

Agenda Topics and Project Updates

Transportation Advisory Committee



September 18, 2007 Meeting

* = APPROVAL ITEM

1. INTRODUCTIONS / AGENDA REVIEW

2. MEETING SUMMARIES FROM JULY 17 AND AUGUST 15*

Because the July meeting summary was not included as an approval item at the August 15 annual joint meeting of the TAC and MIC, it will be put forward this month for approval. The meeting summary from the August 15 meeting will be put forward to the MIC for approval but is included as information for the TAC.

3. DRAFT 2008-2009 WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET*

A draft 2008 – 2009 Work Program and Budget will be distributed for review and approval at the September meetings. Only slight changes are anticipated for 2008 from those identified in the current work program. As discussed at prior meetings, freight planning will take a portion of the budget over next two years as we look toward a very large study getting underway. Our harbor, bike and pedestrian efforts will also be expanded as we continue to take on greater responsibilities in these areas. An update to the Long Range Plan will also occur in 2008 and into 2009. Discretionary projects for 2009 will be examined further over the next month and can be included within the final work program.

If you have you comments or questions, please contact Ron Chicka at 529-7541 or at <mailto:rchicka@ardc.org>.

4. PROCTOR MASTER TRAIL PLAN—FINAL*

MIC staff presented the Proctor Master Trail Plan to the Proctor Planning and Zoning Committee on August 27 and the Proctor City Council on September 4. The City Council approved the trails plan, with a couple of comments, to graphically depict and call out on the maps, trail segments along streets that have sidewalks, and trail segments that follow formal or informal existing trails and pathways.. At the September meetings, MIC staff will present these comments and recommend the plan for approval by the MIC.

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

5. MUNGER TRAIL PLAN--FINAL

MIC staff will present the final document of the Munger Trail to Lakewalk Connector. The plan outlines the preferred trail alignment, identifies projected costs, and describes potential funding sources. This document will be utilized by the City of Duluth as they search for future funding to complete the trail connector. Currently, the High Priority Program (HPP) funding earmarked in the current federal transportation bill will fund less than half the length of the connector.

If you have any comments or questions, please contact Andy McDonald at (218) 529-7514 or amcdonald@ardc.org.

6. ENDION LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION PLAN

On Wednesday September 12th a public meeting about the Endion study will be held at 7:00 p.m. at First Lutheran Church in Duluth to gain input and gauge the community's receptiveness to the idea of converting area streets from one-way to two-way and will also overview proposed developments in the study area. On Monday September 17th a second public meeting, targeted as a visioning session for London Road businesses and residents, will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the Edgewater Hotel. This meeting will focus on establishing a future vision for the corridor between 10th and 26th Avenues East using newly-developed visualization techniques. For more background and information on the study, visit www.dsmic.org/endion.

If you have you comments or questions, please contact GIS Specialist Andrea Grygo Diamond at (218) 529-7515 or adiamond@ardc.org or Senior Planner Holly Butcher at (218) 529-7548 or holly.butcher@ardc.org.

7. HTAC/PORT PLANNING UPDATE

At our upcoming meetings, I will be presenting an update on recent port planning activities. The HTAC met on September 5th and heard presentations about accelerated harbor corrosion, the St. Louis River Interlake Duluth Tar Superfund site, and 2007 dredging operations.

If you have any comments or questions, please contact Andy McDonald at (218) 529-7514 or amcdonald@ardc.org.

8. PROJECT UPDATES

Arrive Minnesota Promotion Event—*Holly Butcher*

The Duluth Arrive Minnesota Promotion event will be held on Wednesday September 19th from 11am – 1pm at the Lake Superior Plaza at Minnesota Power (Superior Street and Lake Avenue). I'll report on this event at the September meetings.

DTA Route Analysis—**City of Superior**—*Holly Butcher, Robert Herling*

On Tuesday September 4th DTA and MIC staff met with Superior Mayor Dave Ross and Financial Advisor Jean Vito. The group had a candid and positive conversation about transit service in Superior. Attendees agreed to meet monthly to begin crafting solutions to "overhaul" the way transit service is delivered in Superior.

In addition, DTA staff conducted more ridership counts during August for MIC staff to examine against the February 2007 counts. Preliminary data shows that ridership counts are twice as high on some days during the summer months. MIC staff will be synthesizing this count data for comparison.

Duluth Aerial Photography Project—*Andrea Grygo Diamond*

MIC staff is working with the City of Duluth to coordinate obtaining updated aerial photography for the Duluth area in the spring of 2008. The last aerial photographs were taken in the summer of 2001. We anticipate having our first meeting in September to discuss participants for cost-sharing and a vendor to take the photos.

MIC Staff Conference Participation—*Ron Chicka*

Andrea Grygo Diamond, the MIC's GIS Specialist, was invited to present the various visualization techniques utilized for the Endion Land Use and Transportation plan at the Wisconsin and Minnesota MPO conferences in August and at the Minnesota GIS/LIS conference in October. These statewide conferences are designed to provide a venue for employing "best practices" within the planning field. Visualization techniques take the form of anything from simple maps to more elaborate 3-D models of a study area, all aimed at giving the public a better idea or "picture" of changes that could occur along any given corridor. A proposed change to a streetscape, for example, can be visually presented and by doing this, support can be gauged for any set of proposed improvements. Such support from the general public and businesses can only aid in the implementation phase of a project. Within the MIC, we hope to continue to employ these techniques for future plans in order to gain more meaningful public involvement. Our presentation can be found at www.dsmic.org/endion.

Additionally, the Minnesota Chapter of the American Planning Association recently announced that Holly Butcher's presentation, Duluth-Superior Safe Routes to School Plans, has been chosen to receive a Merit Award at their annual conference in Rochester this September. Holly is a Senior Planner with the MIC. More on these planning efforts can be found at www.dsmic.org/srts.