

MEETING NOTICE



TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, December 7, 2010 at 1:30 p.m.

**WITC Conference Center
Superior, WI**

Approval / Voting Items

- Final 2011-2012 MIC Work Program and Budget
- Amendment # 9 to 2010 – 2013 Duluth Area TIP
- Amendments # 4 and 5 to 2010 – 2013 Superior Area TIP

Presentation / Discussion / Informational Items

- Transportation Performance Measures for the Duluth-Superior Area
- Central Entrance Corridor Study
- Kirkus Street Land Use Plan
- East Second Street Access Management Plan
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Update

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

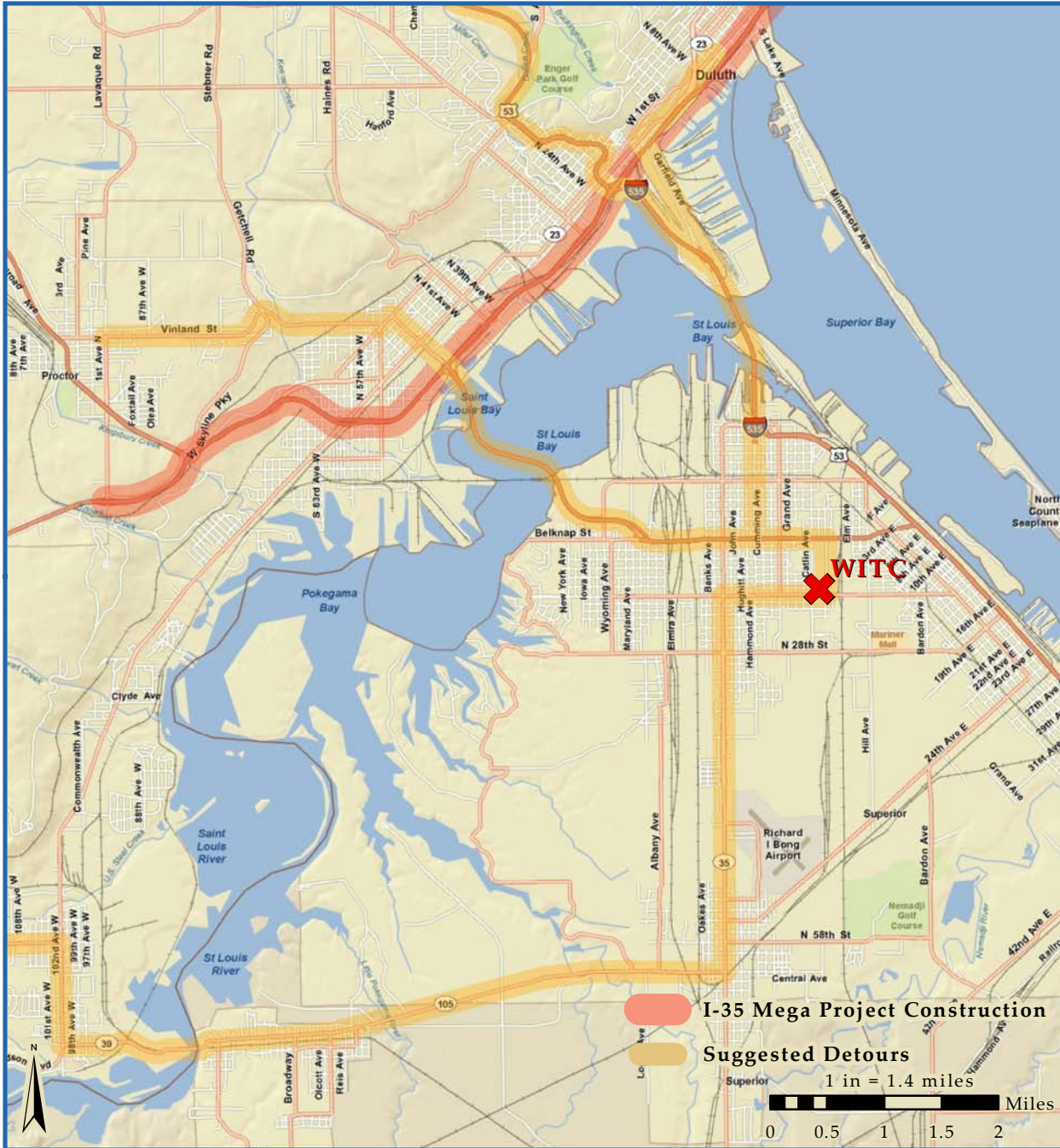
Attendance / Meeting Quorum

If you are NOT able to attend, or expect to arrive late to the meeting, **please contact Rondi Watson at rwatson@ardc.org 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. 21st 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. 8th St.
- Turn **Right** at N. 46th 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, December 7, 2010 at 1:30 p.m.

WITC Conference Center
Superior, WI

AGENDA

1. Introductions / Agenda Review	5 min
2. Committee Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2011 TAC Meetings Calendar • 2011 TAC Officers • Meeting Summary of October 19, 2010 <i>(for Approval)</i> 	
3. Amendment # 9 to 2010 – 2013 Duluth Area TIP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review for Approval, <i>James Gittemeier</i> 	5 min
4. Amendments # 4 and 5 to 2010 – 2013 Superior Area TIP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review for Approval, <i>Sheldon Johnson</i> 	5 min
5. Final 2011-2012 MIC Work Program and Budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review for Approval, <i>Ron Chicka</i> 	5 min
6. Kirkus Street Land Use Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation and Discussion, <i>James Gittemeier</i> 	10 min
7. East Second Street Corridor Study <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation and Discussion, <i>Robert Herling</i> 	10 min
8. Central Entrance Corridor Study <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation and Discussion, <i>Kody Thurnau, Andy McDonald</i> 	15 min
9. Transportation Performance Measures for Duluth-Superior <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation and Discussion, <i>Robert Herling</i> 	15 min
10. Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation and Discussion, <i>James Gittemeier</i> 	15 min
11. Roundtable Discussion– Local Projects	5 min
12. Project Updates and Informational Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2012-2015 Duluth Area TIP Project Solicitation, <i>James Gittemeier</i> • I-35 Congestion Mitigation Ridership Study, <i>Robert Herling</i> • AMPO/NADO Conference, <i>Ron Chicka</i> • Northern Lights Express Passenger Rail, <i>Ron Chicka</i> 	5 min

Next TAC Meeting:

Tuesday, January 18, 2011, 1:30 pm, WisDOT Lake Superior Room, Superior, WI

TAC Agenda Topics and Project Updates

Transportation Advisory Committee

December 7, 2010 Meeting



* = Approval Item

1. INTRODUCTIONS / AGENDA REVIEW

2. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- Meeting Summary of October 19, 2010* (see separate attachment)*
- TAC Meetings Calendar for 2011
- 2011 TAC Officers

At the December TAC meeting, I will be asking for a volunteer from the Minnesota side of the membership roster to serve as the Vice-Chair for the upcoming year. Following TAC protocol, current Vice-Chair Jason Serck (City of Superior) will succeed Jim Foldesi (St. Louis County) to serve as the 2011 TAC Chair. Nominations for both officers will be formalized by a vote at the start of the January 2011 meeting.

Please consider putting your name forward to serve as Vice-Chair in 2011 (and as Chair in 2012). If you have comments or questions, please contact Ron Chicka at 529-7506 or at rchicka@ardc.org.

3. AMENDMENT #9 TO 2010-2013 DULUTH AREA TIP *

An amendment is being requested for two reasons; a change in fiscal year, and a significant cost increase.

The project was originally shown as a fiscal year 2010 project using advance construction (AC) with the conversion occurring in fiscal year 2011. The project was not authorized in time to make fiscal year 2010 and has moved into 2011. The deferral allows it to be fully federally funded in the year it will be authorized and let.

The estimated cost of the project has risen from \$600,000 (\$400,000 federal, \$200,000 local) to \$1,440,000 (\$400,000 federal, \$1,040,000 local). This substantial cost increase was due to damaged structural members discovered during project development. The TEA funded portion of the project involving historic preservation is unchanged and continues to be funded at the \$400,000 level originally programmed. The increased local share is being funded by a general obligation bond and funds from St. Louis County. Fiscal constraint is therefore not impacted.

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

4. AMENDMENTS #4 AND 5 TO 2010-2013 SUPERIOR URBANIZED AREA TIP

It is necessary to consider two amendments to add the following projects to the approved projects list in the 2010-2013 Superior Urbanized Area TIP, as follows:

TAC Agenda Topics and Project Updates, continued

December 7, 2010 Meeting

Amendment #1

This project enables the Northwest Wisconsin Community Services Agency to deliver described program funding throughout the counties of Douglas, Bayfield and Ashland. The project(s) will occur in calendar year 2011 (January-December).

2011 Transportation Improvements Projects (TRANSIT - 5316)

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
NWCSA 113-11- 010	Northwest Wisconsin Community Services Agency					
JARC Funding- Section 5316	Provide funding for Mobility Management, vehicle purchase and repair loans, vanpool.					
Amended to TIP in December 2010		TOTAL	123,691		72,789	196,480

Amendment #2

This project enables the City of Superior to complete remaining work on a federal earmark from 2007 for work along N. 28th Street. The project(s) will occur in calendar year 2011.

2011 Transportation Improvements Projects (Roadway)

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources (Thousands)			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
City of Superior 113-11-011	N. 28 th Street – Weeks Ave to Hill Ave.	PE	26		7	33
8998-24-01 PE 8998-24-73 Const	Improve pedestrian facilities by constructing sidewalk, bulb-outs, crosswalks, and improved lighting.	ROW CONST	133		33	166
Amended to TIP in April 2010		TOTAL	159		40	199

If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact me at 715-635-2197 or by email at sjohnson@nwrpc.com.

5. FINAL 2011 – 2012 MIC WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET *

The final 2011-2012 UPWP will be put forward for approval at the December meetings. From the discussion of the draft at the last meeting, there was little added input as to projects to be included or not for 2012. The second year of the UPWP is a requirement of the state's budget process for the MPOs and gives us a chance to begin to prioritize our work, at a minimum.

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

TAC Agenda Topics and Project Updates, continued

December 7, 2010 Meeting

6. KIRKUS STREET LAND USE PLAN

A series of land use scenarios are being developed to determine potential impacts of various development alternatives. Staff will provide an update of this plan as well as the remaining steps left including a city wide public involvement event.

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

7. EAST 2ND STREET CORRIDOR STUDY

A final draft of the East 2nd Street Corridor Study has been completed and is ready for review. The study took a look at a variety of conditions related to land use context, multimodal patterns, road design and operations. Particular attention was paid to the influence of vehicle speeds and the numerous points of access along the corridor. The draft will be presented to the MIC Policy Board for approval in January 2011.

For comments or questions, please contact Robert Herling at rherling@ardc.org or (218) 529-7573.

8. CENTRAL ENTRANCE CORRIDOR STUDY

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) 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 will assist this effort by providing a more detailed look at how the anticipated future land use changes would impact and complement the surrounding transportation network.

In October, MIC staff engaged the TAC in a scope of work development exercise and will incorporate their comments in the proposed scope of work for this project (please see attached). We will be bringing this scope forward for approval.

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

9. TRANSPORTATION PERFORMANCE MEASURES FOR DULUTH-SUPERIOR

Last month, MIC staff continued to work with its TAC and Policy Board to consider performance measures appropriate for assessing transportation related conditions within the MPO area planning area. It was decided at the October meetings that, moving forward, a selection of TAC members will act as a smaller work group for the various measures considered. The purpose of this group will be to consider salient points from discussions at the larger TAC and MIC meetings and then work to flesh out the specifics regarding each performance measure. The work group is meeting the last week of November to finalize draft measures for the goals of Preservation and Safety. The results from this meeting will be presented to the TAC and MIC boards in December.

In addition, the MIC has summarized some proposed measures and example performance targets related to the goals of Accessibility and Mobility. They are summarized in the attached memo

TAC Agenda Topics and Project Updates, continued

December 7, 2010 Meeting

titled "MIC Performance Measures-Dec 2010" for members' consideration prior to discussions at the December meetings.

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

10. BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PLANNING UPDATE

Bike-Ped Advisory Committee – MIC staff will provide an overview of the recent BPAC meeting, which was held on Monday, November 15, including an overview of the 2011-2012 MIC Work Program; projects that will kick off in January including identification of Superior Bike Routes and update of the MIC Area Bike Map; and the BPAC's discussion of the possible Grand Avenue project.

Connect Duluth Bike Assessment – MIC staff will discuss the results of this project, including an analysis of the routes cyclists would prefer to use versus the signed bike routes and information about the next steps for this Assessment.

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

11. I-35 TRANSIT MITIGATION RIDERSHIP STUDY

Results of a ridership survey and passenger counts done as Phase 1 of the DTA's I-35 Transit Mitigation Study have been collected and analyzed. Preliminary results suggest that the increased service on Grand Avenue had a positive impact in relieving the I-35 of commuter traffic during the 2010 construction season.

For comments or questions, please contact Robert Herling at rherling@ardc.org or (218) 529-7573.

12. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

13. PROJECT UPDATES

2012-2015 Duluth Area TIP Project Solicitation, *James Gittemeier*

The next round of federal transportation funding is available. The MIC is soliciting for projects for federal funding that will be available in 2015. Project solicitation began on Monday, November 8, 2010 and will run until Friday, December 17, 2010.

AMPO/NADO Conference, *Ron Chicka*

I recently attended the annual conference of the national association of the MPOs jointly held this year with the National Rural Transportation Peer Learning conference sponsored by the National Association of Development Organizations, or NADO. It is this latter organization that serves as a legislative lobbying group for RDCs nationwide. We were informed on many topics including a very good one concerning Social Media and MPOs. There are a few MPOs across the country that are doing more in this realm of communication and we will investigate their basic policy guidance on usage. It was pointed out by these MPOs that staffing is a must for this initiative to be effective, especially at the outset. A very good point was also made by the MPOs doing this type of work that it should be seen as our responsibility to monitor what is stated on various websites and

TAC Agenda Topics and Project Updates, continued

December 7, 2010 Meeting

blogs concerning transportation issues to ensure accuracy. The social media options are simply another “tool” in our toolkit of public involvement techniques.

As far as the next federal transportation bill, the outlook is bleak. We will continue with current year funding level Continuing Resolutions on a shorter term basis (months or 1-year) for the next couple of years.

Northern Lights Express Passenger Rail, *Ron Chicka*

The NLX is still in the Environmental Assessment (EA) phase of development. This will continue into 2011 as the Federal Rail Administration (FRA) is requiring a route alternative (Rush line – St Paul to Hinckley to Duluth), studied to some degree by the NLX Study Team, be analyzed to the full extent in conjunction with the study team recommended alternative – the BNSF line from Minneapolis to Hinckley to Duluth. There was no discussion, since it is really just speculation at this point, concerning where the initiative may go in the future given the change in recent federal and state support. The EA is a technical phase of the project and has funding into next year to carry out its intent. As a member of the EA team, I will continue to monitor and update members as to the progress of the project including any measures that arise from a policy or political standpoint.