



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council  
**Transportation Advisory Committee**  
**MEETING SUMMARY**  
**Tuesday, April 19, 2011 at 1:30 p.m.**

<b>Meeting Location</b>	Hermantown Training Center, Hermantown MN	
<b>Meeting Chair</b>	Jason Serck	
<b>Note Taker(s)</b>	Beth Krebsbach	
<b>Members Present</b>	Chuck Froseth	City of Duluth Community Development Dept
	Dennis Jensen	Duluth Transit Authority
	Allison Johnson	Duluth Airport Authority (Alternate)
	Denny Johnson	Mn/DOT District 1
	Cari Pedersen	City of Duluth Engineering
	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>	*Jim Foldesi	St. Louis County Engineering
	Jeff Goetzman	City of Superior
	*Paul Halverson	Douglas County
	Bryn Jacobson	Bike/Pedestrian Rep
	Walter Leu	Mn/DOT District 1
	Jim Sharrow	Duluth Seaway Port Authority
	*Cindy Voigt	City of Duluth Engineering
		*Excused
<b>Others Present</b>	Ron Chicka	ARDC/MIC Director
	Earl Elde	MIC Policy Board / Suburban Townships
	Robert Herling	ARDC / MIC Planner
	Beth Krebsbach	ARDC/MIC Administrative Assistant
	Andy McDonald	ARDC / MIC Principal Planner
	Kody Thurnau	ARDC / MIC GIS Specialist
	Rondi Watson	ARDC / MIC Planning Assistant

**1. Introductions and Agenda Review**

Chair Jason Serck called the meeting to order at 1:37. 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 March 15, 2011

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 Discussion and Vote** Cari Pedersen/Heather Rand moved to approve the 3/15/11 meeting summary as presented. There was no discussion and the motion was approved unanimously.

### 3. Amendments #9 and 10 to the 2011-2014 Superior Area TIP, funding for sidewalk and bike lane projects

Ron Chicka presented the TIP amendments. The first amendment would enable the city of Superior to add sidewalks along the south side of N. 28th Street between Weeks and Hill Avenues. That project would be in construction this year.

*Jason Serck said this project was added because there would be new development along N. 28th, and because there were a number of families with children on Weeks Avenue walking to the nearby high school.*

The second amendment would support the construction of bike accommodations (a wide shoulder) along County Highway B from State Highway 35 to County Highway A. Chicka added that this would not be a formal bike lane or signed bike route, but an enhancement

**Motion Discussion and Vote** Chuck Froseth/Dena Young moved to approve the amendments. There was no further discussion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

### 4. Kirkus Street Land Use Plan

Ron Chicka also presented the Kirkus Street Land Use Plan for the TAC's approval. He noted that the finished plan would be on the MIC's website soon.

The recommendations include allowing for future connections to roadways and trails. They also include design requirements for some areas of the corridor, including street front presence, sidewalks, and parking options. Viewsheds and natural urban wilderness areas should be preserved, as parks and open spaces should be connected with community facilities.

Chicka also presented on the land use map, which shows different areas designated for Public Use, Corridor Mixed Use, Residential Mixed Use, and Residential zoning.

*Cindy Petcak asked whether Proctor would necessarily need the MIC/TAC's approval, since this is a land use plan rather than a transportation plan. Ron said no, but that meant the MIC could approve the planning work before all the zoning is implemented by the city as well.*

*Petcak also asked the difference between the corridor mixed use vs residential mixed use areas. She also asked why there would be commercial uses on the south side of the road, but none on the north side.*

*Ron Chicka and Jim Rohweder answered that the north side would have the recreational area. They also said there was interest in some development in the south side of the road in the residential mixed use*

area.

**Motion** Jim Rohweder/Denny Johnson to approve the land use plan as presented. There  
**Discussion** was no discussion and the motion was approved unanimously.  
**and Vote**

## 5. Central Entrance Corridor Study

Andy McDonald described to the TAC the results of a modeling discussion with URS consultants. The discussion resulted in plans to model the following: potential land use changes to the corridor, signal timing and coordination, potential changes to the corridor (eg new signalized intersections, medians and access consolidation), the impact of building Joshua Avenue or not.

McDonald then asked if any TAC members had recent turning movement counts or signal timing information data for that corridor. He asked the board members, particularly Cari Pedersen, to provide contacts for finding that data.

*Cindy Petcak commented that a new staff member would be heading up discussion on the future uses of Central High School. She said the uses planned would be general mixed use, and that the actual use of the site was still yet to be determined.*

McDonald also described plans for an online survey to measure public attitudes about Central Entrance. He said the survey would be comparable to the 2002 phone survey, though it will develop online results and respondents from an initial mailing. This mailing will target residents at both ends of the corridor, as well as along its length.

He also reviewed some of the results of the 2002 Phone Survey. He said that survey had 300 respondents, with 245 Minnesota residents and 55 Wisconsin residents. Results included frequency of use, usual travel destinations, usual travel times, opinions on current conditions of the corridor, whether/why respondents were avoiding using the highway, and what other routes people would use.

McDonald said staff would be attempting to pare down the survey for its online format, while aiming to maintain some demographic information.

Cari Pedersen commented that a project at Rice Lake and Arrowhead roads, which could increase traffic on Central Entrance in early June and might impact the survey.

## 6. Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Bike Map

Kody Thurnau presented the most recent version of the Bike Map. He asked the TAC to give their input on paper copies of the map after the meeting.

Thurnau said the MIC planned to print about 4,000 copies of the map. He said in the past all the funding for printing had come from the MIC, but that this time some bike shops and the DTA were serving as sponsors, in hopes of offsetting some printing costs and hopefully allowing for future updates.

He said he had tried to highlight multimodal connectivity, reduce text on the map, and add

additional topographic data. He said he would bring the map to the BPAC on May 2, and hopefully go to printing soon after that date in order to have maps available by Bike to Work Day on May 20.

## 7. Duluth Sidewalk Study Update

Andy McDonald presented on the progress of the Duluth Sidewalk Study. He said staff was working to digitize sidewalks from aerial photo. He said they would be presenting the methodology for the study and taking the TAC's input on it.

Kody Thurnau demonstrated the way staff was using the 2006 aerial imagery to find sidewalk locations. He said along the streets, the segments on which data would be collected were the distance between avenues. He said on avenues, the segments would be between streets and alleys.

Thurnau also demonstrated the use of the GPS equipment in collecting data. He showed how this simplifies the process and protects from data entry errors.

McDonald showed the TAC a list of data to be collected (on the handout). Data points include: presence/absence of sidewalk or dirt path, sidewalk type, sidewalk condition, sidewalk width, sidewalk relation to roadway, boulevard width, boulevard material, presence of curb ramp, curb ramp condition, presence of stairs, and obstructions.

He added some definitions, like "obstructions" might need to be tightened up, and that he would be consulting with city engineers on these.

He then walked the TAC through what he had determined for sidewalk condition ratings:

1. Excellent Condition: uniform, flat cross slope – no dips or heaves – minimal small cracks – no obstacles in the vicinity – no spalling or displacement.
2. Good Condition: uniform, flat cross slope – multiple cracks with minimal dips/heaves – minor spalling – minor displacement.
3. Fair Condition: some large cracks – a moderate level of spalling – slight non-uniform cross slope – small dips heaves/not very level – 1 or 2 obstacles.
4. Poor Condition: steep or multiple cross slopes – many multi-directional cracks – concrete chunks missing – excessive spalling – large dips/heaves – several obstacles.

He asked the TAC for input on those condition ratings.

McDonald also presented the definitions of displacement/heaving, cracks, spalling and obstructions that would be uniformly used by data-collectors working on the study.

He also asked the TAC for input on the possibility of adding a separate condition rating for sidewalks that were in such poor condition they could be dangerous, in order to assist the city in identifying priorities for sidewalk replacement.

*Kody Thurnau/Cari Pedersen suggested rather than creating a new category, they could consider adding a "flag" for special concern areas.*

McDonald said the next step would be to work more closely with city of Duluth staff to hone in on the best possible rating methodology and move forward with the survey. He said he would also be looking into the possibility of renting an additional GPS unit.

*David Salo recommended discussing ADA requirements, stressing his opinion that not addressing ADA issues would make the study significantly less valuable.*

*McDonald asked for Salo's contact who had some expertise in this area, but added it would likely be outside the scope of the study to measure that quantity of data.*

*Ron Chicka commented that ADA requirements might be more of a focus for jurisdictions on the implementation side of things, rather than for this study.*

## 8. CPG Funds Distribution Update

Ron Chicka presented on the projects that have come forward from jurisdictions for extra funding from the MIC.

The first study recommended was a Sixth Avenue East Impact Study between Second and Ninth Streets in Duluth. He said this would be a microsimulation modeling task that would be similar to the planned modeling on Central Entrance to be done by URS. He said he was considering amending this project into the work program to skip the RFP process so URS could do it all and lead to some potential cost savings.

*Denny Johnson noted the gap between the Central Entrance modeling and this potential project, and asked whether there would be a practical advantage to connecting the modeling areas. Chicka said it would be worth looking into.*

The next project would be an Air Service and Air Cargo Leakage – Expansion Analysis from the Duluth Airport Authority. He said he was enthusiastic about this project, especially after it was approved by MnDOT's central office.

*Cindy Petcak added she thinks this is a much needed study.*

The last study Chicka presented would be collaborative between St. Louis County and Duluth. He said it would be an intersection Control Planning Study for the Duluth Metropolitan Area. He said this evaluation of proper traffic controls for select intersections would include roundabout potential. He added that high-priority intersections would have a more detailed analysis.

He added a few other projects might still come in, including one from the Port Authority involving a cruise ship terminal, and one from the City of Superior.

## 9. Roundtable Discussion

David Salo said the project on Maple Grove and Stebner Roads would be started in the next week. He added information about his rotary club's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. He said they had put in money to illuminate Enger Tower, starting on June 3.

## 10. Project Updates

### 2012-2015 TIP Update

Robert Herling said the project list was being finalized, and that the Duluth TIP was in the process of being updated by MIC Staff.

#### **Human Services Transportation Plan Update**

Robert Herling said the MIC was assisting the RDC and MnDOT with this study in the metropolitan area. He noted that currently the MIC is working on processing data results, and that the steering committee would be meeting next Thursday. He said toward the end of May a larger workshop would likely be organized.

#### **Harbor Planning Update**

Andy McDonald said the HTAC was still following up on Erie Pier material usage issues. He said they had also coordinated a meeting with Army Corps of Engineers staff and area stakeholders about enforcement of Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899.

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

Ron Chicka reminded TAC members that Bike to Work Day would be May 20 and to look for publicity.

#### **APA Conference**

Andy McDonald reported on his and Herling's trip to the American Planners Association meeting in Boston a few weeks earlier. He reported on a certain presentation about "skybox vacationing" and the necessity of planners allowing wealthier and poorer populations to live in closer proximity to one another.

#### **Transportation Development Association – Wis. Delegation Meeting**

Ron Chicka and Sheldon Johnson attended this meeting, and Chicka reported that the transportation bill had essentially ground to a halt. He said the gas tax wasn't funding transportation infrastructure at current levels, and certainly wouldn't in the future. He said it was likely that changes in funding sources would likely be needed.

#### **Northern Lights Express Update**

Chicka reported that the NLX was also in a bit of a stalemate. He said the Federal Rail Administration was likely stalling for time because it was short staffed. He said the NLX Alliance was looking for new funds after other states had rejected their federal funds for rail projects.

### **11. Adjournment**

With no further agenda items or announcements, Serck asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:59.

#### **Motion**

#### **Discussion and Vote**

Cari Pedersen/Heather Rand moved to adjourn the meeting. There was no discussion and the motion was approved unanimously.