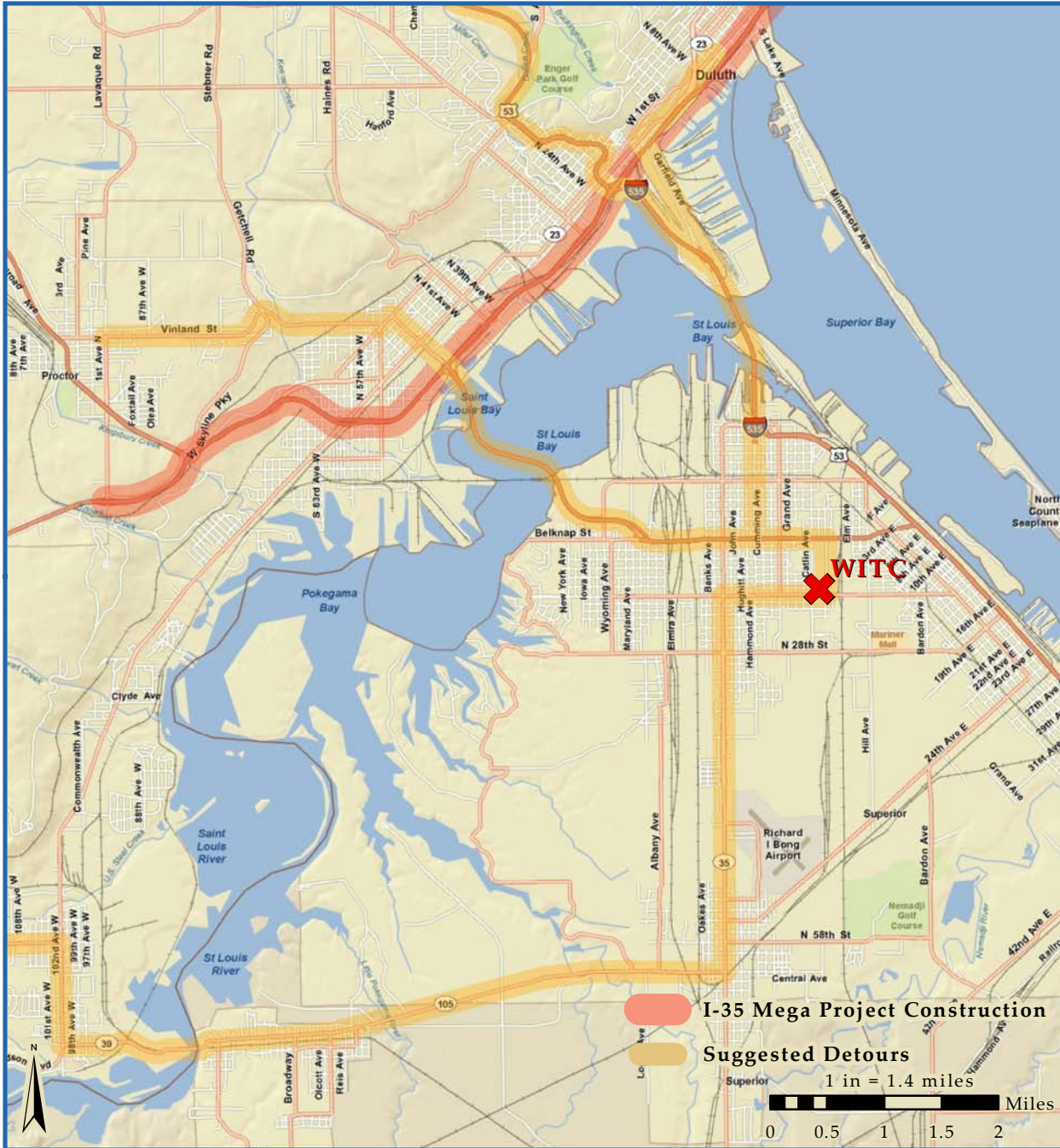
### Attendance / Meeting Quorum

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.



# Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College

Conference Center - 600 N. 21st St. Superior, WI



### Alternative Route from Twin Cities:

#### Directions via Becks Rd:

- Take Exit 246 for Midway Rd.; turn **Right** onto Cty. 3 (Becks Rd.)
- Turn **Right** at Gary St.; then **Right** at Commonwealth Ave.
- Turn **Left** at McCuen St. (MN 39) becomes WI 105
- Turn **Left** at Tower Ave. (WI 35); turn **Right** at N. 21<sup>st</sup> St.
- Turn **Left** at Mertz Mortorelli Dr.

#### Alternative Route from Proctor:

#### Directions via Vinland St:

- Follow Vinland St.; continue onto Highland St.
- Turn **Right** at N. Central Ave.; take first **Left** onto W. 8<sup>th</sup> St.
- Turn **Right** at N. 46<sup>th</sup> Ave. W.; continue onto US Hwy 2 into WI (Belknap St.)
- Turn **Right** at Mertz Mortorelli Dr.

#### Alternative Route from Hermantown:

#### Directions via US Hwy 53:

- Follow US Hwy 53/I-535 into WI
- Turn **Left** at Belknap St. (US Hwy 2)
- Turn **Right** at Mertz Mortorelli Dr.

#### Alternative Route from downtown Duluth:

#### Directions via W. Superior St:

- Follow W. Superior St. south; turn **Left** onto Garfield Ave.
- Merge onto US Hwy 53/I-535 South (left lane) into WI
- Turn **Left** at Belknap St. (US Hwy 2)
- Turn **Right** at Mertz Mortorelli 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  
Jim Benning (alternate)

**City of Hermantown (1 rep)**

David Salo  
John Mulder (alternate)

**City of Proctor (1 rep)**

Jim Rohweder

**City of Superior (2 reps)**

Jason Serck, ***Vice-chair***  
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, ***Chair***  
Brian Boder (alternate)

**WisDOT NW Region (1 rep)**

Dena Young

DULUTH-SUPERIOR  
METROPOLITAN INTERSTATE COUNCIL

**TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

***Tuesday, September 14, 2010 at 1:30 p.m.***

WITC Conference Center  
Superior, WI

**AGENDA**

<b>1. Introductions / Agenda Review</b>	5 min
<b>2. Committee Business – for approval</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting Summary of August 17, 2010</li> </ul>	
<b>3. Sky Harbor Airport</b>	30 min
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation and Discussion, <i>Brian Ryks, Duluth Airport Authority and Scott Sannes, SEH</i></li> </ul>	
<b>4. Transportation Performance Measures for Duluth-Superior</b>	15 min
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation and Discussion, <i>Robert Herling</i></li> </ul>	
<b>5. Joshua Avenue Design</b>	15 min
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation and Discussion, <i>Andy McDonald</i></li> </ul>	
<b>6. Central Entrance Corridor Study – Scope of Work Development</b>	15 min
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation and Discussion, <i>Andy McDonald</i></li> </ul>	
<b>7. 2011 MIC Work Program Development</b>	15 min
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation and Discussion, <i>Ron Chicka</i></li> </ul>	
<b>8. Roundtable Discussion– Local Projects</b>	5 min
<b>9. Project Updates and Informational Items</b>	5 min
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I-35 Construction Update - 2011, <i>Ron Chicka</i></li> <li>I-35 Congestion Mitigation Ridership Study, <i>Robert Herling</i></li> <li>Transportation Action Team, <i>Robert Herling</i></li> <li>Connecting Duluth-Bike Route Assessment, <i>James Gittemeier</i></li> </ul>	

**Next TAC Meeting:**

Tuesday, October 19, 1:30 pm  
Proctor Community Center, Proctor, MN

# TAC Agenda Topics and Project Updates

## Transportation Advisory Committee

September 14, 2010 Meeting

\* = Approval Item



### 1. INTRODUCTIONS / AGENDA REVIEW

### 2. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- Meeting Summary of August 17, 2010\* (see separate attachment)\*

### 3. GUEST SPEAKERS – BRIAN RYKS, DULUTH AIRPORT AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND SCOTT SANNES, SEH CONSULTING - *Sky Harbor Airport*

Recently, Sky Harbor Airport has been in the news as community members debate the importance of the old growth forest near the airport and the value of Sky Harbor to the community. Currently Sky Harbor Airport on Park Point is not in compliance with federal and state regulations addressing safety and obstructions near runways because some of the old growth trees are penetrating safety zones. The Federal Aviation Administration and MnDOT Aeronautics have requested that Sky Harbor Airport return to regulatory compliance. This request led to an Environmental Assessment that has examined a number of alternatives and proposed a preferred alternative that is a compromise of shifting the runway and minimizing the removal of trees. Brian Ryks will present information about the Sky Harbor Airport and Scott Sannes will review the Environmental Assessment and the planning process that is currently underway.

### 4. TRANSPORTATION MEASURES FOR THE DULUTH-SUPERIOR AREA

It was established at the August meeting after the presentation on performance measures that the staff will be revisiting the Duluth-Superior long range transportation objectives and selecting a few under each of the MIC's eight goal areas that could be converted into SMART objectives (specific, measurable, agreeable, reliable and time-bound). For the September meeting, staff will be looking to the board members to weigh in on whether those selected objectives would be appropriate to apply performance measures to, and then begin to discuss what those measures (and subsequent performance targets) might be for the MIC area.

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

### 5. JOSHUA AVENUE DESIGN

The City of Duluth is developing a design for the new Joshua Avenue or "Duluth Heights Connector" from Maple Grove Road to Arrowhead Road. The City was able to secure funding for the design phase of the project. This design is the next step in implementing the recommendation from the Duluth Heights Traffic Circulation Study for the new roadway. We have received requests to use our travel demand model information as a small area model is developed to provide information for the roadway design. The information developed for this design project will also be useful for work on the Central Entrance Corridor Study. MIC staff could also assist the City with the public input process. We'll review with the TAC and MIC important design elements that were brought out in our 2006 planning effort.

## TAC Agenda Topics and Project Updates, continued

September 14, 2010 Meeting

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Please contact Andy McDonald at [amcdonald@ardc.org](mailto:amcdonald@ardc.org) or (218) 529-7514 for comments or questions.

### 6. CENTRAL ENTRANCE CORRIDOR STUDY – SCOPE OF WORK DEVELOPMENT

The City of Duluth has identified a new vision for the Central Entrance corridor and business district. This vision was defined during the Central Entrance-Miller Hill Small Area Plan ([www.duluthmn.gov/planning/sap/millerhill.cfm](http://www.duluthmn.gov/planning/sap/millerhill.cfm)) which was completed in September of 2009. The vision for the Central Entrance area was to become more of a walkable place that also has improved auto access to businesses and have Central Entrance function as Duluth Heights “main street.” The MIC proposed to assist this effort with a more detailed look at how the anticipated future land use changes would impact and complement the surrounding transportation network.

MIC staff would like to engage the TAC in the development of the scope of work for this project. We would like to determine some of the elements of the study: study area, goals/objectives, modeling needs, data collection, public input, etc.... The goal of this exercise would be to get input from the TAC in order to develop a scope of work for review/approval at the October meetings.

Please contact Andy McDonald at [amcdonald@ardc.org](mailto:amcdonald@ardc.org) or (218) 529-7514 for comments or questions.

### 7. 2011 MIC WORK PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

As a first stage in development of the 2011-2012 UPWP, I will discuss with the TAC and MIC the projects being proposed for inclusion in next year’s budget. Much of our work will be tied up in required tasks concerning the TIP, LRP and our usual modal components (transit, bike/ped, freight and harbor). Once I run the numbers, I don’t think there will be much room for a ‘pure discretionary’ type of project such as Central Entrance or Kirkus Street corridors. But, I think this is OK since there are a number of policy based items that need attention, especially in light of the upcoming changes that may occur to MPOs from a legislative standpoint (i.e. performance measure work and increased public outreach tasks to name just two).

For the meeting, I’ll provide a brief listing of project tasks for next year. I will ask for your comments and guidance as we move forward. I am targeting the October meeting for a full draft Work Program and Budget.

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

### 8. Project Updates

#### I-35 Construction Update - 2011, Ron Chicka

A request from the August meeting was made to include information on the scope of work to be done in 2011 for the mega-project I-35 work. Though pretty general right now and likely subject to changes, the website for the projects notes only that bridges will be replaced at the Paper Mill and Ore Docks plus continuing to repair and paint bridges at the “can of worms” interchange. Also, work will continue on pavement replacement from 46<sup>th</sup> Avenue West to the “can of worms”

## TAC Agenda Topics and Project Updates, continued

September 14, 2010 Meeting

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interchange. Lane closures and various ramp closures will coincide with this work. For more information and 'real time' updates on traffic impacts, go to the project's website at <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/duluthmegaproject/index.html>.

### **I-35 Congestion Mitigation Ridership Study**, *Robert Herling*

The MIC and the DTA have submitted a proposed scope of work to MnDOT's Office of Transit as part of an application for special funding dedicated to the study of transit mitigation efforts throughout the state. The scope of work is for a "phase 1" of the study, which would involve on-ride surveys of the riders currently utilizing the DTA's increased service along Grand Ave. Survey questions will be designed to identify consumers' motivations; how they are using the service; and what factors would influence whether they'd continue to use related services once construction on I-35 stops and the increased service is dialed back.

### **Transportation Action Team Update**, *Robert Herling*

The "Blueprint to End Poverty's" Transportation Action Team met in August and identified a series of next steps for its new focus on non-motorized transportation needs in Duluth's Lincoln Park Neighborhood. These steps include researching and collating all current and recent plans and planned projects for the area; looking for previously identified needs and subsequent recommendations; identifying consistencies and inconsistencies among the plans; and highlighting potential opportunities to coordinate planned activities and projects. In turn, the team will be developing a set of media to present to Lincoln Park residents that summarize all these plans and ask for input. A survey will also be developed to get updated information about current transportation issues or barriers for the Lincoln Park community, as perceived by the low-income residents.

### **Connecting Duluth-Bike Route Assessment**, *James Gittemeier*

The report for the Connecting Duluth project, as reported by Codie Leseman at the August meetings, is completed. In October, the MIC will present this report, including the key findings and the intended use.